

Abnormal Psychology Course Syllabus

Instructor: Monica Ramirez Basco, Ph.D.

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Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 12:00 to 1:00 and 4:00 to 5:00, or by appointment

Course Number, Section Number, and Course Title:

Abnormal Psychology (Psyc 3318)

Time and Place of Class Meetings:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 2:30pm to 3:50pm in LS 122

Description of Course Content:

The process of diagnostic assessment, major forms of psychopathology, classification, etiology, treatment of major disorders

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Become familiar with diagnostic criteria for major mental disorders
2. Understand the limitations of diagnostic assessment
3. Develop an understanding of the biopsychosocial model of psychopathology

Requirements: Prerequisite - Psyc 1315

Required Textbooks and Other Course Materials:

Durand, V. Mark and Barlow, David, H. (2006). *Essentials of Abnormal Psychology, 4th Edition*. Belmont, Ca: Thomson-Wadsworth

Reading Assignments: Students are expected to read in advance the chapters designated by week in the outline below.

For the Week Beginning	Durand & Barlow	Topic
Jan 14	1	Introduction
Jan 21	2	Biopsychosocial Model of Psychopathology Martin Luther King Holiday: Mon 1/21 – No class
Jan 28	3	Diagnostic Assessment
Feb 4	4	Anxiety Disorders – Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Panic Disorder, Specific Phobia
Feb 11	4	Anxiety Disorders – Social Phobia, PTSD, OCD
Feb 13		Midterm examination #1 on Wednesday
Feb 18	6	Depression
Feb 25	6	Bipolar Disorders
March 3	5 & 7	Stress and Somatoform Disorders
March 5		Paper Topic Due in Class
March 10	8	Eating Disorders & Sleep Disorders
March 12		Midterm examination #2 on Wednesday
March 17		Spring Break
March 24	9 & 10	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders Substance Abuse
		3/28: Last Day to Drop Classes
March 31	11	Personality Disorders
April 7	12	Psychosis
April 14	13	Childhood Disorders
April 14		Paper Due by midnight CST
April 21	13 & 14	Disorders of Aging Legal and Ethical Principles of Psychologists
April 28		Dead Week
		Course Review Wed 4/30 at 2:30
Monday, May 5th 2:00pm to 4:30pm		Final Exam

Attendance: Students are responsible for all material covered in class as well as in each reading assignment. Examinations will be based on both lecture and reading materials. Note that class lectures will include information not necessarily contained in

readings. Videotaped samples shown in class may be the subject of examination questions.

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:

Examinations:

- There will be three major examinations.
- The first midterm examination is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 13th** during class. It will be based on the readings and lectures to date. The first midterm exam will be worth 90 points, 60 for multiple choice questions and 30 for essay questions.
- The second midterm examination is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 12th** and will cover the lecture and readings since the last examination. The second midterm exam will be worth 90 points, 60 for multiple choice questions and 30 for essay questions.
- The midterm exam with the lowest score will be dropped. Both exams must be taken. If only one exam is taken, the second one will receive a score of zero and the two midterm grades will be averaged.
- The final examination is scheduled for **Monday, May 5th from 2:00pm to 4:30pm**. The multiple choice section of the final exam will not be cumulative, but will cover only the chapters since the last exam. The essay section of the exam will be cumulative. The final exam will be worth 90 points, 40 for multiple choice questions and 50 for short answer and essay questions.

Writing Project:

To test the application of your understanding of the process of diagnostic assessment, you will be asked to provide a diagnostic evaluation of a popular or historical figure.

- Paper Length: 8-10 double-spaced pages, not including references.
- Select a popular or historical figure to discuss in the paper. This selection will be **due Monday, March 3rd in class** but may be turned in earlier. The topic may not be changed after March 3rd. Topic selection cards will be handed out in class.
- This writing project is **due Monday, April 14th by midnight CST** and must be emailed to Dr. Basco. **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- Contents of paper:
 1. Select a popular or historical figure with psychological problems. Keep in mind that you must provide verifiable evidence of these problems. Sources of information can include books, articles, television stories, newspapers, and the Internet. These references will be checked for accuracy.
 2. Describe the person and the nature of his or her problems. Provide verifiable examples along with references that illustrate each problem.
 3. Describe the biopsychosocial model of your subject's problems. For example, he or she might have a family history of alcohol abuse and is

therefore genetically vulnerable (biological factor); is surrounded by drugs and alcohol because of his or her lifestyle (social factor); and feels depressed and uses alcohol to cope with his or her feelings (psychological factor).

4. State your hypothesized diagnosis. Use DSM-IV diagnostic categories. Provide your evaluation **on all five** DSM-IV Axes.

Axis I: Clinical Disorders

Axis II: Personality Disorders and/or Mental Retardation

Axis III: Any important general medical conditions, illnesses, or injuries, even if they did not cause the Axis I or II problem

Axis IV: Psychosocial and Environmental Problems with:

- Primary Support Group
- Related To Social Environment
- Educational Problems
- Occupational Problems
- Housing Problems
- Economic Problems
- Access To Health Care Services
- Interaction With The Legal System/Crime
- Other Psychosocial Or Environmental Problems

Axis V: Global Assessment of Functioning

5. Provide a general description of the Axis I and/or or Axis II Disorder(s) you believe the subject demonstrates. You may discuss more than one diagnosis if you believe more than one applies, such as depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder.
6. Provide specific examples of each of the criterion symptoms the person displays. For example, if you diagnosed the person with Bulimia, provide a specific example of binge eating along with a reference for that source of information. Picture or other illustrations can be used if they assist in providing evidence of a symptom or disorder.
7. Include a brief description of the type of interventions that might be or might have been useful to your popular or historical figure. Even if those treatments were not available during the person's lifetime, include information about what currently available treatments might have been helpful for the subject's problems.

To maximize number of points received for this project:

- All 7 elements must be included

- Include references from the textbooks, periodicals, internet sites, and other sources to substantiate your points about the person's problems
- Use APA style for your references. Use the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: Fifth Edition*

Grading Policy: The course grade will be based on your performance on the best of the two midterm examinations, the writing project, and the final examination. The midterm examination will account for 30% of the final grade (90 points), the writing project will account for 40% (120 points) of the final grade, and the final examination will account for 30% (90 points) of the final grade. Grading is as follows: A=270-300 points; B=240-269 points; C= 210-239 points; D=180 – 209 points; F= 179 points or less. Note that examination grades may be adjusted depending on the distribution of scores.

Drop Policy: Please refer to the University's drop policies. Note that the last day to drop classes is **March 28th**.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a

variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. This will be the week of **April 28th to May 2nd**. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week unless specified in the class syllabi. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. An optional course review is scheduled for Wednesday, April 30th, 2:30pm-3:50pm.

E-Culture Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University email address as an official means of communication with students. Through the use of email, UT-Arlington is able to provide students with relevant and timely information, designed to facilitate student success. In particular, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation may be sent to students through email.

All students are assigned an email account and information about activating and using it is available at www.uta.edu/email. New students (first semester at UTA) are able to activate their email account 24 hours after registering for courses. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active as long as a student is enrolled at UT-Arlington. Students are responsible for checking their email regularly.

Students may contact Dr. Basco by email at Basco@UTA.edu or by phone (817) 272-7559. In the event of an emergency, the student should contact the Psychology office (817-272-2281) to leave a message if unable to reach Dr. Basco by phone.

Make-up Exam Policy: Examinations can be taken early with prior arrangement with the professor. Missed examinations can be made up with two conditions. First, the student must provide prior notification to Dr. Basco that an examination will be missed. This must be done prior to the time of the examination. The student can email or call Dr. Basco or can leave a message with the Psychology office. Second, only absences due to illness, injury, or other extreme circumstance will be accepted. Documentation of the problem, such as a doctor's note, is required in all cases. **The written project will not be accepted late.**