

3318 Spring 2009

**Abnormal Psychology (3318)
Spring 2009
Course Syllabus**

Instructor: Monica Ramirez Basco, Ph.D.

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Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 12:00 to 11:00, or by appointment

Course Number, Section Number, and Course Title:

Abnormal Psychology (Psyc 3318)

Time and Place of Class Meetings: MW: 2:30pm to 3:50pm

Description of Course Content:

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	Assignment	Topic
Jan 21	1		Introduction
Jan 26	2		Biopsychosocial Model of Psychopathology
Feb 2	3	Turn In Take Home Test #1 On Wed 2/4	Diagnostic Assessment
Feb 9	6		Depression
Feb 16	6	Midterm Essay Examination #1 Based On Lectures On Wed. 2/18	Bipolar Disorders
Feb 23	12	Paper Topic Due In Class On Monday 2/23	Schizophrenia
Mar 2	4		Anxiety Disorders
Mar 9	5	Turn In Take Home Test #2 On Wed 3/11	Stress and Somatoform Disorders
Mar 16			SPRING BREAK
Mar 23	10	Midterm Essay Examination #2 Based On Lectures On Wed 3/25	Substance Abuse
Mar 30	8	April 3 rd Is The Last Day To Drop Classes	Eating Disorders & Sleep Disorders
Apr 6	9	Turn In Take Home Test #3 On Wed 4/8	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders
Apr 13	11	Diagnostic Paper Due On Wed 4/15	Personality Disorders
Apr 20	13		Childhood Disorders
Apr 27	14	Turn In Take Home Test #4 On Wed 4/29	Disorders of Aging
May 4-8			Legal and Ethical Issues Dead Week
May 11		Final Exam – Essays Based On Lectures	Final Exam

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:

4 Take Home Examinations: (50 points per exam: 30% of grade)

- There will be **four** take home examinations.
- Answers are based on the readings
- Exam questions will be given a few weeks ahead of due date.
- Answer sheets must be turned in in class. No late tests will be accepted.
- Take home exams are not cumulative.
- The lowest grade of the four tests will be dropped.

2 Midterm Essay Examinations: (50 points per exam: 20% of grade)

- There will be two mid-term essay examinations based on the lectures.
- The midterm essay examinations will not be cumulative

Final Essay Examination: (100 points: 20% of grade)

- There will be a final examination based on the lectures.
- The final essay examination may be cumulative.

Writing Project: (150 points: 30% of grade)

- Diagnostic Assessment – Due Wednesday, April. 15th in class
- Topic is due on Monday, February 23rd in class. A form provided by the professor must be completed and signed by the student. Topics may not be changed after this date.
- Paper Length: 4-6 double-spaced pages, not including references.
- Use APA style for your references, title page, abstract, figures and tables (if any). Use the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association: Fifth Edition*
- Contents of paper:
 1. Describe the person and the nature of his or her problems. Provide verifiable examples along with references that illustrate each problem.
 2. 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

3. 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.
4. You must justify your diagnosis with examples and you must have verifiable references for those examples.
5. It is possible that your character will have a diagnosis on Axis I, but not Axis II and vice versa.
6. Use at least 5 references. References may include the course textbook and the DSM-IV.

Grading Policy:

4 take home tests, multiple choice, based on the readings = 150 points

2 midterm essay exams based on lectures = 100 points

1 final exam, essays based on lectures = 100 points

1 diagnostic paper = 150 points

Total possible points = 500

A=450 - 500 points

B=400 – 449 points

C=350 – 399 points

D=300 – 349 points

F < 300 points

Attendance Policy: Students will be responsible for all material covered in class. Note that material presented in lecture, including videotapes, may not be included in the readings. Essay exams are based on the lectures. Dr. Basco does not give out her slides or notes.

Drop Policy: Please refer to the University's drop policies. Note that the last day to drop classes is **April 3rd**.

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 **May 4th through 8th**. 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.

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.