



Psychology 343 – 001

Psychopathology

Winter Term 1 2021

Wednesday and Friday 3:30 to 5:00 PM in ASC 140

Welcome to Psychopathology!

I am looking forward to meeting you (in person!) and exploring abnormal psychology, or psychopathology, together. My aim is to provide an engaging and respectful learning environment where each student can further their understanding of the course content.

Instructor: Jamie Piercy, Ph.D.

Email: Jamie.piercy@ubc.ca

Phone: 250-807-8514

Office hours: Wednesday 1:45 pm – 3:15pm, virtual on Zoom

Teaching Assistants:

Teaching assistants will be available by e-mail and discussion board to answer course questions or facilitate discussion as appropriate. Information on each TA is available on the Canvas home and TA module page.

Academic Calendar Entry

PSYO 343 (3) Psychopathology I

Detailed introduction to general principles underlying scientific study of mental health and psychopathology. Critical theoretical and methodological issues related to the assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of psychological disorders. Psychological disorders used to illustrate general issues and principles discussed. [3-0-0]
Prerequisite: Two of PSYO 219, PSYO 220, PSYO 230, PSYO 241, PSYO 252, PSYO 270, PSYO 271, PSYO 298, PSYO 299 or 6 credits of 200-level Psychology.

Course Format

The contents of the lectures will be determined by the course schedule (see below). PowerPoint slides will emphasize the key points of the chapters and will provide clarification and explanation of course concepts, including and beyond the textbook. Skeleton slides will also be posted on Canvas. Lectures will be delivered in-person. To accommodate for students not yet able to reach campus, recorded lecture content will be available online until at least October 15th, with updates to follow as the protocols evolve.

Your health and safety are incredibly important to me. As a community, we need to be patient and respectful as this situation evolves. I understand many students are enthusiastic about returning to in-person learning, as such, this course will be initiated in person with online, hybrid accommodations offered for those not able to attend in class weekly. As of now, assessments will be completed in person. **In accordance with provincial and university safety protocols, masks must be worn throughout one's presence in the lecture theatre. Non-compliance with this will result in a request to leave the class. It is strongly recommended students are vaccinated, or take rapid testing before each day in lecture. If you are not comfortable with in-person/hybrid delivery, it is strongly recommended you register in an alternate course with online delivery and assessment.**

Course Overview, Content, and Objectives

This course explores the fundamentals of key areas of psychopathology, also known as abnormal psychology. This will serve as an introduction to specific disorders as well as key themes of empathy, resiliency, and treatment. This course will provide an overview of disorders, primarily through the DSM-5 diagnostic categories, with an emphasis on critical thinking and discussion in a virtual environment. Through multiple-



choice questions, brief written responses, interaction, and reflection, course assessment will span the knowledge, comprehension, and application level of cognitive skills.

Learning Outcomes

After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Describe research designs and techniques used in clinical assessment and diagnosis
- Consider psychological disorders from the perspectives of the main models of abnormality
- Examine the impact of multiple factors (sociocultural, biological, psychological) on the development of disorders
- Evaluate psychological symptoms and construct your own understanding of “*abnormal*”
- Differentiate between psychological (anxiety, mood, substance, somatic psychosis, personality) disorders in adulthood
- Discuss the types and effectiveness of treatments for mental disorders

Evaluation Criteria and Grading

1. **Exams = 25% x 3 = 75% total;** Each exam will be non-cumulative and *closed-book*. The exams will consist of 65 multiple-choice questions completed over 80 minutes (1 hour 20 minutes). Each exam will include material from lecture, Canvas videos, additional readings, and textbook material.
 - a) **Exam #1: (24% of grade).** This exam will cover Chapters 1-4 and lecture/Canvas material
 - b) **Exam #2: (24% of grade).** This exam will cover Chapters 5, 6, 7, 12 and lecture/Canvas material
 - c) **Exam #3: (24% of grade).** This exam will cover Chapters 8-10, 13 and lecture/Canvas material

2. **Lecture-based quizzes/assignments, 13%.** There will be a series of brief quiz/activity based on the lecture content (5-points each). I will be using quiz questions to keep you engaged with key concepts from the lectures. Quizzes will be released after the lecture (i.e., Wednesday or Friday at 5 PM) and available for 48 hours (i.e., Wednesday quizzes will be due Monday Friday at These will be available for a limited period of time; quizzes will be released with the lecture (Tuesday 9:00 AM) and due by Thursday afternoon at 4:00 PM. *Your lowest 2 performances will be dropped.*

3. **Assignments, 12%.** There will be three separate assignment activities based on application of course information. Due dates are outlined in the syllabus below. Rubrics for the assignments will be available on Canvas. A brief description of the three assignments is as follows:
 - a. Verbal summary of assessment/diagnosis (4%). For this assignment, you will submit a brief (45 second) audio and/or video of yourself explaining the nature of psychological assessment. Specific prompts will be provided on Canvas.
 - b. Podcast response (4%). For this assignment, you will first listen to a relevant podcast. After, you will answer a few structured and open-ended questions about the podcast as relating your response back to the course material.
 - c. Mental health in the media (4%). For this assignment, you will choose a *character* in the media (e.g., book, show, movie, etc.) and outline potential diagnostic features of an applicable diagnosis. Specific questions will be provided on Canvas.

Assessment Summary

Class Quizzes/Activities	13%
Class Assignments	12%
Exams (3 x 25%)	<u>75%</u>
TOTAL	100%

Final grades will be based on the evaluations listed above and the final grade will be assigned according to the standardized grading system outlined in the UBC Okanagan Calendar.



Please note I do not “round up” final grades It is policy in this course that final grades cannot be adjusted (through extra assignments or otherwise) in order to achieve a passing mark, higher letter grade etc. In order to maintain fairness within this course, requests for additional assignments as well as requests to round or “bump up” final grades will be denied.

Required Materials:

Comer & Comer (2019). *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology* (9th edition), New York: NY Worth Publishers ISBN 9781319191238 E-book *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology* OR ISBN 9781319172527 Loose-leaf version for *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology*

Missed Graded Work:

Students who, because of unforeseen events, are absent during the term and are unable to complete tests or other graded work, should normally discuss with their instructors how they can make up for missed work, according to written guidelines given to them at the start of the course (see Grading Practices). Instructors are not required to make allowance for any missed test or incomplete work that is not satisfactorily accounted for. If ill health is an issue, students are encouraged to seek attention from a health professional. Campus Health and Counselling will normally provide documentation only to students who have been seen previously at these offices for treatment or counselling specific to conditions associated with their academic difficulties. Students who feel that requests for consideration have not been dealt with fairly by their instructors may take their concerns first to the Head of the discipline, and if not resolved, to the Office of the Dean. Further information can be found at: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0>.

IMPORTANT: Students who miss an exam must provide written documentation (i.e., doctor’s note) of the absence to the instructor and must arrange to make up the exam before the next scheduled class. Students who do not write the exam by the next scheduled class will receive a “0” for the exam.

Final Examination:

The examination period for Term 1 of Winter 2021 is December 11th – December 22nd. Except in the case of examination clashes and hardships (three or more formal examinations scheduled within a 24-hour period) or unforeseen events, students will be permitted to apply for out-of-time final examinations only if they are representing the University, the province, or the country in a competition or performance; serving in the Canadian military; observing a religious rite; working to support themselves or their family; or caring for a family member. Unforeseen events include (but may not be limited to) the following: ill health or other personal challenges that arise during a term and changes in the requirements of an ongoing job. Further information on Academic Concessions can be found under Policies and Regulations in the Okanagan Academic Calendar <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,48,0,0> Out-of-time examination forms can be found at (<https://fass.ok.ubc.ca/student-resources/undergrad/student-forms/>) and must be sent to the Dean’s office.

Academic Integrity

The academic enterprise is founded on honesty, civility, and integrity. As members of this enterprise, all students are expected to know, understand, and follow the codes of conduct regarding academic integrity. At the most basic level, this means submitting only original work done by you and acknowledging all sources of information or ideas and attributing them to others as required. This also means you should not cheat, copy, or mislead others about what is your work. Violations of academic integrity (i.e., misconduct) lead to the breakdown of the academic enterprise, and therefore serious consequences arise and harsh sanctions are imposed. **For example, incidences of plagiarism or cheating usually result in a failing grade or mark of zero on the assignment or in the course.** Careful records are kept to monitor and prevent recidivism. A more detailed description of academic integrity, including the University’s policies and procedures, may be found in the Academic Calendar at: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,0z>



Grading Practices

Faculties, departments, and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to university, faculty, department, or school norms. Students should therefore note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department, or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/okanagan/index.cfm?tree=3,41,90,1014>

Student Service Resources

UBC Okanagan Disability Resource Centre

The Disability Resource Centre ensures educational equity for students with disabilities and chronic medical conditions. If you are disabled, have an injury or illness and require academic accommodations to meet the course objectives, please contact Earllene Roberts (250.807.9263), the Diversity Advisor for the Disability Resource Centre located in the University Centre building (UNC 214), email: earllene.roberts@ubc.ca Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/drc

UBC Okanagan Equity and Inclusion Office

Through leadership, vision, and collaborative action, the Equity & Inclusion Office (EIO) develops action strategies in support of efforts to embed equity and inclusion in the daily operations across the campus. The EIO provides education and training from cultivating respectful, inclusive spaces and communities to understanding unconscious/implicit bias and its operation within in campus environments. UBC Policy 3 prohibits discrimination and harassment on the basis of BC's Human Rights Code. If you require assistance related to an issue of equity, educational programs, discrimination or harassment please contact the EIO. **UNC 216:** 250.807.9291 email: equity.ubco@ubc.ca Web: www.equity.ok.ubc.ca

Health & Wellness

At UBC Okanagan health services to students are provided by Health and Wellness. Nurses, physicians and counsellors provide health care and counselling related to physical health, emotional/mental health and sexual/reproductive health concerns. As well, health promotion, education and research activities are provided to the campus community. If you require assistance with your health, please contact Health and Wellness for more information or to book an appointment. **UNC 337,** 250.807.9270, email: healthwellness.okanagan@ubc.ca Web: www.students.ok.ubc.ca/health-wellness

Student Learning Hub

The Student Learning Hub (LIB 237) is your go-to resource for free math, science, writing, and language learning support. The Hub welcomes undergraduate students from all disciplines and year levels to access a range of supports that include **tutoring in math, sciences, languages, and writing, as well as help with study skills and learning strategies**. For more information, please visit the Hub's website (<https://students.ok.ubc.ca/student-learning-hub/>) or call 250-807-9185.

SAFEWALK

Don't want to walk alone at night? Not too sure how to get somewhere on campus? Call Safewalk at **250-807-8076**. For more information, see: www.security.ok.ubc.ca



Course Schedule, Required Readings

This schedule outlines our plan for key topics in the course, though additional readings and videos will be posted on Canvas and outlined as “required” or “optional” in the weekly lesson module.

	Topics/Exam/Activity	Required Reading
Week 1 – Sept 8, 10	Introduction to Psychopathology: What is abnormal? Welcome class. NO CLASS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10	Ch 1
Week 2 – Sept 15, 17	Clinical Psychology: Assessment, Diagnosis, Treatment	Ch 2, 3
Week 3 – Sept 22, 24	Anxiety Disorders <i>Assignment 1 due Friday, September 24 at 5:00 PM</i>	Ch 4
Week 4 – Sept 29, Oct 1	OCD and related disorders	Ch 4
Week 5 - Oct 6, 8	October 6: Exam 1: Friday October 8, 3:30 PM PST Ch 1 – 4, additional lecture material (Canvas readings, videos) October 8: Disorders of Trauma and Stress	Ch 5
Week 6 - Oct 13, 15	Depressive/Bipolar Disorders	Ch 6
Week 7 - Oct 20, 22	Mood Disorders cont. & Suicide <i>Assignment 2 due Friday, October 22 at 5:00 PM</i>	Ch 7
Week 8 - Oct 27, 29	Schizophrenia and Related Disorders	Ch 12
Week 9 - Nov 3	Exam 2: Wednesday November 3, 3:30 PM PST Ch 5-7, 15, additional lecture material (Canvas readings, videos)	
Week 10- Nov 10, 12	NO CLASS- READING BREAK	
Week 10 - Nov 17, 19	Somatic Disorders	Ch 8
Week 11- Nov 24, 26	Eating Disorders	Ch 9
Week 12 – Dec 1, 3	Substance Use <i>Assignment 3 due Friday, December 3 at 5:00 PM</i>	Ch 10
Week 13 – Dec 8	Personality Disorders, review	Ch 13

EXAM 3 TBD: EXAM PERIOD (Dec 11 – 22, 2021)