

PSYC 3140 (M): ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
Faculty of Health
Department of Psychology
York University, Summer Session (S2) 2014

Welcome to Abnormal Psychology!

Course Instructor:	Dr. Kendra Thomson , C.Psych.Cand., BCBA-D
Room:	270 Behavioural Sciences Building, Keele Campus
Phone:	416.736.2100 ext 33818
Email:	kendrat@yorku.ca (Email contact is best)
Office Hours:	By appointment
Teaching Assistant 1:	Magali Segers (Your TA If you last name starts with A to Ki)
Email:	magaliseegers@gmail.com
Teaching Assistant 2:	James Watson-Gaze (Your TA if your last name starts with Kj to Z)
Email:	jamwat@yorku.ca
Office Hours	Please email your TA for an appointment.
Class Time and Location:	Tuesdays and Thursdays , 2:00-5:00 pm, Curtis Lecture Hall – A
Prerequisite:	AK/AS/HH/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 or AK/HH/PSYC 2410 6.00, with a minimum grade of C.

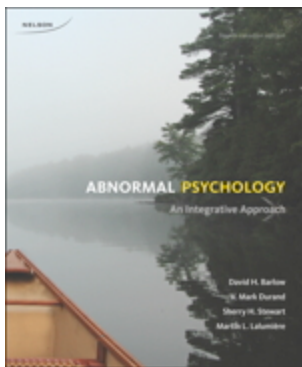
Calendar Description:

A course on the nature, causes and treatment of a number of behaviour disorders. Topics include developmental disorders, anxiety problems, personality disorders, substance abuse, affective disorders, organic brain disorders and schizophrenia.

Course Learning Objectives:

- To provide students with an integrative overview of the field of abnormal psychology and major psychological problems and disorders;
- To familiarize students with the multiple causes of psychopathology as understood from biological, psychological, and social perspectives;
- To discuss intervention and prevention strategies for psychological disorders;
- To help students critically evaluate issues pertaining to mental health.

Required Textbook:



Barlow, David H., Durand, V. M. & Stewart, Sherry H., Lalumiere, M. L. (2014). *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach*, Fourth Canadian Edition. Nelson Education Ltd. Please ensure you have the appropriate version as there are earlier versions available.

Course Website:

You will need a Passport York account to access the course website. Please check the website often as important course information will be regularly posted (<https://moodle.yorku.ca/>).

Evaluation:

This course will consist of lectures, video material, group participation, and textbook readings. The evaluation will consist of three non-cumulative tests, class participation, and a written assignment (as detailed on next page).

1) Test 1:	25%
2) Test 2:	25%
3) Writing Assignment:	15%
4) Class participation:	10%
5) Test 3:	25%

Grading:

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, etc.). Assignments and tests will have either a letter grade or a corresponding number grade (e.g., A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75-79, etc.) For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar.

TESTS (75%)

- Mostly multiple-choice (there may be some short answer).
- Based on assigned textbook readings, group discussions, material presented in class, and videos.
- Must be written on the scheduled dates.
- Make-up test dates will be granted only on religious, medical, or compassionate grounds (e.g., death in the family) with appropriate documentation provided. *Please see the "Religious Observance Policy" and/or "Policy for Missed Tests and Examinations" sections for more information regarding protocol and documentation requirements, as well as Senate policy (on last page).*
- Please note having multiple exams the same week, going on vacation, etc. are NOT considered legitimate reasons for writing a make-up test.
- Tests will not be returned but can be viewed if you set up an appointment with your TA.
- Cheating will not be tolerated. *Please see the "Policy on Academic Honesty" on last page.*

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT (11%)

Public perceptions about psychopathology are strongly influenced by the media, including both popular movies and the press. This assignment includes a critical evaluation (max. 5 pages) of the accuracy of information presented in the media on some form of psychopathology compared to scientific literature. It will also include a discussion of how it might influence public opinion. You may choose one of the following two options:

Option 1: Finding Abnormal Psychology in the Movies

- Watch a popular film that depicts some form of psychopathology in a character.
- Provide a comprehensive description of the character's disorder:
 - o Go beyond the DSM-V criteria (e.g., What symptoms of the disorder did the person have?)
 - o What was the course of the disorder (e.g., When did it begin? When did it end?)
 - o If possible, describe the biological, psychological, and social contributors to the disorder for the individual (e.g., Did the person's parents have mental health problems? Were there other stressors in their lives?)
- Provide a comprehensive description of the treatment (if any) the character received:
 - o Was the treatment effective?
 - o If no treatment was available or given, how did the person cope with the difficulties, and what treatment should have been available for them?
- Choose an article published in a scientific, peer-reviewed journal of which the focus is on the diagnosis, etiology, or treatment of the particular form of psychopathology portrayed in the movie.
- Provide a detailed review of the journal article (avoid plagiarism), and discuss how the findings of that article relate (or do not relate) to the character/ psychopathology depicted in the movie.
- Discuss the positive and negative messages the movie gives the public about people with this disorder, as well as the mental health profession in general.

Option 2: Finding Abnormal Psychology in the News

- Read a relatively recent (published within past 5 years) popular press report (e.g., from a newspaper or news magazine) of a study involving some form of psychopathology that was originally published in a scientific, peer-reviewed journal.
- Provide a comprehensive description of the psychopathology mentioned in the press report.

- Summarize the popular press report:
 - o Consider any positive or negative messages you think the article gives the public about people with this disorder, as well as the mental health profession in general.
- Provide a detailed review of the original journal article that was cited in the press report (avoid plagiarism).
- Discuss the accuracy of the press report compared to your review of the original journal article.
- Provide suggestions for further research to follow up the study you reviewed.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT PROPOSAL (4%)

- Submit a hard copy of a brief write up (max. 1 page) to your TA of what movie/press report and corresponding scholarly article you will review.
 - o Include a description of the nature of the psychopathology covered in your chosen media source.
 - o Include a brief description of either the movie or press report.
 - o Include a brief overview of your chosen scientific article.
 - o Include a copy of abstract of the scholarly article.

Evaluation for Written Proposal

- The Written Proposal will be graded using the following scheme, out of a total of 4 points:
 - o 0- 1: The proposal is of poor quality compared to university standards (very much below average). The copy of the first page of the article is missing. Plagiarism may have occurred.
 - o 2: The proposal is below university standards (below average). There are some spelling or grammatical errors, or it is difficult to read preventing the proposal from meeting university standards of writing.
 - o 3: The proposal meets university standards (average). The spelling and grammar is generally good. There is sufficient detail to know what will be reviewed.
 - o 4: The proposal exceeds university standards (above average). The writing style is excellent, there is attention to detail, and the proposal is well organized.

Evaluation for Written Assignment

- The Written Assignment will be graded using the following scheme, out of a total of 11 points:
 - o 0-2: The writing is of poor quality compared to university standards (very much below average). There are numerous spelling mistakes, grammatical errors, and a lack of cohesion. Most of what is being asked for was missing. Plagiarism may have occurred.
 - o 3-5: The writing is below university standards (below average). There are some spelling or grammatical errors, or it is difficult to read. Much of what is being asked is missing that prevents the writing from meeting university standards.
 - o 6-8: The proposal meets university standards (average). The spelling and grammar is generally good, and it is a well-written document. There is sufficient detail of what is being asked.
 - o 9-11: The proposal exceeds university standards (above average). The writing style is excellent, there is attention to detail, it is well organized, and the writing is cohesive and insightful.

General Instructions for Written Assignment

- All written material should be in APA style (marks will be deducted for errors in APA style, including errors of punctuation, capitalization, italics, etc.).
- Assignments should be double-spaced.
- Evidence of plagiarism will result in a mark of 0.
- Submit a hard copy of your proposal to your TA in class.
- Submit the final assignment through Moodle to "turnitit"- plagiarism reporting software. You can only submit ONCE. Your TA will grade your final assignment online.
- All written materials should include a title page with your name, student number, course number, TA name, and course instructor name.
- **Late assignments will be penalized 2 points (not %) per day late.**

CLASS PARTICIPATION (10%)

- Class participation will include discussion and brief assignments with partners or small groups.
- Students will be required to complete a "Class Participation Record" after 5 separate classes (will not be announced ahead of time) and submit to their TAs. Each Class Participation Record is worth 2 points.

DATE	TOPICS, ASSIGNMENTS, TESTS	CHAPTERS
June 24	Abnormal Psychology in a Historical Context An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	Ch. 1, pp. 2-29 Ch. 2, pp. 32-67
June 26	Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis Research Methods	Ch. 3, pp. 68-97 Ch. 4, pp. 98-119 (Recommended)
July 1	No Class – Canada Day	
July 3	Anxiety, Trauma-Related, and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders	Ch. 5, pp. 120-179
July 8	Test 1 Somatic Symptom & Dissociative Disorders	Chs. 1, 2, 3, 5 Ch. 6, pp. 180- 209
July 10	Eating and Sleep-Wake Disorders	Ch. 8, pp. 260-303
July 15	Writing Proposal Due Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders	Ch. 13, pp. 462-497
July 17	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Ch. 14, pp. 498-533
July 18	Last Day to Withdraw from Course Without Receiving a Grade http://www.registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/	
July 22	Test 2 Sexual Dysfunctions, Paraphilic Disorders, & Gender Dysphoria	Chs. 6, 8, 13, 14 Ch. 10, pp. 340-379
July 24	Substance Disorders and Impulse Control Disorders	Ch. 11, pp. 380-423
July 29	Personality Disorders	Ch. 12, pp. 424-461
July 31	Writing Assignment Due Mood Disorders and Suicide	Ch. 7, pp. 210-259
August 5	Test 3	Chs. 7, 10, 11, 12

**Make up tests: TBA

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE POLICY

York University is committed to respecting the religious beliefs of all members of the community and making accommodations for observances of special significance to adherents. Should any of the dates specified in this syllabus for in-class examinations pose such a conflict for you, contact the Course Director within the first three weeks of class. Please note that to arrange an alternative date or time for an examination scheduled in the formal examination periods, students must complete an Examination Accommodation Form, which can be obtained from the Registrar's Office. Please review: <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2013-2014/policies/accommodation/>.

SENATE POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offenses. Students are urged to read the section on Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty in the Academic Calendar. Any case of suspected academic dishonesty will be dealt with in accord with the procedures and regulations set down by the University Senate. The definition of dishonesty and the penalties and procedures for judging cases are described in the Calendar. Please review:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=69>

<http://www.yorku.ca/academicintegrity/students/index.htm>

YORK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Please review: <http://www.yorku.ca/oscr/pdfs/CodeofRightsandResponsibilities.pdf>

POLICY ON ACCOMMODATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities (whether physical, medical, systemic, learning or psychiatric) may need accommodation in teaching style, evaluation methods, and other course requirements. Students are encouraged to notify the Course Director of their needs in a timely manner to arrange for academic accommodation. Please review:

<http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/policies/document.php?document=68>

POLICY FOR MISSED TESTS AND EXAMINATIONS

1. Students are expected to write each test on the dates specified. If you miss a test for *no documented reason(s)*, you will receive a *grade of zero*.
2. If you have a legitimate reason (e.g., death in the family, severe illness, etc.) for being excused from a test, and have documentation to verify your absence you may take a make-up test in lieu of the missed test.
3. Make-up tests will be scheduled at the Course Instructor's discretion and will not contain the same questions as the original test.
4. Within 48 hours of the missed test, students **must email** the course instructor and copy his/her TA on the email.
5. In the email, please include: (a) your full name and student number in the subject line; (b) outline the reason for your absence; and (c) confirm that you have medical or other relevant documentation to support this reason.
6. Please also note that if you miss a test, regardless of your reason, you have waived the right to have a specific percentage of graded feedback available to you prior to the drop date.
7. Documentation includes a valid medical document, signed by a physician, stating that you were medically unable to take the test. You will need to have your doctor complete the attending physician's statement (http://psyc.info.yorku.ca/files/2012/11/attend_physician_statement2.pdf). The Physician's statement must include: (i) full name, mailing address and telephone number of the physician on official letterhead; (ii) the nature of the illness and its duration (i.e., specific dates covered); and, (iii) indication of whether the illness and/or medication prescribed would have SERIOUSLY affected the student's ability to study and perform over the period in question. Note: The physician's office may be contacted to verify the information provided.
8. This information should be brought to the makeup test. If you miss the test for non-medical reasons, you still must produce supporting documentation (e.g., death certificate, obituary notice, automobile accident report, airline ticket for emergency travel, etc.).
9. No individualized testing is available unless arranged formally through one of the offices at the University (e.g., Counselling and Disability Services- CDS).