PSYX 340.01: Abnormal Psychology

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Meeting Location and Times
Jeannette Rankin Hall (JRH) 202
Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:50 pm
Instruction dates: January 24th through Thursday May 4th

Last Exam: Thursday May 4th from 12:30-1:50 pm

Instructor Information
Instructor: Kathryn Oost, M.A.
Office: Skaggs Bldg. 360
Email: kathryn.oost@umontana.edu
Office hours: By appointment

Teaching Philosophy
Fundamentally, I believe that it is one thing to teach what psychologists know, and another to teach how psychologists think. In teaching my classes, I attempt to accomplish both of these objectives. There is a certain body of knowledge that you need to master in order progress further in your studies of human behavior. However, long after you have forgotten some of the subtle nuances of the content, I hope you will be able to think critically about human behavior in the manner of a psychologist.

There are many ways of teaching this course as there are instructors; accordingly, I teach with a certain set of biases and assumptions that it is important to make clear. First, I am biased toward scientific explanations of human behavior, those that are grounded in both theory and data, and I will focus primarily on these explanations throughout the course. Second, I have a bias in favor of a certain type of students: those who work toward their full potential. I will facilitate your learning of the material in class, in my office hours, via email, and on the discussion board as long as you demonstrate an eagerness to learn. Finally, I believe that students learn best through active engagement with the material. This is reflected in the fact that I supplement material from your text with case studies or anecdotes, I offer extra credit for going above and beyond reading the text for the course, and I welcome in-class discussion (as much as is possible with our cozy group of 75 or so students).
Course Guidelines and Policies

Disability Modifications
The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Academic Misconduct
You are expected to adhere to the University’s Student Conduct Code with regard to academic integrity. Academic misconduct in this course will result in an academic penalty commensurate with the offense as well as possible disciplinary action by the University.

Incompletes
Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing “incomplete” grades after one year has passed since the “I” was granted.

Pass/No Pass
For students taking this course P/NP, a P is a grade of A, B, or C. A NP is a grade of C-, D, or F.

Course Description
Psyx 340 is an overview of the major theories, diagnostic categories, and treatment approaches for behavior disorders. Psyx 100 is a prerequisite.

Course Objectives
• To gain a better understanding of, and appreciation for, variations in human behavior
• To understand the historical development of classification systems for behavior disorders
• To develop a basic understanding of our current diagnostic system and to think critically about its strengths and limitations
• To understand the major classifications of mental disorders and to have a basic working knowledge of different diagnoses
• To understand how the basic treatment approaches address the criterion behaviors of each particular disorder
• To explore current controversies in the field of abnormal psychology

Course Grading/Evaluation
The grading scale for this course is based on a 10-point system using plus/minus grades (94-100% is an A, 90-93% is an A-, 87-89% is a B+, etc.). Your grade in this course will be computed from four equally-weighted exams. No exams will be given before the scheduled date, and there will be no make-up exams except in the event of an emergency (with a note documenting the emergency) or required university-sanctioned activity.

The exams will be primarily composed of multiple choice questions, but there will also be a few (5-6) short answer questions for each exam. The final exam will focus primarily on material from the last few weeks of class, but a question or two on the short answer portion of the final will ask you to reflect on
material learned throughout the semester. Bring a clean Psychology Scantron form (available in the bookstore, Think Tank, and other venues on campus) and a #2 pencil to each exam.

Extra credit will be made available on the Moodle site for the class (see Supplemental materials below). Each of the first three extra credit assignments can add up to three points to the exam that follows it; extra credit for each unit must be turned in on the dates noted on p. 3-4 of this syllabus. The fourth extra credit is based on in-class brief assignments that include short questions and reactions to topics discussed in class or in the reading. You cannot lose points for these brief assignments, but your scores on them (up to 1 point each) can add up to 5 points to your grade on the final exam.

Required Materials

Supplemental Materials
A website for the course is available through Moodle. Here you will find a copy of this syllabus, all materials needed to complete extra credit assignments, and a discussion board for posting/answering questions about the class. Grades will be posted on the site. I may also post suggestions for optional readings if you are interested in further information about a particular topic.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Topics and Required Reading (Worth Chapters)</th>
<th>Extra credit available (see website for details)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 (1/24, 1/26)</td>
<td>History of abnormal psych. (Ch. 1)</td>
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<td>Week 2 (1/31, 2/2)</td>
<td>Research in abnormal psych (Ch. 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3 (2/7, 2/9)</td>
<td>Theoretical models (Ch. 3)</td>
<td>Extra Credit #1 Psychology in the News Due 2/9</td>
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<td>Week 4 (2/14, 2/16)</td>
<td>Exam 1: Tuesday 2/14 Assessment, diagnosis, tx (Ch. 4)</td>
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<td>Week 5 (2/21, 2/23)</td>
<td>Anxiety, OC and related disorders (Ch. 5)</td>
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<td>Week 6 (2/28, 3/2)</td>
<td>Trauma and stress-related disorders (Ch. 6)</td>
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<td>Week 7 (3/7, 3/9)</td>
<td>Disorders featuring Somatic Symptoms (Ch. 10)</td>
<td>Extra Credit #2 Answering questions with PsycInfo Due 3/9</td>
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<td>Week 8 (3/14, 3/16)</td>
<td>Exam 2: Tuesday 3/14 Depressive and bipolar disorders (Ch. 7)</td>
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<td>Week 9 SPRING BREAK (NO CLASS 3/21, 3/23)</td>
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| Week 10  
(3/28, *No class 3/30) | Treatment for depressive and bipolar Disorders, suicide (Ch. 8,9)  |                                                  |
| Week 11  
(4/4, 4/6)      | Eating Disorders (Ch. 11)                                            | Extra Credit #3                                  |
|            | **Exam 3: Thursday 4/6**                                              | Case study assignment due 4/6                    |
| Week 12  
(4/11, 4/13) | Substance use disorders (Ch. 12)                                      |                                                  |
|            | Disorders of sex and gender (Ch. 13)                                  |                                                  |
| Week 13  
(4/18, 4/20) | Schizophrenia and Treatments (Ch. 14, 15)                             |                                                  |
| Week 14  
(4/25, 4/27) | Schizophrenia and Treatments Cont. (Ch. 14,15)                        | Extra Credit #4 is based on in-class *brief* assignments |
|            | Personality Disorders (Ch. 16)                                       |                                                  |
| Week 15  
(5/2, 5/4)    | Personality disorders cont. (Ch. 16)                                  | **Exam 4: Tuesday, 12/20, 8-10 AM**              |