

Abnormal Behavior (W2620)
Columbia University
Course Syllabus, Spring 2012

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Course Description

This course presents an introduction to the study, diagnosis and treatment of pathological and maladaptive behaviors. We will review psychopathology as represented in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (2000: 4th ed., Text Revision). Students will acquire critical insight into DSM-IV-TR through examination of the current debate over categorical vs. dimensional conceptualizations of mental disorders. In addition, we will integrate and review proposed revisions for DSM-V. The course is comprehensive in scope and will incorporate diverse theoretical perspectives, scientific research and socio-cultural issues which inform the conceptualization and treatment of psychological/psychiatric disorders.

Course Format

The introductory class sessions will provide students with a foundation in significant historical and contemporary issues including: a discussion of definitions of abnormality, descriptions of theoretical orientations and a critical analysis of the categorical assumptions inherent in DSM-IV TR. In this initial phase students will also be introduced to the process of clinical assessment, diagnosis and empirical approaches to psychopathology and psychotherapy. In the following lectures/discussions the major categories of psychological disorders will be reviewed in depth. Each class session will begin with a Case presentation. A patient's presenting symptoms will be described and the course of treatment reviewed. This clinical picture will serve to personalize the disorder and familiarize students with presenting symptoms. In addition, students will gain an appreciation for the complex and often subjective components of diagnosis. An overview of the core symptoms and current theory and research related to etiology, course and treatment interventions will then be provided. The Biopsychosocial Model will guide our understanding. Psychopathology in the Adult is the central focus; however Child and Adolescent disorders will be integrated throughout the course.

Course Readings

Four books are required for the course. Each may be purchased at the Columbia Bookstore or Online.

Butcher, J.N., Mineka, S. & Hooley, J.M. (2010). *Abnormal Psychology, 14th Edition*. Boston, MA.: Pearson Education, Inc., publishing as Allyn & Bacon:

Jamison, K.R. (1996). *An Unquiet Mind*. New York, New York: Vintage Books:

Oltmanns, T.F., Martin, M.T., Neale, J.M & Davison, G.C. (2012). *Case Studies in Abnormal Psychology, Ninth Edition*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Schiller, L & Bennett, A. (1996). *The Quiet Room: A Journey Out of the Torment of Madness*. New York, New York: Warner Books.

Additional readings will be distributed in class and/or posted on the Courseworks website. Listed below is a sampling of the texts from which readings will be taken.

Barlow, D.H., Editor (2008). *Clinical Handbook of Psychological Disorders, Fourth Edition*. New York, New York: Guildford Publishers.

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association, 2000.

Halgin, R.P., Editor (2009). *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Abnormal Psychology, Fifth Edition*. New York, New York: McGraw Hill Publishing, Inc.

Maddux, J.E. & Winstead, B.A., Editors (2008). *Psychopathology: Foundations for a Contemporary Understanding, Second Edition*. New York, New York: Taylor & Francis Group.

Spitzer, R.L, Gibbon, M., Skodol, A.E., Williams, J.B.W & First, M.B (2002). *DSM-IV-TR Case Book: A Learning Companion to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision*. Washington D.C.: American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

Course Requirements

Examinations

Each student will be required to complete two midterms and a final examination. The final exam is cumulative; however, emphasis will be placed on the final third of the course. If a student is unable to take an exam due to illness or emergency, documentation from a physician or college dean must be provided before the exam. A make-up exam may be taken only under these conditions. A zero grade for the missed exam will be calculated in the final average without such documentation.

Book Reviews

In an effort to better comprehend the subjective experience of mental disorders two memoirs/autobiographies have been assigned. Students are required to submit two Book Reviews on these memoirs. The details of this assignment will be discussed further in class.

Book Reviews must be submitted by the following deadlines, no late papers accepted! Hard copies must be submitted in class.

Book Review 1 (The Unquiet Mind): March 8

Book Review 2 (The Quiet Room): April 19

Your final average will be calculated as follows:

- Midterm 1 (20%)
- Midterm 2 (20%)
- Final Examination (40%)
- Book Reviews (20%, 10% each)

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>DISCUSSION TOPIC</u> |
|--|---|
| January 17 | Welcome to the Course! |
| January 19 | Conceptualization of Abnormality DSM-IV Definitions of Mental Disorder |
| <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Butcher, Chapter 1: Abnormal Psychology: An Overview Maddux, Gosselin & Winstead: Conceptions of Psychopathology (Courseworks) | |
| January 24/26 | Etiological Perspectives and Theoretical Orientation |
| <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Butcher, Chapter 3: Causal Factors and Viewpoints | |
| January 31 | The Psychotherapeutic Process: Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment |
| <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Butcher, Chapter 4: Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis Widdiger, T.A. In Maddux and Winstead: Chapter 5: Classification and Diagnosis: Historical Development and Contemporary Issues. (Courseworks) Garb, Lilienfield & Fowler In Maddux and Winstead: Chapter 6: Psychological Assessment and Clinical Judgment. (Courseworks) | |
| February 2/7/9 | Anxiety Disorders |
| <i>Reading Assignment:</i> Butcher, Chapter 6: Panic, Anxiety, and Their Disorders Butcher, Chapter 15 (pages 536-539): Anxiety Disorders in Children and Adolescents Butcher, Chapter 5: Stress and Physical Mental Health Oltmanns, Cases 1, 2, 3 | |
| Spotlight Theoretical Conceptualization and Treatment Approach: Psychoanalytic and Psychodynamic Interventions for Anxiety Disorders Behavioral Therapy for Obsessive Compulsive Disorder | |

Supplemental:

Linehan, M. & Dexter-Mazza, E.T. Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Borderline Personality Disorder (Courseworks).

Spotlight Theoretical Conceptualization and Treatment Intervention:

Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) for Borderline Personality Disorder

March 29 Dissociative Disorders

Reading Assignment:

Butcher, Chapter 8: Somatoform Disorders and Dissociative Disorders (Dissociative Sections Only)
Oltmanns, Case 5

**April 3 MIDTERM EXAMINATION TWO
 Chapters 8, 9, 10, 15 (Noted Sections)**

April 5 CLASS WILL NOT MEET

April 10 Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders

Reading Assignment:

Butcher, Chapter 12: Sexual Variants, Abuse and Dysfunctions
Oltmanns, Cases 12, 13, 14

April 12/17 Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders

Reading Assignment:

Butcher, Chapter 13: Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders
Oltmanns, Cases 9, 10

April 19/24 Substance-Related Disorders

Reading Assignment:

Butcher, Chapter 11: Substance-Related Disorders
Oltmanns, Case 11

April 26 Course Summary

**May 8 7:10-10:00 pm FINAL EXAMINATION
 Cumulative with emphasis on Chapters 11, 12, 13**

“How we conceive of psychopathology and related terms has wide-ranging implications for individual, medical and mental health professionals, government agencies and programs, and society at large.”

Maddux, J.E., Gosselin, J.T. & Winstead, B.A. (2009)

WELCOME TO ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR!!!!