

ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY (1205)

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Psychological disorders are a leading cause of morbidity and lost productivity both in the US and globally. We will address questions central to understanding and treating them.

- What is psychopathology?
- What are the history and epidemiology of psychological disorders?
- What are the principal disorders and how are they differentiated?
- What are the chief risk factors and the leading candidate mechanisms for etiology and course?
- How are disorders treated, what are the rationales, and what the evidence for efficacy?

The classification and diagnosis of mental disorders based on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM IV) of the American Psychiatric Association forms the framework for learning about disorders. Alternative approaches will be considered. Case histories, video presentations of clinical interviews, other audio-visual materials, and readings supplement the text and lectures.

*Readings*

Butcher, J. N., Mineka, S., & Hooley, J. M. (14<sup>th</sup> edition). *Abnormal psychology*. Boston, MA: Pearson.

Oltmanns, T. F., Martin, M. T., Neale, J. M., & Davison, G. C. (Eds.). (2009). *Case studies in abnormal psychology* (8th ed.). New York: Wiley.

*Web resources*

[www.mypsychlab.com](http://www.mypsychlab.com) The Class ID is cm279748. Register online so that you can record your chapter exams.

[courseweb.Pitt.edu](http://courseweb.Pitt.edu) For announcements, additional readings, study guides, exam scores, and other information. Lecture notes (“Powerpoints”) will not be posted.

*Preparation*

Class attendance is expected. If you miss class, you will miss material that may be presented only there. Read and do chapter pretests in advance of class and please feel free to ask questions. Chapter posttests are best done either by the end of each unit. They must be entered online by April 21.

*Email*

Include “Psy 1205” on the subject line and address email to [jeffcohn@pitt.edu](mailto:jeffcohn@pitt.edu) or [jamie.hudzik@gmail.com](mailto:jamie.hudzik@gmail.com)

*Office Hours*

Dr. Cohn: Tues 4 pm and by appointment.  
TA Hudzik: TBA and by appointment.

*Evaluation*

Exams are cumulative and cover material presented in lectures, readings, video clips, MyPsychLab, and class discussion. Grades are based on a weighted average of chapter tests from MyPsychLab (12%) and three cumulative exams (25%, 30%, and 33%, respectively) on the dates scheduled.

Letter grades are assigned as follows.

A+ > 96.6%; A > 93.3%; A- > 90.0  
 B+ > 86.6%; B > 83.3%; B- > 80.0%

C+ > 76.6%; C > 73.3%; C- > 70.0%  
 D+ > 66.6%; D > 63.3%; D- > 60.0%

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, please inform Dr. Cohn and the Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412 648-7890/412 383-7355 (TTY), as early as possible. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. A comprehensive description of the services of that office can be obtained at [www.drs.pitt.edu](http://www.drs.pitt.edu).

Schedule*			
<i>Date</i>		<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Jan.	6	Overview	Text, chapter 1, pp. 1-14
Jan.	11	Research methods	Text, chapter 1, pp. 14-29
Jan.	13	Research methods	<a href="http://www.radiolab.org/2007/may/17/">http://www.radiolab.org/2007/may/17/</a>
Jan.	18	Historical and contemporary views	Text, chapter 2
Jan.	20	Causal factors and viewpoints	Text, chapter 3
Jan.	25	Causal factors and viewpoints	
Jan.	27	Clinical assessment and diagnosis	Text, chapter 4
Feb.	1	Clinical assessment and diagnosis	"The dictionary of disorder" (from <i>The New Yorker</i> )
Feb.	3	Schizophrenia	Text, chapters 13
Feb.	8	<i>Exam 1</i>	
Feb.	10	Schizophrenia	Case studies, "Schizophrenia: Paranoid type"
Feb.	15	Personality Disorders	Text, chapter 10
Feb.	17	Personality Disorders	Case studies, "Paranoid personality disorder" "Mind games" (from <i>The New Yorker</i> )
Feb.	22	Mood Disorders and suicide	Text, chapter 7
Feb.	24	Mood Disorders and suicide	Case studies, "Bipolar mood disorder"
Mar.	1	Stress and mental health	Text, chapter 5, pp. 139-144
Mar.	3	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	Text, pp. 158-174 Case studies, "Post-traumatic stress disorder"
Mar.	8	Spring Break	
Mar.	10	Spring Break	
Mar.	15	Anxiety disorders	Text, chapter 6

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Readings</i>
Mar. 17	Anxiety disorders	Case studies, "OCD" Case studies, "Panic disorder"
Mar. 22	<u>Exam</u>	
Mar. 24	Substance Disorders	Text, chapter 11 "Drinking games" (from <i>The New Yorker</i> )
Mar. 29	Substance Disorders	
Mar. 31	Childhood Disorders	Text, chapter 15 Case studies, "Autistic disorder"
Apr. 5	Childhood Disorders	Case studies, "ADHD"
Apr. 7	Cognitive Disorders	Chapter 14
Apr. 12	Cognitive Disorders	
Apr. 14	Therapy	Chapter 16 Fournier et al. (2010) or Whitaker (200-) Baker et al. (2009)
	Therapy	
Apr. 19	No class (Passover)	
Apr. 21	Review	
Apr. 28	<u>Final exam</u>	2 – 3:50 pm

\* Topics will be presented in the order shown. Because we may spend more or less time on a given topic, the exact dates may vary. The timing of exams will not change; exams will be given on the dates shown and include topics covered to date.

The textbook and case studies reader are available from the Book Center. Registration for MyPsychLab is required. Other readings will be distributed through Blackboard/Course Web.