

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY, FACULTY OF HEALTH  
YORK UNIVERSITY

**COURSE:** PSYC 3140 3.0M ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

**TERM:** WINTER 2015

**PREREQUISITES:** AK/AS/SC/PSYC 1010 6.00 or AK/PSYC 2410  
6.00, with a minimum grade of C.

**COURSE INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Vasanthi Valoo  
Email: [valoo@yorku.ca](mailto:valoo@yorku.ca) (Always include *PSYC 3140M* in the subject line)  
Office Hours: By Appointment

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Kayla Hamel  
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Farena Pinnock  
Email: [farena5@yorku.ca](mailto:farena5@yorku.ca)  
Office Hours: By Appointment

**SECRETARY:** Ms. Agnes Levstik, 416-736-5125 (Ext 55125)

**TIME AND LOCATION:** Mondays: 2:30PM – 5:30PM  
Location: CLH F  
Course Duration: Jan 5, 2015 - Apr 6, 2015

**EXPANDED COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course offers an overview of psychopathology and an opportunity to explore the scientist-practitioner approach to psychopathology. Course content includes clinical descriptions, approaches/paradigms, etiologies, treatment procedures, and treatment outcomes of psychological disorders. The course involves formal lectures, clinical studies, and small group discussions and may be supplemented by films/videos and invited guests.

### Course Learning Objectives

1) *Purpose of the Course*

- The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the field of psychopathology and to a scientist-practitioner approach to the study of abnormal psychology.

2) *Specific Learning Objectives*

- To learn about clinical descriptions, approaches, and treatment procedures used in the field of clinical psychology.
- To explore the scientist-practitioner approach to psychopathology.
- To think critically about approaches to abnormal psychology.
- To consider the issues of gender and culture in relation to the study of psychopathology.

### COURSE TEXT

Comer, R.J., (2014). *Abnormal Psychology* (8<sup>th</sup> Ed.) Worth Publishers, New York, NY.

### EVALUATION

Test 1	30%
Test 2	30%
Final Exam	40%

*You will be responsible for material covered in lectures as well as assigned text readings. In order to ensure your success in the course, you are encouraged to complete the assigned text readings, attend lectures, and participate in class discussions.*

*PLEASE NOTE: Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program or Faculty grades distribution profiles. The grade profile for this course is already high. Grades will **NOT** be rounded off or raised at the request of students.*

*The last day to drop the course without receiving a final grade is **March 6, 2015.***

**TEST 1 - MULTIPLE CHOICE (30%)**

Chapters 2,3,4,5,6,7.

**TEST 2 - MULTIPLE CHOICE (30%)**

Chapters 8,9,10,11,12,13.

**FINAL EXAM –CUMULATIVE - 40%**

Multiple Choice 14,15,16,17,18,19.

Written Answers Cumulative – ALL Chapters

**GRADING, ASSIGNMENT SUBMISSION, LATENESS PENALTIES AND MISSED TESTS**

**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, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests will bear a number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.).

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - <http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/2010-2011/academic/index.htm> )

**Missed Tests:** Students with a documented reason for missing a test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g., doctor's letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Accommodations may be permission to write a make-up test, or reweighting of course evaluations. Further extensions or accommodations will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty. Students who miss a test must notify the course instructor prior to the test and will only be able to write a make-up test if they have valid documentation to support their absence. Serious illnesses and family tragedies are the only acceptable justifications for missing a test. **Please note** that there is no guarantee that the make-up test will follow the same format as the original and the date of the make-up test will be assigned by the course Instructor.

**ADDITIONAL TEST INFORMATION**

For tests you must bring York sessional and photo ID

**IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS**

**Moodle:** You are responsible for checking *Moodle* for relevant course-related material and updates. Steps: 1) visit <https://moodle11.yorku.ca/moodle/> , 2) log-in using your PassportYork ID, 3) select HH/PSYC3480N.

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, Initiatives, Documents) -

[http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate\\_cte\\_main\\_pages/ccas.htm](http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm)

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

**TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>Week Mon</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading/s</b>
1	Jan 5	Introduction	Chapter 1
2	Jan 12	Research In Abnormal Psychology Models of Abnormality	Chapter 2 Chapter 3
3	Jan 19	Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Related Disorders	Chapter 4 Chapter 5
4	Jan 26	Stress Disorders Disorders Focusing on Somatic and Dissociative Symptoms	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
5	Feb 2	Disorders of Mood Treatments of Mood Disorders	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
6	Feb 9	<b>TEST 1 - MULTIPLE CHOICE (30%) Chapters 2,3,4,5,6,7.</b>	
7	Feb 16	READING WEEK	
8	Feb 23	Suicide Eating Disorders	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
9	Mar 2	Substance Use and Addictive Disorders Disorders of Sex and Gender	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
10	Mar 9	<b>TEST 2 - MULTIPLE CHOICE (30%) 8,9,10,11,12,13.</b>	
11	Mar 16	Schizophrenia Treatments for Schizophrenia and Other Severe Mental Disorders	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
12	Mar 23	Personality Disorders Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence	Chapter 16 Chapter 17
13	Mar 30	Disorders of Aging and Cognition Law, Society, and the Mental Health Profession	Chapter 18 Chapter 19
<b>Winter Exam Period (Dec 9-)</b>	<b>Date TBA in Winter Exam Schedule</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM –CUMULATIVE - 40%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Multiple Choice 14,15,16,17,18,19.</b></li> <li>• <b>Written Answers Cumulative – ALL Chapters</b></li> </ul>	