

**YORK UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY  
FACULTY OF HEALTH  
ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY  
PSYC 3140 3.0 O  
WINTER 2014**

**Course Director:** Dr. Michael Luther mluther@yorku.ca BSB 277  
**Course Hours:** Wednesdays 8:30-11:20 a.m. (YK: CLH-F)  
**Lecture:** 8:30 to 9:45 am  
**Seminar:** 10:00 to 11:20 am Attendance will be taken daily at all Seminars  
**Secretary:** alevstik@yorku.ca Agnes Levstik, 281 BSB.

**Office Hours:** (see him before or after class at Lecture Hall) (CLH-F)

Telephone: (416) 736-5125  
Prerequisite: **Psych 1010 6.0 WITH A MINIMUM OF A 'C' GRADE**

**PLEASE CONTACT YOUR T.A. VIA EMAIL IF YOU ARE ILL AND ARE GOING TO BE AWAY. ALSO, PLEASE LET US KNOW AT FIRST CLASS WHETHER YOU ARE A SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENT WHO WILL NEED ACCOMMODATIONS FOR EXAMS, ETC.**

**COURSE INTENT:**

An attempt is made to evaluate critically the models and research findings that relate to categories of various important kinds of psychological pathology (as outlined in the DSM-IV Handbook). The course looks at historical and contemporary attempts to account for causes and treatments of these disorders. We will examine neurotic, psychotic, and personality disorders, as well as developmental and neurological problems. Also, gender identity problems, anxiety conditions, eating disorders and learned (phobias, substance abuse, cultural deprivation, etc.) patterns of abnormal behaviour will be studied. Medical/biological, psychological, and social/cultural perspectives will be addressed here; multi-faceted causes will be considered for each disorder. The complexity of human beings will be discussed at length in this course. Both scientific and more humanistic approaches will help explore abnormal thinking, behavior, and experience.

The main purpose of the course is to present an array of psychological/biological disorders and to gain an understanding of what can go wrong in the human being and how interventions can improve the lot of these people; anecdotally, even the so-called "benefits" of certain disorders will be touched upon. Up-to-date findings will be brought to bare wherever possible, since our notions of the causation of pathology often change radically, in light of new scientific findings from state-of-the-art methods of research.

Lectures and readings will help provide background and theory related to these topics. Weekly seminars will focus on the more practical application of the course material to the real world. For instance, students will present on the "observables" of a disorder, main features, and modes of treatment and support. Case studies will be utilized whenever possible by the lecturer, and theory will be delved into. The main textbook (Davison et al, 2010) will be used for the **Midterm and Final** exams, for preparation of handouts, and for all group presentations. Lectures will be on the **Final** exam.

## **REQUIRED READINGS:**

1. Davison et al. (2010, 4th Edition) Abnormal Psychology: Perspectives.  
Toronto, ON: (Hard Cover)

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

### **\*PLEASE NOTE! FRIDAY, March 07, 2014 – LAST DAY TO DROP A WINTER TERM COURSE WITHOUT RECEIVING A GRADE**

- (A) **Mid-term Exam:** A multiple-choice exam on the text (**Davison** et al. chapters 6,8,11 &13) **30% (#7 class)**.
- (B) **Final Exam:** A multiple-choice exam on (**Davison et al chapter 15 + all** of the lectures) – **30% (Exam Period)**
- (C) 1. **Presentation & Small Hand-Out:** From at least 5 sources (books, articles, etc.). References and studies are listed here too. A group-prepared handout (for all students): under 3 pages (single-spaced) typed on your topic (i.e., on the one presented in class). **Due:** Day of Presentation.
2. **Seminar Presentation: - 30% (Each 40 minutes long)**  
A 'group' presentation on **ONE** disorder (to be selected from the list) and one **PROVEN TREATMENT** (the best). The presentation should be done by the group (of 3 or more) and should be **40-minutes** in length. Large print Power Point is encouraged. Only 2 or 3 speakers will present each day (pick best speakers!) Videotape, audiotape, role playing etc. may be used here. Group discussion is very important too. No one will read their presentations (or rush through). **Role play the treatments!** The presenters will prepare a hand-out, posters, and/or **large print** doc. camera to illustrate concepts more effectively. Again, only **one** effective mode of therapy only will be described/ demonstrated in detail. Be concise and informative (**NO LAUNDRY LISTS!**)
- (D) **ATTENDANCE**  
Students must come to seminars and engage in active and congenial participation. Attendance at lectures is **crucial** to do well on Exams.
- +
- PARTICIPATION – 10%**  
You will be evaluated on your contribution to the group presentation, as well; submit a detailed breakdown of 'who did what'. **Do not plan vacations near exams times!**

**N.B. LAPTOPS ARE FOR LECTURE NOTES ONLY – NOT ( IN SEMINARS) FOR SURFING THE WEB (FACEBOOK) etc. Abuse will result in a FAILURE GRADE here; put away Smart phones!!!**

**N.B. Reading Week: Feb. 15 – 21, 2014.**

|                                  |  |     |
|----------------------------------|--|-----|
| <b><u>Marking/Weightings</u></b> | (a) Mid-term Exam (chapters 6,8,11,13)     | 30% |
|                                  | (b) Oral Presentation & Hand-out           | 30% |
|                                  | (c) Attendance + Participation             | 10% |
|                                  | (d) Final Exam (chapter 15 + all lectures) | 30% |

*All exams are closed book and multiple choice.*

*Final course grades may be adjusted to conform to Program and Faculty distribution profiles.*

There will be no “make-up” test unless the request is accompanied by an “*Attending Physician’s Statement*” (available from the Registrar’s Office). If you are ill, the teaching assistant must be contacted within 48 hours of the test. Therefore, if you do become ill at any point in the term, it is wise to obtain a statement to that effect from your physician. The “make-up” assignment may consist of essay-style questions , and will only be administered following the final exam; you will need a DEF form! Students who miss a presentation *must* write a 15 page APA paper at end of the course.

Requests for the re-evaluation of term work, review of midterms, etc. must be received before the last class of the term.

**N.B. The two 40-minute group Presentation/Seminars will be held after the break.**  
**SEMINAR TOPICS** (To Be Given To Students)

**GROUP PRESENTATIONS:**

- Week #4 **Neurosis** (Depression, or Anxiety, etc.).
- Week #5 **Psychosis** (Paranoid Schizophrenia, Manic Depressive Disorder, or Asperger’s/Autism).
- Week #6 **Personality Disorders** \*(Anti-social Psychopathic), or DID/MPD, \*Histrionic. Personality, Dependent, Borderline, etc.
- Week #7 **Gender Identity and Sexual Issues** (Transvestism/Trans-sexuality **OR**\*Sex Addiction, Bisexuality **MIDTERM**
- Week #8 **Eating Disorders** (Anorexia Nervosa/Bulimia, or Obesity, etc.).
- Week #9 **Learned Problems** (Phobia, Acute Stress Disorder or P.T.S.D.)
- Week #10 **Gangs (or Terrorists)** “the psychology of fear” and Evil.
- Week #11 **Brain-Related (organic) Disorders** Parkinson's or Alzheimer's
- Week #12 **Viral Disorders** BSE/CJV (“Mad Cow”), or Syphilis (and circumcision), etc.

**N.B. The students will choose one condition only and one therapy mode only (i.e., Note that CBT is only for Neurosis or Learned Problems)!**

- Week # 1      **INTRODUCTION**  
(Normal and Abnormal) Evolutionary Roots – animal models  
Theory of Mind and Primates  
**Film:** Nova: "Embryology: The Fetus"
- Week #2      - **Developmental Problems** – “**What Can Go Wrong**”  
- Dyslexia **Film:** "Two Brains" (Nova)  
- Learning Disability \***READ** “6/7 year Follow-up on ELBW prems”  
- Hyperactivity **Film:** “20/20” (on AD/HD)  
- Autism/P.D.D. \***Read** : “Assess. Theory of Mind in Autism”  
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome,  
- Genetic Disorders  
**Film:** “Crack Babies” & “Bipolar Child”
- Week #3      **Family-related problems (bonding etc.)** - attachment problems (APD)  
- family child rearing patterns  
-Authoritarianism  
  
**Films:** “Attachment Therapy” “Romanian Orphans” CNN & History Channel
- Week #4      **Neuroses - Ego Defenses Overworked (Freud & Jung)**  
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder  
- Depressive Disorders  
- Reactions (anxiety)  
- Hysteria (Read)  
**Films:** “Freud vs. Hitler”, “Singer”.
- Week #5      **Psychoses**  
- Schizophrenia  
- Paranoia  
- Manic Depression  
- Autism/Aspergers  
**Films:** Nova: "Violent Mind", A&E: “Brian Wilson”
- Week #6      **Personality Disorder**  
- **Films:** "Satanism in Lethbridge", Psychopaths” & “Dr. Ross”.  
- Psychopathic/Anti-social personality  
- Criminal/Explosive  
- DID: Multiple Personality Disorder \*  
**Films:** Dr. Ross’, D. Suzuki’s

- Week #7 **Gender Identity and Sexual Addicton**
- Testosterone theory
  - Transvestism
  - Transexism
- Films:** Nova: "Two Brains" & 20/20: "Sex Differences"
- Week #8 **Eating Disorders**
- Anorexia/Bulimia
  - Obesity
- Films:** "The Famine Within", "The Cove" & "Dying to beThin"
- Week #9 **Learned Problems**
- Classically-conditioned phobias
  - Operantly-conditioned behavioural problems
  - Stress / PTSD
- Films:** "Shake Hands with the Devil", "Romeo Dallaire" & "9/11"
- Week #10 **Terror – Terrorists and Gangs**
- Violence, Child Abuse, Aggression
  - Nature of Evil, drug-related (marijuana wars)
  - Social problems (gangs, etc.)
- Films:** "Gangs of New York City", "Insurgency" & "Toronto 18"
- Week #11 **Brain Related Disorders**
- Epilepsy
  - Stroke/Aneurisms
  - Parkinson's
  - Oliver Sack's findings
  - Alzheimers
- Films:** "Tourettes", "Alzheimers", "Michael J. Fox", & "Joy Division"
- Week #12 **Viral Disorders of the Brain**
- Syphilis & circumcision
  - CFS/ME
  - Encephalitis Lethargica
- Films:** "Spanish Flu Epidemic" & "Awakenings", "Mad Cow"

**FINAL EXAM (Exam Period)**

**GOOD LUCK!**

## Group Marking Criteria

### FOR STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTERS' NAMES.....

TOPIC.....

DATE.....

Rate the presentation using the following 5 point scale in which 1 represents the lower limit and 5 the upper limit. Space is provided for a specific comments, notes, or questions.

|                               |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Participation                 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Application to Topic          | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Clarity of Presentation       | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Pace/Time                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Use of aids (props, AV, etc.) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Efforts & Preparation         | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Interest Engendered           | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Pros \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Cons \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_