

Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 3140 3.0 C (F)
Fall 2013-2014

Course Instructor

Dr. Rob Muller
Department of Psychology
Office location: 120 BSB

Teaching Assistants (T.A.):

Ami Tint, M.A.

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Office hour & location: Thursdays, 10:00-11:00; BSB 031

Sheila Konanur

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Office hour & location: Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30, BSB 143

Please direct course-related questions to the T.A. before emailing the professor.

Required Readings:

(available at York U. bookstore)

1. Comer, R. (2014). Abnormal Psychology (eight edition) (DSM-5 update edition). New York: Worth Publishers.
2. Muller, R. T. (2010). Trauma and the Avoidant Client: Attachment-Based Strategies for Healing. New York: W. W. Norton.

<http://www.amazon.com/Robert-T.-Muller/e/B0033AFO5A>

<http://cavershambooksellers.com/searchresults.php?query=0393705730&SessionID=ef9fe6e2fc00b2daa5a82277181d696d>

<http://books.wwnorton.com/books/Trauma-Attachment-and-the-Avoidant-Client/>

Meeting Times:

Tuesdays, 11:30-2:30
CLH-F

Course Purpose:

This course is an introduction to the important concepts and diagnostic categories currently used by clinical psychologists and psychiatrists. There is a significant developmental focus such that abnormal behaviour is examined across the lifespan. Diagnostic and assessment issues are discussed. Treatment of psychological disorders is presented along with case examples of psychopathology occurring in adults, children, and families.

Evaluation:

There will be three equally weighted exams through the semester.

- 1/3 Exam one (Comer chapters 1, 2, 4, 8, 16 + classes).
- 1/3 Exam two (Comer chapters 5, 6, 14, 17, 11 + classes).
- 1/3 Final exam (Comer chapters 12, 9, 15 + Muller entire book + classes).

Exam Dates:

Exam one: October 1

Exam two: October 29

Final exam to take place during the scheduled examination period.

Issues Regarding Exams:

The exams will consist of material from the readings and from class instruction. Most of the material from the readings will not be covered in class, and most of the material from the class will not be covered in the readings. So you really need to study both in order to perform well.

On some weeks, the readings are lighter, but on some weeks, the readings are heavier. I strongly recommend that you look over the syllabus, and manage your time carefully. Please read ahead of lectures.

Class material includes what is covered in formal lecture, but also what is covered through student questions and comments, as well as case studies and any videos that will be presented. The exams will be in the multiple choice format. Grades will be posted outside one of the T.A.'s offices.

Make-up exams are available only if the T.A. or course instructor is notified within 24 hours of the examination and a medical statement or similar documentation is submitted. Requests to take make-up examinations will only be granted in extremely unusual circumstances. Such requests are not often granted. And when they are granted, there is only one single possible time that the make-up is offered for all students who

missed the exam; if you can't make it at that time, you will definitely receive a zero for that exam.

Issues Regarding Using Cellphones and Checking Social Media in Class:

Texting, email, Facebook, twitter, and all other social media are not allowed in class. They are *highly* distracting to you and to others. Research on "multi-tasking" has been showing for the past several years that it greatly *reduces* performance. Performance is much better if you just listen, concentrate, and focus.

If you'd like to use these social media, then please excuse yourself and do so outside. You are not allowed to use these social media during class time. Again, if you need to use your cellphone or check email, then please go into the hall and use your phone or laptop there.

Webpage Address for Professor Muller:

www.yorku.ca/rmuller

Dr. Muller's Webpage on Mental Health

The Trauma & Mental Health Report www.trauma.blog.yorku.ca/

Class Topics and Readings:

The classes will be broken down into the following topics and reading assignments. Note that reading assignments do not necessarily correspond to the topic covered in the lecture. That is why you will need to attend lectures and do the readings in order to be exposed to all the course materials.

- 1) September 10
Topic: Course overview.
Introduction to psychopathology: Basic concepts and the developmental context.
Readings: Comer chapters 1 & 2
- 2) September 17
Topic: Historical understandings of diagnosis and assessment.
Readings: Comer chapters 4 & 8
- 3) September 24
Topic: Disturbed personality organization: "Neurotic styles."
Readings: Comer chapter 16

- 4) October 1
EXAM ONE.
- 5) October 8
Topic: Anxiety disorders.
Readings: Comer chapters 5 & 6
- 6) October 15
Topic: Schizophrenia.
Readings: Comer chapter 14
- 7) October 22
Topic: Adolescence, family problems, eating disorders.
Readings: Comer chapter 17 & 11
- 8) October 29
EXAM TWO.
- 9) November 5
Topic: Prior to Treatment: Assessing psychological functioning
Readings: Comer chapter 12
- 10) November 12
Topic: Psychotherapy, principles and paradigms.
Readings: Comer chapters 9 & 15
Muller introduction
- 11) November 19
Topic: Brief psychotherapies.
Readings: Muller chapters 1-4
- 12) November 26
Topic: Trauma & avoidance in psychotherapy
Readings: Muller chapters 5-8 & epilogue