

School of Psychology

Name of the module: Abnormal Psychology

Lecturer: Dr. Ben Shahar

Number of the module: 8024

IDC Herzliya Credit Points: 4

ECTS: 6

Cycle: first cycle

Academic year: 2011-2012

Semester: Yearlong module

Field of Education: Psychology

Responsible department: School of Psychology

Position in Educational system: The module is given as a mandatory module to third year students in the international psychology BA program.

Hours and Location of instruction: 1st Semester: Sunday (once every two weeks), 12:15 – 13:45, room E102
2nd Semester: Thursday, (once every two weeks), 10:45 – 12:15, room A111

Contact details and Office hours: Dr. Ben Shahar, bshahar@idc.ac.il, by appointment

Language of instruction: English

General prerequisites: Introduction to Psychology

Course description:

🎯 Aims of the module: This is an introductory course in psychopathology designed to introduce you to the nature, causes, and treatment of mental disorders.

🎯 Objective of the module: We are going to discuss differences between normality and abnormality, classification and assessment of abnormal behavior, how mental disorders develop and what processes keep them going, and contemporary issues regarding psychological and psychopharmacological treatments for the various disorders. This course emphasizes the scientific method of studying abnormal behavior and research evidence will be reviewed and discussed throughout the course.

🎯 Learning outcomes of the module: At the end of this course students will be expected to describe and understand the primary issues and debates regarding assessment, classification, and treatment of different psychopathologies. In addition, students will be able to recognize and identify symptoms of important psychopathologies, and to recall information regarding the causes and treatments of each psychiatric disorder covered during the course. Students will be able to critically evaluate media information regarding causes and treatment of psychopathologies. Finally, students will be able to analyze and critique research studies pertaining to the major diagnostic categories.

Attendance regulations: Attendance in this course is not mandatory and technically (although very unlikely) it is possible to get a 100 in this course without coming to any of the classes. If you choose to come to class I require that you respect your classmates by being awake and paying attention. Said differently, if you choose to come I ask that you do not sleep, that you do not read the newspaper or anything else during lecture, that you do not use your cell phone, and that you do not engage in conversations with your neighbors. You are welcome to use a laptop as long as you don't use it for things not related to the lecture (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, chats, buying/selling stocks, and alike). Also, it is very distracting when students come in late or leave early. So, if you choose to come to a given class I ask that you come on time and stay for the whole class. If you feel you cannot live with these policies on a given day, please don't come to class.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: The methods of instruction in the module and any other arrangement regarding teaching and learning activity.

This syllabus contains important information regarding the course policies and grading. Read it carefully and make sure you understand it before you approach making decisions regarding how you want your grade to be determined (yes, you decide how your grade is determined).

This course will be based on frontal lectures that will include the presentations of the symptoms, course, causes, and treatment of major psychopathologies. Lectures will also include video clips of the various disorders and class discussions regarding unresolved issues.

Schedule and outline:

The schedule and the readings are subject to changes. After each class I will specify the exact readings for the following class.

Date	Topic	Readings
Semester A		
Oct 30	Introduction, Goals and Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosenhan Reading • Spitzer et al (2005)
Nov 6	No class: Dr. Shahar is away	
Nov 13	Defining abnormal behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/E Chap.1 • How Shyness becomes social phobia • New York Times: Snake Phobias, Moodiness and a Battle in Psychiatry
Nov 20	Causes of Psychopathology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/E Chap.2
Nov 27	Classification and Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/E Chap. 4 • What's wrong with this picture
Dec 4	Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/E Chap. 3 • Moses & Barlow (2006)
Dec 11	Mood Disorders I: Unipolar depression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/E Chap. 5
Dec 18	Mood Disorders II: Bi-polar disorders	
Dec 25	Hanukah. No class	
Jan 1	Anxiety Disorders I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/E Chap. 6
Jan 8	Anxiety Disorders II	
Jan 15	MIDTERM #1	
Jan 22	Traumatic Stress, Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/E Chap. 7
TBA	Mind-Body Relations: Stress and Physical Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/E Chap. 8 • Miller & Blackwell 2006
Semester B		
March 4	Eating Disorders I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/E Chap. 10
March 11	Eating Disorders II	
March 18	Schizophrenia I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O/E Chap. 13
March 25	Schizophrenia II	
April 1	Pesach. No class	
April 8	Pesach. No class	

April 15	Dementia and Delirium (Cognitive Disorders)	• O/E Chap. 14
April 22	MIDTERM #2 (written assignment due)	
April 29	Personality Disorders I	• O/E Chap. 9
May 6	Personality Disorders II	
May 13	Childhood disorders I: Mental Retardation and Pervasive Developmental Disorders	• O/E Chap. 15
May 20	Childhood Disorders II: Externalizing and internalizing behaviors	• O/E Chap. 16
May 27	Shavuut. No class	
June 3	Substance Abuse Disorders	• O/E Chap. 11
June 10	Emotion and Psychopathology	• Mennin & Farach (2007): Emotion and evolving treatments for adult psychopathology
June 17	Summary and review (book report due)	



Assessment:

The general grading policy of this course is based on two fundamental principles: (1) As students, you should have some choice in deciding how your final grade will be determined; and, (2) If a student works hard throughout the semester and gives a very good effort, his/her ultimate performance (i.e., final grade) should reflect these sustained efforts. If you work hard and well in this class, you should be able to master the materials and do well on the exams. Therefore, you will be given several routes to succeed in this class, including replacing a course exam with a written assignment, ample extra-credit assignments through in-class quizzes, and an optional book report.

Options for determining your grade: Three exams will be given during the year – two midterms and a cumulative final (moed A or moed B). In addition, you have the option of doing a written assignment instead of one or both midterms. The following are specific options you can choose from to determine your grade. **Note that in all 4 options the final exam is mandatory together with at least one additional project (a midterm or the written assignment).**

Option #1: Final exam and one midterm. If you choose this option your final exam will be worth 65% and the midterm will be worth 35% of your final grade. You can choose whether to do the first or the second midterm.

Option #2: Final exam and a written assignment. If you choose this option your final exam will be worth 65% and the written assignment will be worth 35% of your final grade. You will not attend any of the midterms.

Option #3: Final exam and two midterms. If you choose this option your final exam will be worth 50% and each midterm will be worth 25% of your final grade. You will attend both midterms.

Option #4: Final exam, one midterm, and a written assignment. If you choose this option your final exam will be worth 50%, the midterm will be worth 25%, and the written assignment will be worth 25% of your final grade. You can choose whether to do the first or the second midterm.

Optional Book Report: If you choose options #3 or #4, you also have the possibility of completing the Optional Book Report, worth 8 possible extra credit points! These are pure extra-credit and will only be used to improve

your grade. This option is not available for students choosing options #1 or #2. Specific instructions regarding how to complete the book report and how it will be graded are on the course website. The Optional Book Report assignment is due on **17/06/2012**. Only a hard copy will be accepted. The book report will not be graded if submitted after 17/06/2012 at 12:15. No extensions will be made.

Written Assignment: You may write one five-page paper *instead* of one or both of the first two midterms. **The paper is due at the beginning of the second midterm (04/22/2012).** Students choosing this option are expected to examine professional journals, identify one recent article that they find particularly interesting, and write a summary/critique of this article. Specific instructions for this assignment are on the class website. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** This assignment requires you sit-out (at least) one midterm; you cannot use the assignment to replace your lowest midterm grade. Anyone completing the written assignment is encouraged to see the instructor or teaching assistant to discuss the topic.

Exams: Three exams will be given -- two midterms covering only the material from the preceding section of the course plus a cumulative final (moed A or B) covering the material *from the entire semester*. In each exam, you will be responsible for the assigned readings and any material presented in lecture (including movies, class discussions, and guest lecturers). Important note: although we are going to go over the answers to the midterms' questions in class, the actual forms will not be returned to students. You are welcome to meet with the TA to go over your midterm if you have specific questions or concerns regarding your midterm.

Make up exams policy: NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. Repeat: NO MAKE UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. If extenuating circumstances prevent you from taking one of the midterms, you may complete the written assignment or take the other midterm (or both). If you don't show up for both midterms and do not hand in your written assignment before the second midterm, it is as if you are doing option #1 and your midterm score is zero. Under extreme conditions, I reserve the right to make other test arrangements; however, this will be rare, unlikely, and at my discretion.

In-Class Quizzes: On a number of occasions throughout the year short quizzes (1-3 multiple-choice questions or short-answer questions) will be given at the start or end of a class period. These quizzes are pure extra-credit and will only be used to improve your grade. Quiz questions will be drawn from prior lectures and readings. Therefore, if you choose to show-up to class, you have the chance to gain extra-points at a number of *random* times throughout the semester. There will be no make-up quizzes, under any circumstances, and regardless of reasons of absence.



Work and assignments:

Specific instructions for writing the assignment and the book report will be given on the class website.



Time required for individual work:

Obligatory:

Lecture attendances: 1.5 hours per week x 26 weeks =39

Reading assignment -3 hours per week x26 weeks =78

Study for the final exam – 16 hours

Taking the final Exam – 3 hours

Total amount of hours required for the obligatory work: 136 hours.

+Options (students must choose one of the followings):

Writing the written assignment - 10 hours

Or Study for the midterm exam - 12 hours

Or Study for 2 midterm exam - 12 hours per exam x2=24

Or Writing the written assignment 10 hours + Study for the midterm exam 12 hours =22

Writing a book report (optional) - 16 hours

Total amount of hours required for the different options: 10-40 hours

Total amount of hours required: minimum-146 hours/ maximum –176 hours.

Literature:

Oltmanns, T. F., & Emery, R. E. (2010). *Abnormal Psychology, Sixth Edition* (International Edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Higher education.

Additional Information: Additional required readings will be provided by me. All readings specified in the syllabus are required. Check the class website and the syllabus regularly as they might change during the year.

Academic Honesty: Cheating on any exam will result in a failing grade for the course and a notice will be sent to the Dean's office. Please be familiar with the IDC's Code of Academic Integrity

(<http://portal.idc.ac.il/en/main/services/handbook/Pages/regulations.aspx>). Any semblance of cheating will result in a formal accusation; please avoid all behaviors that might be considered, by a reasonable judge, dishonest

Confirmation: Dean of the School of Psychology.

Last Update: October 2011

Grading Scale: The academic grading system used in all modules in the international psychology courses is grades 0-100.

Passing grade is 60.

Module evaluation: By the end of the semester, students will evaluate the module and provide feedback on the quality of teaching. Evaluation forms will be given to students sometime during the last three weeks of the semester. The forms will be distributed and collected by representatives of the IDC, and the data will be compiled and provided to the lecturer, the dean of the School of Psychology and the Provost.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism occurs when students take phrases or passages from books, articles, or the internet, and use them in their own papers without proper documentation (i.e. stating the reference) as their own. In practice this means that you must be sure to place all direct quotations within quotation marks and you must always indicate where the quotation or ideas come from: e.g.(Bloggs 2001, p.34).

Plagiarism can also occur when students turn in passages that are nearly equivalent to what someone else has written, with only a few words changed here or there. You can also plagiarize if you turn in something that is "thought for thought" the same as someone else.

Any act of Plagiarism in essays will be brought before the disciplinary committee.