

**Abnormal Psychology**  
**PSYC 152**  
**Fall 2008**

Class Times: Monday/Wednesday 1:25 - 2:40  
Classroom: Living & Learning, D107

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**Course Objectives**

1. Develop excitement about the field of abnormal psychology, particularly the challenges researchers and clinicians face in their search for the causes of psychological disorders and ways to prevent and treat them.
2. Learn issues related to defining abnormal behavior. Emphasis will be placed on historical and cultural conceptualizations of abnormality.
3. Define issues related to the diagnosis and classification of behavior problems in adults, including the current DSM-IV multi-axial classification system and alternative approaches. Special attention will be placed on the continuum between normal and pathological behavior.
4. List up-to-date descriptive information about the symptoms, prevalence, risk factors, and course for different adult psychological disorders.
5. Describe different theoretical perspectives on abnormal behavior. Students will develop an understanding of the basic assumptions behind alternative models that attempt to explain abnormal behavior. For each psychological disorder covered, students shall identify the proposed causes and treatments offered by each perspective.
6. Identify different scientific methodologies used in current research to study abnormal behavior.

## Textbooks

### Required:

Nolen-Hoeksema, S. (2007). *Abnormal Psychology* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). New York, NY: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

### Optional:

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition Text Revision). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press, Inc. (ISBN 0-89042-061-0)

\*Note: If you are not going to purchase your own copy of the DSM, you will need to gain access to a copy at the library on a regular basis.

## Course Requirements

Readings: Assigned chapters are listed on the course schedule. Occasional additional readings will be assigned (e.g., case studies). Lectures and discussions will relate to the text and build on the subject for each class (e.g., case examples, research findings, discussion of controversial issues, identification of main concepts and facts). Thus, you should complete your reading assignment prior to class to lay the foundation for this supplemental material.

Exams: Four non-cumulative exams (worth 100 points each) will be given. Each exam will cover assigned reading material (whether or not it has been covered during class), class lectures, and any films shown. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short-answer questions. The fourth (final) exam will be on **Monday, December 15, 3:30pm – 5:00pm** (L/L-D D107). All exams will last an hour and a half; students must arrive at the beginning of the exam period and will have an hour and a half from the start of the exam to complete it. Any students arriving to the exam period more than an hour and a half late will not be able to complete the exam, and those arriving late (but within the hour and a half allotted period) will not receive extra time to complete the exam. Make-up exams will not be permitted in general, but may be granted on a case-by-case basis depending on the nature of the emergency. Make-ups will be of the same format of the exams. All make-ups will be given on one of the reading days during final exam week (date and time TBA) so there should be no other scheduled activities to interfere with making this make up time. All exam make-ups will be at my discretion, and will need to be verified with the dean. If the dean grants a student leave from classes, the Dean's office will notify the professors. Athletic absences will need to be documented.

Class Participation & Attendance: Because issues related to abnormal psychology are frequently value-laden, students will be asked to exercise critical thinking skills throughout the course. In order to make class discussions interesting and enjoyable for everyone, class participation is expected and encouraged. Attendance will not be taken, and each student will be responsible for the material covered in class, regardless of attendance. If a student misses a class, slides used in class will not be made

available, as they will not be available for each class. In addition, the discussion that occurs in class will not be outlined or presented outside of class.

### Grades

Exam grades will be posted on WebCT as soon as they are available:

<https://www.uvm.edu/webct/>

Login using your UVM NetID and password (same as your UVM email username and password) and click on this course.

Final grades will be determined by summing test scores from the four exams and dividing by 4. The following scale will be used to determine your final grade:

<u>A-Range</u>	<u>B-Range</u>	<u>C-Range</u>	<u>D-Range</u>	
100 - 94 A	89 - 87 B+	79 - 77 C+	69 - 67 D+	59 and below F
93 - 90 A-	86 - 84 B	76 - 74 C	66 - 64 D	
	83 - 80 B-	73 - 70 C-	63 - 60 D-	

### Classroom Environment

This course shall seek to uphold the University of Vermont's Classroom Code of Conduct and Policy on Academic Honesty (Source: 2006 – 2007 University of Vermont Official Catalogue).

#### University of Vermont Classroom Code of Conduct:

Faculty and students will at all times conduct themselves in a manner that serves to maintain, promote, and enhance the high quality academic environment befitting the University of Vermont. To this end, it is expected that all members of the learning community will adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Faculty and students will attend all regularly scheduled classes, except for those occasions warranting an excused absence under the University Attendance Policy (e.g., religious, athletic, and medical).
2. Students and faculty will arrive prepared for class and on time, and they will remain in class until the class is dismissed.
3. Faculty and students will treat all members of the learning community with respect. Toward this end, they will promote academic discourse and the free exchange of ideas by listening with civil attention to comments made by all individuals.
4. Students and faculty will maintain an appropriate academic climate by refraining from all actions that disrupt the learning environment (e.g., making noise, ostentatiously not paying attention, and leaving and reentering the classroom inappropriately). (Please turn your cell phones off).

#### Specific Requests