



OTRP online

Office of Teaching Resources in Psychology

PS 457: PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Fall 2006
John Carroll University
Tuesdays 5:00-7:40
Office hours by appointment

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Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the description, classification, and academic study of human mental distress. In addition, we will explore various theoretical approaches to the causes and treatments of psychopathology. Methods of instruction include lectures, group discussion, student papers, illustrative videos, and multiple-choice examinations.

Course Objectives

1. Introduce standard assessment practices for the diagnosis of mental disorders.
2. Foster competence in the use of the DSM-IV-TR for the classification of psychopathology.
3. Provide an overview of the symptoms, demographic features, and typical progression of major forms of psychopathology.
4. Balance a scientific, diagnostic approach to psychopathology with a humane appreciation for the "real life" experiences of people who suffer from mental disorders.
5. Address several constructs that complicate, but significantly enhance, the study of human mental distress:
 - a. the importance of the context in which disordered behavior occurs
 - b. the continuum between psychological normality and abnormality
 - c. the advantages and limitations of the DSM-IV-TR diagnostic system
 - d. the historical and cultural relativism of diagnosis
 - e. the connection between mind and body
 - f. the multiple causality of psychopathology
6. Review the major theoretical approaches to the causes and treatment of psychopathology: humanistic-existential, cognitive, behavioral, psychodynamic, sociocultural, and biological.

7. Review the research methods used to advance scholarship in the field of psychopathology.
8. Develop classification and assessment skills through in-class discussions, student papers, and multiple-choice examinations.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the diagnostic features and DSM-IV-TR classification of the major forms of psychopathology as evidenced by class discussion, examinations, and papers.
2. Develop an understanding of the major theoretical explanations of the etiology of various forms of psychopathology as demonstrated by class discussions, examinations and papers.
3. Develop an understanding of the major theoretical approaches to the treatment of various forms of psychopathology as demonstrated by class discussions, examinations and papers.
4. Develop an appreciation for the impact of mental illness on its sufferers and those around them, as evidenced by class discussion.
5. Demonstrate an ability to frame the diagnosis of individual psychopathology within the appropriate situational and sociocultural contexts, as evidenced by papers and class discussion.
6. Enhance familiarity with the dominant research methods used to advance knowledge in the field of psychopathology, as demonstrated by class discussion and examinations.
7. Develop an understanding of broad constructs (e.g., the historical and cultural relativism of diagnosis, the connection between mind and body, etc.) that influence the definition, classification, explanation, and/or treatment of mental disorders, as evidenced by class discussion, papers, and examinations.

Evaluation Criteria and Procedures

Your final grade will be calculated based on a semester total of 400 points. The points are determined as follows:

- * two papers, worth 75 and 125 points = 200 points
- * four quizzes, worth 50 points each = 200 points

A = 400-370	B- = 329-320	D+ = 279-270
A- = 369-360	C+ = 319-310	D = 269-250
B+ = 359-350	C = 309-290	D- = 249-240
B = 349-330	C- = 289-280	F = 239 and below

- Paper One (worth 75 points) will be written in response to the feature-length film *My Life in Pink*. The paper should be between three and four pages in length, double spaced, printed in 12 point font, with margins between 1 and 1.25 inches. You may be asked to redo a paper that does not meet these requirements. Papers are due at the beginning of class. Paper One will be penalized 2 points for every day late. The paper topic is as follows:

One of the many controversies about diagnosing psychopathology has to do with where psychopathology is “located” – is it in individuals, in relationships, in families, or in broader social structures? In “My Life in Pink,” where does the “problem” reside? Why? What are the shortcomings of your position?

- Paper Two (worth 125 points) will be a term paper on a topic of your choosing. You will select a specific topic pertaining to one of the disorders we'll be covering in class this semester (e.g. “Bipolar disorder in adolescents”). Once I've approved your topic, you'll read and synthesize four *empirical* research articles on that topic in a six to seven page paper. Your paper will introduce the topic and explain its relevance, describe the subjects and methodologies in the articles you read and provide an organized summary of the major findings, controversies, and conclusions from your articles. Be sure to include APA format references at the end of your paper (after your six to seven pages of text). Hand in your articles and the first draft of your paper in class on the assigned date. The first draft of your paper should be roughly the same length as the final draft. Put the final draft of Paper Two in my box in the Psychology Department office by 5:00 on Dec 15. Your final draft of Paper Two will be penalized 5 points for every day late

A note on plagiarism: Plagiarism is the act of presenting other people's work or ideas as your own. If you are suspected of plagiarism, your work will likely be forwarded to Dean of Academic Affairs

- Each quiz consists of five case studies for you to diagnose based on what you have learned from lecture and assigned readings. The quizzes are not cumulative. Contact me in advance if you will not be able to attend a quiz and need to arrange a make-up. If you do not attend a quiz and do not contact me in advance, you will need to provide proof of an emergency in order to take a make-up quiz.
- Class discussion will be based on the material presented in lecture and the weekly readings. Be especially sure to read the appropriate sections of your Lanahan reader and coursepack before each class so that you can be an active participant in class discussion. Also, please bring the appropriate Lanahan and coursepack readings to class with you. Over the course of the semester you are allowed two absences from class. Ten points will be deducted from your point total for every absence after your second.

Students with documented disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations if needed. If you believe you need accommodations, please see me or JCU's Coordinator for Students with Disabilities (Ms. Allison West, Ext. 4967) as soon as possible. Accommodations will not be granted retrospectively.

Required Texts

Hansell, J., & Damour, L. (2005). *Abnormal psychology*. New York, NY: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Bernheim, K. F. (2004). *The Lanahan cases and readings in abnormal behavior* (2nd ed.). Baltimore: Lanahan Publishers.

American Psychiatric Association. (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4th ed.--TR). Washington, DC: Author.

Coursepack Contents

See instructions on your library handout about how to access the Electronic Reserve copy of the coursepack. A hard copy of the coursepack is also on reserve at the library desk.

Golomb, A., Ludolph, P., Westen, D., Block, M. J., Maurer, P., & Wiss, F. C. (1994). Maternal empathy, family chaos, and the etiology of borderline personality disorder. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 42, 525-548.

Herman, J. L. (1997). Terror. In *Trauma and recovery* (pp. 33-50). New York: Basic Books.

Knapp, C. (1997). Prologue, Love, and Double Life I. In *Drinking: A love story* (pp. xv-27). New York: Dell Publishing.

Lear, J. (1995, December 25). A counterblast in the war on Freud: The shrink is in. *New Republic*, pp. 18 – 25.

McFadden, R. (1996, May 26). Prisoner of rage: From a child of promise to the Unabom suspect. *New York Times*, pp. 1, 12-15.

Sheehan, S. (1995, February 20/27). The last days of Sylvia Frumkin. *The New Yorker*, pp. 200-211.

Soloman, A. (1998, January 12). Anatomy of melancholy. *The New Yorker*, pp. 46-61.

Other Course Materials

All of the documents that will be handed out this semester are also available in digital form on Blackboard (accessed through <http://blackboard.jcu.edu>). In addition, you will find a digital copy of the outline for the course notes should you care to print them out and bring them to class. Alternately, you may borrow and copy my outline of the course notes.

Blackboard Login Information for Students:

Student usernames will be the same as their email name (usually first initial, last name, and last two digits of graduation year). Initial Student passwords are the last six digits of their social security number. These can be changed once the user has successfully logged into the system. Students should call **216-397-3004** if they have questions.

DATE	TOPIC	READING				DUE
		<i>Textbook</i>	<i>Reader</i>	<i>Course-pack</i>	<i>DSM-IV-TR</i>	
Aug 29	Introduction					
Sept 5	Defining and Explaining Abnormality	Chapters 1, 2, 3	1, 2, 3, 4			
Sept 12	Classifying Psychopathology	Chapter 4		Jonathan Lear	p. 27-37	
Sept 19	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 5	5-10	Judith Herman	p. 429 - 484	Paper One
Sept 26	Mood Disorders	Chapter 6	17-22	Andrew Soloman	p. 345-428	Paper Two Topic
Oct 3	Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 7	13, 16		p. 519-533	Quiz One
Oct 10	Eating Disorders	Chapter 8	33, 35		p. 583-595	
Oct 17	Substance Use Disorders	Chapter 9	31, 32, 34	Caroline Knapp	p. 191-295	
Oct 24	Sexual Disorders	Chapter 10	27-30		p. 535-582	Quiz Two
Oct 31	Personality Disorders – Part One	Chapter 11	39, 40	Robert McFadden	p. 685-729	Paper Two Articles
Nov 7	Personality Disorders – Part Two		41, 42	Anath Golomb et al.		
Nov 14	Schizophrenia	Chapter 12	23-25	Susan Sheehan	p. 297-343	Quiz Three
Nov 28	Disorders of Childhood	Chapter 13, Part One	43-46		p. 39-134	Paper Two First Draft
Dec 5	Disorders of Old Age & Stress and Physical Disorders	Chapter 13, Part Two & Chapter 14	36, 38, 14, 15		p. 135-180 p. 485-511	Quiz Four

Dec 15						Paper Two Final Draft
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