

Psychology 310: Behavior Disorders #14897, Spring 2008

Class Location & Times: SH309, M & W 3:30 – 4:45 PM

- Instructor:** Nancy A. Blum, Ph.D.
Contact Info: nancy.blum@csun.edu, (818) 996-7579, www.csun.edu/~drnancyb
Office: Sierra Hall 396
Office hours: Monday 2:30-3:30 PM, ext. 2827 (ext. 7149 only during my office hours)
- Required Text:** Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V.M. (2005). *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach* (4th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning. The Study Guide is optional.
- Course Description:** This course presents a survey of the major psychological disorders contained in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM–IV). It utilizes an integrative and multidimensional perspective that addresses the biological, developmental, behavioral, cognitive, and social influences on psychopathology. Causal factors, clinical description, and treatment and outcomes are discussed for the major disorders. Legal and ethical issues are addressed as well.
- Use of this Course:** This course is an upper division undergraduate elective toward the BA that is required for majors in psychology, physical therapy, and a few other majors, and is recommended for majors in Deaf Studies and Child Development.
- Course Objectives:** The primary objective of this course is to increase understanding of the etiology, clinical description and course, and treatment and outcomes of the major psychological disorders contained in the DSM–IV. An ancillary objective is to increase understanding of the multidimensional integrative approach to psychological disorders.
- Course Requirements:** Students are expected to attend all classes, participate in class discussion, and complete all reading assignments prior to each meeting. No extra credit assignments will be accepted.
- Students are expected to check WebCT for test scores, their CSUN e–mail for announcements, and the course website (see above) regularly for communication from the instructor, e.g., study guides, handouts. Students are expected to download and print out handouts for the specified class meeting, and bring the handout to class.
- To create an atmosphere of mutual respect, please arrive at class early, remain seated for the entire class, and leave on time, as chronic tardiness, walking around, and leaving early are disruptive to classroom instruction. Please turn off all cell phones and pagers before entering the classroom. Avoid chatting, instant messaging, and text messaging. If you are unable to attend class due to illness or emergency, please consult with other students regarding the class materials missed. It is not necessary to contact me if you must miss a class. However, more than 2 unexcused absences will result in a lowered grade.
- Evaluation:** All exams will be entirely objective (all multiple choice). Mid–term exams will be 1–hour long. The final exam will be 100 minutes long and will cover new material as well as cumulative material covered on previous tests.

Evaluation method by percentage of the total grade:

Class attendance and knowledge, respectful in–class behavior, and participation in discussions	15%
Mid–term exam # 1	25%
Mid–term exam # 2	25%
Final exam	35%

Evaluation (continued):

Grades for each test will be assigned on a curve. Specifically, the student(s) with the fewest incorrect answers (e.g., 4 wrong answers) will receive a perfect score (e.g., 25 out of 25 points). Their number of mistakes becomes a bonus for the rest of the class. For example, if another student has 6 wrong answers, with the 4 bonus points, it counts as only 2 wrong answers (6 – 4 = 2) or 23 out of 25 points. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating or plagiarizing in any form, you will receive a failing grade for the course and be reported to the university for appropriate disciplinary action.

The instructor will be no more stringent than the following overall percentages in assigning final course grades:

93.0% to 100.0%	A	73.0% to 76.99%	C
90.0% to 92.99%	A-	70.0% to 72.99%	C-
87.0% to 89.99%	B+	67.0% to 69.99%	D+
83.0% to 86.99%	B	63.0% to 66.99%	D
80.0% to 82.99%	B-	60.0% to 62.99%	D-
77.0% to 79.99%	C+	<60.0%	F

Tentative Course Calendar

<i>Monday</i>		<i>Wednesday</i>	
Jan 21	<i>Martin Luther King Jr Day—No Class</i>	Jan 23	Ch 1 Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context
Jan 28	Ch 2 An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	Jan 30	Ch 3 Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, & Research Methods
Feb 4	Ch 4 Research Methods	Feb 6	Ch 5 Anxiety Disorders
Feb 11	Ch 5 (continued)	Feb 13	Ch 6 Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders
Feb 18	Ch 6 (continued)	Feb 20	Ch 7 Mood Disorders
Feb 25	Ch 7 (continued)	Feb 27	Exam #1 (Chapters 1 through 7)
Mar 3	Ch 8 Eating & Sleep Disorders	Mar 5	Ch 8 (continued) – JADE?
Mar 10	Ch 9 Physical Disorders & Health Psychology	Mar 12	Ch 9 (continued)
Mar 17	<i>Spring recess</i>	Mar 19	<i>Spring recess</i>
Mar 24	Ch 10 Sexual & Gender Identity Disorders	Mar 26	Ch 10 (continued)
Mar 31	<i>Cesar Chavez Day – No Class</i>	Apr 2	Ch 11 Substance-Related Disorders
Apr 7	Exam #2 (Chapters 8 through 11)	Apr 9	Ch 12 Personality Disorders
Apr 14	Ch 12 (continued)	Apr 16	Ch 13 Schizophrenia & other Psychotic Disorders
Apr 21	Ch 13 (continued)	Apr 23	Ch 14 Developmental Disorders
Apr 28	Ch 14 (continued)	Apr 30	Ch 15 Cognitive Disorders
May 5	Ch 16 Mental Health Services: Legal & Ethical Issues	May 7	Instruction & Review
May 12	<i>Good luck studying for the final!</i>	May 14	3:00 PM to 5:00 PM Final Exam

Additional Course Policies

- Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities must register with the Center on Disabilities and complete a services agreement each semester. Staff within the Center will verify the existence of a disability based on the documentation provided and approve accommodations. Students who are approved for testing taking accommodations must provide the instructor with a proctor form signed by a counselor in the Center on Disabilities prior to making testing arrangements. The Center on Disabilities is located in Bayramian Hall, room 110. Staff can be reached at (818) 677-2684.
- Make-up Exams:** Make-up exams are discouraged! They will be given only when a student is ill or is facing some serious emergency. Written verification is required. In those instances when a make-up exam is necessary, it is the student's responsibility to 1) contact the instructor immediately (call 818-996-7579) to request the make-up exam; and 2) schedule a make-up exam as soon as the problem has passed. Make-up exams are administered by the Psychology Department only during one two-hour period each week. Students are expected to alter their class or work schedule to take the make-up exam. The final exam must be taken with the class at the scheduled time during finals week (see the Policy on Incompletes).
- Policy on Incompletes:** Permission to take an "incomplete" must be received by the instructor before semester grades are due. A special form is required; and it is the student's responsibility to obtain one (available in the Administration Building), fill it out, and turn it in to the instructor. An "incomplete" should be requested only for serious or emergency reasons such as illness on the day of the final exam. A missing final exam is expected to be made up in a short period of time — within a few weeks of the beginning of the next semester — unless extremely unusual circumstances prevail. Please note: If an exam is missing, and an authorized incomplete has not been requested, the instructor will assign a grade of "U" (unauthorized incomplete). The grade eventually and automatically reverts to an "F."