



**Psychology 310 – Behavior Disorders**  
**Spring Semester 2009**  
**Lecture: SH309 MWF**  
**1100am – 1150am OR 100pm – 150pm**  
**California State University – Northridge**

**Instructor:** Dr. Gary S. Katz (*rhymes with “Gates”*)  
Assistant Professor  
**Office:** 326 Sierra Tower  
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**Office Hours:**

Office hours are not for the lost and wayward! I look forward to meeting and talking with you about abnormal psychology, treatment, research, and careers in clinical psychology this semester. Please make it a point to drop by some time during the semester to help me better match names and faces.

Monday 12noon – 12:50pm  
Friday 12noon – 12:50pm

***Additional hours are available by appointment. Please call or EMAIL!***

**Grades:**

Your lecture grade will be based upon your performance on 14 homework assignments assigned in lecture, two preliminary examinations, and one final examination. The homework assignments will be based on the readings assigned in class and are designed to give you an opportunity to go beyond simple regurgitation of facts, strengthening your conceptual knowledge of behavior disorders. Of the 14 homework assignments, 2 will be dropped or counted as extra credit. The preliminary examinations will involve concepts raised in the text and lecture as well as application of concepts and theories in behavior disorders. The weighting of these is as follows:

Homework Assignments	10%
Prelim #1	30%
Prelim #2	30%
Final Exam	30%

The goal of this class is to provide you with an overview of the concepts, theory, and research in the field of behavior disorders and abnormal psychology. You will become familiar with diagnostic nomenclature and criteria for major psychological disorders and gain insight as to how psychologists assess and treat people with these difficulties.

In my lectures, I make every effort to teach every student in a manner in which they can best grasp the material. If you do not understand a particular concept as it is presented in lecture or in lab, please ask questions! It is *your responsibility* to let me know if you do not understand a particular concept. As such, I *do not* grade students based upon the performance of *other* students in the class. I do not “curve” tests or final grades. I do not **give** grades. Students **earn** them. Grades are assigned as follows:

A	94 to 100%	C	73 to 76%
A-	90 to 93%	C-	70 to 72%
B+	87 to 89%	D+	67 to 69%
B	83 to 86%	D	61 to 66%
B-	80 to 82%	D-	55 to 60%
C+	77 to 79%	F	below 55%

These grades are general guidelines and can be used to chart your progress throughout the semester. I reserve the right to change grades at the end of the term. Be advised that I will **not** lower a grade that you have rightfully earned. Rather, I will consider your class participation and performance over the course of the term in adjusting grades upward.

### **Exams:**

Preliminary examinations are scheduled for **Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**. Each preliminary examination will be given during regular class time and will consist of approximately 50 multiple-choice questions. Content for each preliminary examination will be drawn from both the assigned readings and the lecture material. Please remember to bring a Scantron form and #2 pencil to class on these days!

The final exam is scheduled for **Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:15am until 12:15pm (11am class) or from 12:45pm to 2:45pm (1pm class)**. The final will be approximately 100 multiple-choice questions and will include material from the previous three examinations. Successful mastery of material on the preliminary examinations will help you earn a better score on the final exam. Again, don't forget your Scantron form and #2 pencil!

If any of these dates present a particular problem for you, please see me as soon as possible. Due to the rapid pace of the course and the large number of students enrolled, make-up exams are extremely difficult to arrange unless they are scheduled in advance. If you miss an exam without prior notice, please ensure that you have appropriate documentation to support your absence. I will deal with these situations on a case-by-case basis.

**Absences:**

The pace at which we will be covering the complex field of behavioral disorders will appear both rapid and comprehensive. As such, missing even one class will put you at a disadvantage in mastering the material. I plan on making each lecture as interesting, challenging, and as interactive as possible. Your absence impedes my ability to meet these goals.

If you miss a class, I will encourage you to obtain missing notes from one of your classmates. You should also arrange to have someone turn in your homework assignment and update you as to the due date of the next assignment, if necessary.

**Text:**

Halgin, R.P. & Whitbourne, S.K. (2007). Abnormal Psychology: clinical perspectives on psychological disorders. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

**Academic Accommodations for 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 test-taking accommodations must provide an Alternative Testing Form to their faculty member 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.

I endeavor to make my class lectures and ancillary materials accessible to all of my students in a manner consistent with each student's strengths. If you feel that I am not meeting this goal, feel free to drop me an EMAIL or stop by my office and I will do my best to rectify the concern.

**Important Note About Course Content:**

Given the nature of the material we will be reviewing this semester, there are two issues I feel are very important to discuss in the syllabus. First off, some of your peers may struggle with some of the conditions we cover in this class. As such, respect and empathy for those with these concerns is expected at all times. Secondly, in reviewing the various symptom patterns and syndromes, some of you may find yourself believing that you may have one or more of these disorders. This is very common among students studying all forms of pathology and even has a name: Medical School Student Syndrome. As we cover the various disorders over the course of the semester, if you feel that you may be experiencing some of these disorders, feel free to contact me via office hours, phone, or EMAIL. If necessary, I can facilitate an appropriate confidential referral for you to further investigate these concerns with University Counseling Services, our on-campus psychological clinic that is free to enrolled students.

### Schedule

Date		Lecture Topic	Reading Assignment	Lecture Homework
M	1/19	<i>No Class!</i> <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>		
W	1/21	Course overview and review of syllabus		
F	1/23	Understanding Abnormality	Chapter 1	Download HW1
M	1/26			HW1 Due
W	1/28	Classification and Treatment Plans	Chapter 2	Download HW2
F	1/30			
M	2/2			HW2 Due
W	2/4	Assessment	Chapter 3	Download HW3
F	2/6			
M	2/9			HW3 Due
W	2/11	Theoretical Perspectives	Chapter 4	Download HW4
F	2/13			HW4 Due
M	2/16	<i>No Class!</i>		
W	2/18	<b>Review for prelim #1</b>		
F	2/20	<b>PRELIM #1</b>		
M	2/23	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 5	Download HW5
W	2/25			
F	2/27			HW5 Due
M	3/2	Somatoform Disorders, Psychological Factors and Medical Conditions, Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 6	Download HW6
W	3/4			
F	3/6			HW6 Due
M	3/9	Sexual Disorders	Chapter 7	Download HW7
W	3/11			
F	3/13			HW7 Due
M	3/16	Mood Disorders	Chapter 8	Download HW8
W	3/18			
F	3/20			
M	3/23			HW8 Due
W	3/25	<b>Review for Prelim #2</b>		
F	3/27	<b>PRELIM #2</b>		
M	3/30	Schizophrenia & Related Disorders	Chapter 9	Download HW9
W	4/1			
F	4/3			HW9 Due

<b>M</b>	<b>4/6</b>	<i>Spring Break. Be Safe. Be Relaxed.</i>		
<b>W</b>	<b>4/8</b>			
<b>F</b>	<b>4/10</b>			
<b>M</b>	<b>4/13</b>	Personality Disorders	Chapter 10	Download HW10
<b>W</b>	<b>4/15</b>			HW10 Due
<b>F</b>	<b>4/17</b>	Development-Related Disorders	Chapter 11	Download HW11
<b>M</b>	<b>4/20</b>			HW11 Due
<b>W</b>	<b>4/22</b>	Aging-Related & Cognitive Disorders	Chapter 12	Download HW12
<b>F</b>	<b>4/24</b>	<i>No Class WPA Conference</i>		
<b>M</b>	<b>4/27</b>	Substance-Related Disorders	Chapter 13	HW12 Due
<b>W</b>	<b>4/29</b>			Download HW13
<b>F</b>	<b>5/1</b>	Eating Disorders / Impulse Control Disorders	Chapter 14	HW13 Due
<b>M</b>	<b>5/4</b>			Download HW14
<b>W</b>	<b>5/6</b>	Ethical & Legal Issues	Chapter 15	HW14 Due
<b>F</b>	<b>5/8</b>	Review Session for FINAL EXAMINATION		

<b>M</b>	<b>5/11</b>	<b>FINAL EXAMINATION</b> <b>10:15am – 12:15pm (11am class)</b> <b>12:45pm – 2:45pm (1pm class)</b>
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