

**Psychology 257: Psychopathology
Tuesday & Thursday 2:30-3:50pm
Fall 2010**

Instructor:

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Instructor Office Hours:
Thursdays 12:30:-1:30pm or by
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appointment

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or by appointment

Colleen Merrifield
Office: PAS 3204
E-Mail: clmerrif@uwaterloo.ca
Office Hours: Wednesday 10:30-11:30am,
or by appointment

Important Note About E-mailing the TAs:

Please do not e-mail TAs directly unless your question is private or personal in nature.

There is a **“Discussion Forum”** on the course website in UW-ACE where your TAs will respond publicly to all course-related questions that are posted.

It is your responsibility to check the "Announcements" page and previous posts in the discussion forum before posting a question, as your question may have already been addressed in the forum.

Course Time & Location:

Tuesday & Thursday 2:30 – 3:50 pm
Davis Centre (DC), Room 1350

Required Text:

Barlow, D.H., Durand, M.V., & Stewart, S.H. *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach, Second Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Nelson Publishing.

This required textbook is available for purchase at the campus bookstore. Study guides – published by Nelson and corresponding with the textbook may also be available. ***Please note that the study guide is optional and is not a required course text.***

Course Content:

This course offers an introduction to understanding, defining, assessing, and treating mental illness from a psychological perspective. Course material will focus primarily on adult disorders. We will examine various categories of abnormal behaviour (e.g., anxiety, mood, and eating disorders) as well as clinical methods including assessment, diagnosis, and intervention. In the tradition of the scientist-practitioner model, *empirically-supported* models of psychopathology and treatment will be emphasized, as will the interplay between clinical research and practice.

Learning Objectives:

1. To develop an informed, critical understanding of abnormal behaviour in the context of current (and historical) conceptualizations of psychological disorders and therapeutic techniques;
2. To gain exposure to current, empirically-supported methods of clinical assessment, diagnosis, and treatment;
3. To gain insight into the experience and phenomenology of human psychological dysfunction.

Course Format and Structure:

Course material will be delivered via lecture and supplemented by clinical case material and film clips. In addition, it is expected that you will routinely visit, monitor, and participate in the online course “Discussion Forum” on UW-ACE. While some portion of the lecture material will be drawn from the textbook, each lecture will also include a range of material that is not in your textbook – material which you will be responsible to know and upon which you will be evaluated. ***Class participation and discussion are strongly encouraged.***

Learning Contract:

1. Everyone has the *right to learn* and the *responsibility* not to deprive others of their right to learn
2. Every student is accountable for his or her own actions
3. In order for you to get the most out of this class, please consider the following:
 - Attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time
 - Late arrivals and early departures are very disruptive
 - Please let the instructor know immediately if you have a problem that is preventing you from performing satisfactorily in this class.

Evaluation:

Your grade for the course will be based on the following:

1. **Two Midterm Tests** - both non-cumulative and entirely multiple choice – will be administered during class time. Each midterm is worth 30% of your final grade.

Test 1	-	Tuesday, October 12, 2010 (30%)
Test 2	-	Tuesday, November 9, 2010 (30%)

2. **Final Exam** – Date/time and location to be announced (administered during the university’s final exam period). The final exam, worth 40% of your final grade, will consist of 100 multiple choice questions, 75 of which will be based on the readings and lectures from Nov. 11 to Nov. 30. The other 25 questions will be based on the remainder of the course materials - i.e., all the readings and lectures from Sept. 14 to Nov 4.

Final Exam	-	Date/Time/Location TBA (40%)
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Important - please note the following student responsibilities:

1. If you cannot write one of the midterm tests because of compelling medical, religious, or compassionate reasons, and you require a makeup test date, you must contact the instructor directly prior to the date of the test.
2. Students who are requesting accommodation for course requirements (midterm tests, final exams, etc.) due to illness should do the following:
 - Seek medical treatment as soon as possible and obtain a completed UW Verification of Illness Form: http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html
 - Submit that form to the instructor within 48 hours.
 - Preferably inform the instructor by the due date for the course requirement that you will be unable to meet the deadline and that documentation will be forthcoming.

In the case of a missed final exam, the instructor and student will negotiate an extension for the final exam which will typically be written as soon as possible, but no later than the next offering of the course. In the case of a missed midterm test, the instructor will either a) waive the course component and re-weight remaining term work as he/she deems fit according to circumstances and the goals of the course, or b) provide an extension. In the case of bereavement, the instructor will provide similar accommodations to those for illness. Appropriate documentation to support the request will be required.

3. Make-up tests will not be considered in the absence of a documented medical, religious or compassionate (i.e. family emergency) reason, submitted within one week following the due date, with no exceptions. The instructor maintains full discretion in assessing whether reasons qualify as compassionate or not. Please note that make-up tests may be in essay format rather than multiple choice format.
4. It is the student's responsibility to check the UW-ACE website and email regularly for important or time-sensitive messages. Students should use their UW accounts for all email correspondence to UW personnel for reasons such as identification, reliability and security. If an alternate account is used, change your email address on QUEST to the one that you want posted on the University Directory, or activate your UW account and forward your email from your UW account to your alternate email address.
5. In the event that minor revisions are made to the Course Outline after hard copies have been printed but prior to the first class, the official Course Outline will be the one posted on UW-ACE. If any revisions are made, an announcement will be posted on UW-ACE to this effect.

Students who are experiencing extenuating circumstances should also inform their academic advisors regarding their personal difficulties.

Cross-listed courses

Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Concerns About the Course or Instructor (Informal Stage)

We in the Psychology Department take great pride in the high quality of our program and our instructors. Though infrequent, we know that students occasionally find themselves in situations of conflict with their instructors over course policies or grade assessments. If such a conflict arises, the Associate Chair for Undergraduate Affairs (Dr.

Colin Ellard) is available for consultation and to mediate a resolution between the student and instructor. Dr. Ellard's contact information is as follows:

Email: cellard@uwaterloo.ca

Ph 519-888- 4567 ext 36852

A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. See Policy 70 and 71 below for further details.

Academic Integrity, Academic Offenses, Grievance, and Appeals

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/> for more informaton.]

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity [check <http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>], to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about 'rules' for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 - Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm) - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm) - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read [Policy 72](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm) - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

Document Storage: Graded final examination papers as well as unclaimed graded midterms/tests for this course will be kept in storage in the Psychology Department for a maximum of 16 months after the final grades have been submitted to the Registrar's Office. After that time, these documents will be destroyed in compliance with UW's confidential shredding procedures.

Note for students with disabilities:

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Outline of Dates and Topics:

Date	Topic	Chapter in Text
Sept 14	Welcome! An Introduction to the Course and Review of the Class Syllabus	
Sept 16	Abnormal Behaviour in Historical Context	1
Sept 21 & 23	An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	2
Sept 28	Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Classification	3
Sept 30	Research Methods	4
Oct 5 & 7	Anxiety Disorders	5
Oct 12	Test #1 (30%) – 75 multiple choice (covers all material from Sept. 14 - Oct. 7).	
Oct 14 & 19	Mood Disorders	7
Oct 21	Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders	6
Oct 26	Eating and Sleeping Disorders	8
Oct 28	Sexual Disorders and Gender Identity Disorders	10
Nov 2 & 4	Substance-related Disorders	11
Nov 9	Test #2 (30%) – 75 multiple choice (covers all material from Oct. 14 to Nov. 4).	
Nov 11 & 16	Personality Disorders	12
Nov 18 & 23	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders	13
Nov 25	Developmental Disorders	14
Nov 30	Cognitive Disorders	15
Dec 2	Exam Review	
TBA	Final Exam (40%) – 100 multiple choice questions (75 questions will cover all material from Nov. 11-30, whereas 25 questions will cover all other course material).	

Research Experience Guidelines for Psychology 257

Experiential learning is considered an integral part of the undergraduate program in Psychology. Research participation is one example of this, article review is another. A number of undergraduate courses have been expanded to include opportunities for Psychology students to earn grades while gaining research experience.

Since experiential learning is highly valued in the Department of Psychology, students may earn a "bonus" of up to 4% in this course through research experience. Course work will make up 100% of the final mark and a "bonus" of up to 4% may be earned and will be added to the final grade if/as needed to bring your final grade up to 100%.

The two options for earning research experience grades (participation in research and article review) are described below. Students may complete any combination of these options to earn research experience grades.

Option 1: Participation in Psychology Research

Research participation is coordinated by the Research Experiences Group (REG). Psychology students may volunteer as research participants in lab and/or online (web-based) studies conducted by students and faculty in the Department of Psychology. Participation enables students to learn first-hand about psychology research and related concepts. Many students report that participation in research is both an educational and interesting experience. Please be assured that all Psychology studies have undergone prior ethics review and clearance through the Office of Research Ethics.

Educational focus of participation in research

To maximize the educational benefits of participating in research, students will receive feedback information following their participation in each study detailing the following elements:

- Purpose or objectives of the study
- Dependent and independent variables
- Expected results
- References for at least two related research articles
- Provisions to ensure confidentiality of data
- Contact information of the researcher should the student have further questions about the study
- Contact information for the Director of the Office of Research Ethics should the student wish to learn more about the general ethical issues surrounding research with human participants, or specific questions or concerns about the study in which s/he participated.

Participation is worth 0.5 participation credits (grade percentage points) for each half-hour of participation. Researchers will record student's participation and will advise the course instructor of the total credits earned by each student at the end of the term. Study scheduling, participation and grade assignment is managed online on the SONA website.

Detailed instructions on how to use SONA to participate in studies can be found at <http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~regadmin/regparticipant/sonainfo/#SonaSignUp>

More information about the REG program is available at:
<http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~regadmin/regparticipant/>

Option 2: Article Review as an alternative to participation in research

Students are not required to participate in research, and not all students wish to do so. As an alternative, students may opt to gain research experience by writing short reviews (1½ to 2 pages) of research articles relevant to the course. The course instructor will specify a suitable source of articles for this course (i.e., scientific journals, newspapers, magazines, other printed media). *You must contact your TA to get approval for the article you have chosen before writing the review.* Each review article counts as one percentage point. To receive credit, you must follow specific guidelines. The article review must:

- **Be submitted before the last lecture. Late submissions will NOT be accepted under ANY circumstances.**
- Be typed
- Fully identify the title, author(s), source and date of the article. A copy of the article must be attached.
- Identify the psychological concepts in the article and indicate the pages in the textbook that are applicable. Critically evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article. If inappropriate or incorrect, identify the error and its implications for the validity of the article. You may find, for example, misleading headings, faulty research procedures, alternative explanations that are ignored, failures to distinguish factual findings from opinions, faulty statements of cause-effect relations, errors in reasoning, etc. Provide examples whenever possible.
- Clearly evaluate the application or treatment of those concepts in the article.
- Keep a copy of your review in the unlikely event we misplace the original.

Summary of Bonus Credits in Psych 257, Fall 2010

In sum, students may complete any combination of a) participation in research or b) article review up to a total of 4% points. Bonus points accumulated may be applied to students' final grades, for a total maximum grade of 100%