

Psychology 257
Abnormal Psychology
Syllabus

- Course Instructor:** Dr. Purdon , PAS 3038, clpurdon@watarts.uwaterloo.ca
Office Hour: Tuesdays 9:00-10:00
Lectures: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30-3:50pm, AL 116
- Text:** Davison, G. C., Neale, J. M., Blankstein, K. R., & Flett, G. L. *Abnormal Psychology, 2nd Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Prentice Hall.
- Course Website:** www.psychology.uwaterloo.ca/courses
Note: lecture notes and slides are NOT available on the website
- TAs:**
- Jenn Davidson-Harden, PAS 3206
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10-11:00am, Fridays 1-2:00pm
jmedavid@watarts.uwaterloo.ca
- Simon Chung, PAS 3006
Office Hours: Mondays and Tuesdays 1-2:00pm
s6chung@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca
- Kathy Smolewska, PAS 3204
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 12-1:00pm
ksmolews@watarts.uwaterloo.ca
- Purpose:** This course offers an introduction to psychological approaches to understanding, defining and treating mental illness. The course focuses mainly on adult disorders, although there is some discussion of disorders of childhood. Students will be expected to learn the strengths and weaknesses of diagnostic systems, understand psychological research methods and learn psychological theories of understanding the development, persistence and treatment of various psychological disorders.

Course Outline

Week	Topic	Chapters
January 4	Introduction to Abnormal Behaviour	Ch. 1
January 6	Being a Psychologist in Ontario; Canada's Mental Health System	Ch. 2
January 11	Classification and Diagnosis	Ch. 3
<i>January 13</i>	<i>Class Cancelled</i>	
January 18	Classification and Diagnosis cont'd	
January 20, 25	Research Methods	Ch. 5
January 27	Exam 1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 5 & Lectures)** (worth 30% of final grade)	
Feb. 1, 3	Mood Disorders & Suicide	Ch. 10
Feb. 8, 10, 15	Anxiety Disorders	Ch. 6
February 17	Personality Disorders	Ch. 13
<i>February 22, 24</i>	<i>Reading week; no classes</i>	
March 1	Personality disorders cont'd	
March 3, 8	Schizophrenic Disorders	Ch. 11
March 10	Exam 2 (Chapters 10, 6, 13, 11 & Lectures)** (worth 45% of final grade)	
March 15, 17	Disorders of Childhood	Ch. 15
March 22, 24	Sexual & Gender Identity Disorders	Ch. 14
March 29, 31	Substance-related Disorders	Ch. 12
April 5	Exam 3 (Chapters 15, 12, 15 & Lectures)** (worth 25% of final grade)	

Grading:

There will be **three non-cumulative exams**. The first exam will be worth 30% of your final grade, the second worth 45% of your final grade and the last worth 25% of your final grade.

All three exams will be written in AL 116 (same place as the lectures). All three exams will be entirely multiple choice.

Please Attend Carefully to the Following:

- The exam dates are **firm** and students are expected to write the exams **WHEN THEY ARE SCHEDULED**
- If you cannot write the exam due to compelling health or domestic reasons, you need to contact me in person or by phone **PRIOR** to the exam (PAS 3038, 888-4567, ext. 3912).
 - If you are calling before or after regular hours, **leave a voice mail message; I have 24 hour confidential voicemail.**

- Please do NOT come to me after the exam to tell me you did not write it; contact me by phone or in person **BEFORE** you miss it
 - Please plan to provide documentation of your reason for not writing
 - The TAs do not have the authority to grant permission for a makeup exam and should not be contacted for this purpose
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- Standard university policy will be followed in the event that a student has to miss an exam due to illness or domestic reasons. These regulations can be found in the UW Undergraduate Calendar. Typically, reasonable requests are granted on the basis of *validated* medical or domestic grounds and a makeup exam will be arranged.
 - Please note that the make-up exam may be in essay format rather than multiple-choice format.

Class Attendance:

Class attendance is strongly encouraged. Material not covered in the text will be given in lectures, and you will be tested on the lecture material in all exams. Lecture notes and slides will not be available from the web, from the TAs or from Dr. Purdon.

My availability:

I will be available for assistance on Tuesdays, 9:00-10:00 PAS 3038. If my office hour conflicts with your schedule or you need to see me urgently please schedule a meeting with me either right after class, by phone (ext. 3912) or through e-mail: clpurdon@watarts.uwaterloo.ca. Please contact me in advance of dropping by so your valuable time is not wasted – I am often in meetings and cannot meet “on the fly”, but can certainly schedule a meeting if you contact me in advance.

Grievances:

The UW Senate recommends that all students be apprised of the following information:

“Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.html>.”