

Rutgers University
Graduate Abnormal Psychology 56:830:640
Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Courtenay Cavanaugh
Class Time: Wednesdays 6:00-8:40 PM
Phone: 856-225-6120

Email: cocavana@camden.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: By appointment
Class Location: ATG 109

Course Description: This course will provide students with an overview of psychological disorders, as defined by the primary diagnostic system used by clinicians and researchers--the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). Students will learn about the following: 1) the symptoms, causes, theories, and treatments for the different psychological disorders, as well as research methods used to study them, 2) the controversies surrounding the DSM, 3) the generalizability of mental disorders research, and 4) gaps between the science and treatment of mental disorders.

Learning Objectives: Students who successfully complete this course should be able to do the following

- Identify the symptoms, bio-psycho-social causes, theories and treatments for the mental disorders classified in the DSM-5.
- Explain controversies associated with the DSM
- Examine the generalizability of mental disorders research
- Describe gaps between the research and treatment for mental disorders
- Describe research methods for understanding mental disorders

Required Reading: Assigned readings will be posted each week on Sakai.

Course Activities:

- 1) Class Participation (25% of total grade):** You will be expected to come to class prepared and contribute to class discussions. Before 9 a.m. on the morning of each class, you will need to email me with one discussion question for that evening's class meeting. Your question should show that you have thought about the assigned reading. You will also be expected to contribute to class discussions.
- 2) Class Presentation (25% of total grade):** Each of you will be assigned to give a 15 minute presentation for the class about one of the mental disorders listed in the DSM. Your presentation should include the following: 1) DSM-V criteria for that mental disorder, 2) the biological, psychological, and social causes of the disorder, 3) main theories and treatments for the disorder. Please prepare your presentation in PowerPoint and send the course instructor the presentation by 9 a.m. on the day you are assigned to present. All student PowerPoints will be provided to students enrolled in the course and serve as a summary of that disorder for students. No more than 15 minutes will be given to each presentation.
- 3) DSM Controversy Paper and Brief Presentation (20% of total grade):** Each of you will need to write a 5-7 page paper that describes a controversy regarding

the DSM. For example, you may focus on concerns about the pharmaceutical industry's influence on the DSM or 2) focus on the controversy surrounding a specific DSM diagnoses (e.g., premenstrual dysphoric disorder). Your paper should include a minimum of 5 references, 3 of which need to be peer-reviewed journal articles. Other references (e.g., New York Times articles) may also be included. Your paper should include multiple perspectives on this controversy and discuss the impact this controversy has on individuals including their access to treatment. You will be assigned a date to give a 5 minute presentation about the DSM controversy you examine and your paper is due on that day.

- 4) Final Paper (30% of total grade):** You will need to write a paper that evaluates the generalizability of quantitative research studies about a specific mental disorder. You will need to choose one mental disorder to focus on for this paper. It may be the same disorder you chose for your presentation and or controversy. Find five peer-reviewed, empirical journal articles and evaluate those articles in terms of their generalizability. For example, did the articles focus on both men and women? Was data reported for both sexes separately or together? What was the racial/ethnic composition of study participants? What generalizations can we make about those research findings? Please include some recommendations for improving the knowledge base about mental disorders based upon your review. You will need to submit the articles you review with your paper.

Grading: Your grade will be computed as follows:

Activity	Percent Total Grade
Class participation	25
Class presentation	25
DSM controversy paper & brief presentation	20
Final paper	30

Grading Scale: Final grades will be based upon a grading system not more stringent than the one below.

A	90-100%
B+	86%-89%
B	80%-85%
C+	76%-79%
C	70%-75%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Academic Integrity: Students must uphold the highest standards of academic integrity, which are outlined here: https://slwordpress.rutgers.edu/academicintegrity/wp-content/uploads/sites/41/2014/11/AI_Policy_2013.pdf

Disability: Students seeking classroom accommodations due to a disability should contact disabilities services: <http://learn.camden.rutgers.edu/disability/disabilities.html>

Classroom Conduct: In order to promote a positive environment for learning, students must conduct themselves in a professional manner. Also, no electronic devices (cell phones, computers, etc.) will be allowed in this class. Students with a disability requiring the use of technology will be permitted to use it as long as they provide me with a note from the disability coordinator. I reserve the right to lower your grade for poor classroom conduct.

Other course information: I will use Sakai to communicate with you about this class and may contact you through your email addresses listed in Sakai. So check that email account and use Sakai in order to stay informed.

This syllabus is a working document and may be revised throughout the course.

Date	TOPIC	Mental Disorder Presentations (15 minute each)	DSM Controversy Presentation (5 minutes each)
1/17	Introduction & Course Overview		
1/24	Understanding Abnormal Behavior & Assessment		
1/31	Theoretical orientations & Research methods		
2/7	Neurodevelopmental disorders	1. _____ (Autism Spectrum Disorder) 2. _____ ADHD 3. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
2/14	Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders	1. _____ Schizophrenia 2. _____ 3. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
2/21	Mood Disorders/ Paper topics due	1. _____ Major Depressive Disorder 2. _____ Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder 3. _____ Bipolar Disorder	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
2/28	Anxiety and Trauma Disorders	1. _____ Social Anxiety Disorder 2. _____ Generalized Anxiety Disorder 3. _____ Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
3/7	Anxiety and Trauma Disorders continued	1. _____ Posttraumatic stress disorder 2. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

		3. _____	
3/14	Spring Break		
3/21	Dissociative & Somatic Symptom disorders	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
3/28	Feeding, Eating, and Sleeping disorders	1. _____ Anorexia 2. _____ Enuresis/Encopresis 3. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4/4	Physical disorders and Health Psychology/ Papers due		
4/11	Paraphilic/Sexual Disorders/ Gender dysphoria/	1. _____ Pedophilic Disorder 2. _____ Sexual dysfunction Disorder 3. _____ Gender Dysphoria	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4/18	Substance related and Addictive Disorders	1. _____ Alcohol use disorder 2. _____ Opioid use disorder 3. _____ Gambling Disorder	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4/25	Neurocognitive disorders/ Last Class	1. _____ Alzheimer's Disorder 2. _____ 3. _____	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____