SYLLABUS
Psychology 168, Section 3: Abnormal Psychology
California State University, Sacramento
Department of Psychology
Spring 2007

Instructor: Rebecca Cameron, Ph.D.  Office Hours: Mondays 7:00-8:00 PM
Office: Amador 353C  Thursdays 9:00-11:00 AM
Email: Cameron@csus.edu  Also by appointment
Phone: 916-278-6892

Course meeting time: TuTh 1:30 - 2:45 PM
Course location: AMD 150

Teaching Assistants (T.A. office hours TBA, will be held in Amador 307):
Mirjana Cvjetkovic  Jeanette To
You may email the TAs through WebCT.

Description of the course: Detailed consideration of behavior disorders and maladaptive behavior: theories of causation, descriptions of the disorders, and strategies of various therapies.

Prerequisites: Students must have successfully completed Psychology 5; Psychology 1 is recommended.

Required course text:

- The text is available in an electronic version from the publisher at www.mhhe.com
- The text will be placed on reserve at the library as soon as possible to facilitate studying while you are on campus.
- At times, short readings may be distributed in class. These will be considered required reading for the exams unless specifically designated as optional.
- It is highly recommended that you read the assigned material before attending lectures on a particular topic. This will enable you to learn the material more efficiently.

Classmate’s name, number, and email to contact for missed notes/study groups/etc.

Need for Accommodation: If you have a disability and require accommodations, you need to provide disability documentation to SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. In addition, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Classroom environment: Pagers and cell phones can be highly disruptive to the classroom. Please switch these devices to “vibrate only” or off. Frequent interruptions of this kind will be addressed by the instructor. With regard to personal laptops, cell phones, and other electronic devices, please refrain from accessing content that presents a visual or auditory distraction to the class. No photographing, recording, or text messaging is allowed without permission of the instructor.

Class participation: Your contributions to class discussions and activities are highly valued by this instructor. In addition, participation in class will help you learn the material more thoroughly and easily.
You may be asked to participate in class activities designed to encourage open conversations about course material.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**Attendance and promptness:** Roll will be taken using a sign-in sheet daily. You are expected to be present and on time for all class meetings. The required course readings will provide information on a range of topics, whereas the lectures and class discussions will focus on selected topics in more depth. **As an incentive for regular attendance, students who miss 3 or fewer classes (and who do not have a pattern of late arrival/early departure) will be eligible for 5 bonus points at the end of the semester. Failure to sign the roll sheet will be considered an absence; it is your responsibility to ensure that you sign in. Late arrival and/or early departure can result in being marked absent.** It is your responsibility to obtain information about any announcements, class notes, and handouts from other classmates in the event of an absence. It is academic fraud (cheating) to sign in for another student.

**Exams:**

- **Number:** Five exams will be offered, including four non-cumulative exams and one (optional) cumulative exam (students wishing to take the cumulative exam will be required to sign up for it during the last week of classes in order to avoid wasteful copying).
- **Scheduling:** The fourth non-cumulative exam and the cumulative final will be given back-to-back on the day that is scheduled for the “final exam” (and ONLY then). **Do not** schedule travel plans or other obligations to conflict with the exam schedule. **Please do not request exceptions.**
- **Coverage:** The four non-cumulative exams will integrate concepts from prior exams, such as diagnostic issues or theory, whereas the cumulative exam will cover material from the entire semester. Each exam will cover material primarily from the assigned readings, but also additional material presented in course lectures (including videotapes) and class discussions.
- **Format:** Each exam will consist of multiple-choice questions (at the instructor’s discretion, other objective formats may be utilized such as matching and/or true/false). You will be informed of the format of exams prior to the day they are given.
- **Lateness policy:** Students who are LATE to exams will NOT be admitted if they arrive after another student has completed the exam and left the room.
- **Makeup policy:** Makeup exams will NOT be offered. If you miss an exam FOR ANY REASON, you will receive a score of zero.
- **Policy on lowest exam grade:** Your lowest exam score will be dropped. Thus, if you have missed an exam for any reason, you will need to take the cumulative exam. If you have taken each of the non-cumulative exams, you may elect to skip the cumulative exam.
- **Materials needed for exams:** You will need to bring a Scantron form (#4521) and an adequate supply of sharpened #2 pencils with you to each exam.

**Quizzes:** Seven open-book quizzes will be offered (approximately 2 per section of the course after the first section), of which each student’s top six will be used in calculating final grades. These will be offered through WebCT, and will be available on pre-specified days at or toward the beginning of a new topic. The purpose of the quizzes will be to encourage timely reading of the material and therefore, facilitate enhanced performance on the exams. Each quiz will consist of 4 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each (8 points total).

**Written assignments:** During the semester you will receive four brief assignments. These will be accessible using WebCT; the instructor will announce when they are posted. They will need to be submitted through WebCT as well. Please be mindful of the possibility of technical difficulties and routine
maintenance on WebCT; it is inadvisable to wait until the last minute to turn in an assignment. If there is a system failure affecting large numbers of people, the instructor will make some accommodation (e.g., accept hard copies of assignments or change the due date...announcements concerning any changes will be posted to WebCT and/or announced in class). Due dates are included in the schedule below. These dates are inflexible, and late assignments will not be graded under any circumstances.

**Case Worksheets:** Assignments 1 and 3 (10 points each) will be brief case studies to read, followed by worksheets to complete (these will include the appropriate five-axis diagnosis for the cases presented). These may be done as in-class exercises or take-home assignments, at the instructor’s discretion and depending upon available time. One of these is required, the second is assigned for optional extra credit. Each axis will be worth 2 points (5 x 2 = 10 points).

**Response/Analysis Papers:** Assignments 2 and 4 (20 points each) will involve short “first person” accounts of mental illness. You will be asked to read these and prepare 2-page, typed responses (you may be asked to focus on symptoms, theories of etiology, treatments, or societal issues described in these accounts). Both of these assignments are required, and class will be excused on two days to allow you to work on them (see Schedule, below).

**Grading for Response/Analysis Papers:**
Written assignments will be graded on a 4-tier system
- Check plus = 100% of assigned points or A+
- Check = 85% of assigned points or B
- Check minus = 70% of assigned points or C-
- Not adequate = 0% of assigned points (re-write may be possible, please discuss with instructor)

**Evaluation:**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #3</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #4</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumulative exam</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Delete lowest exam score)</td>
<td>-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (Top 6 of 7 scores)</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Worksheet (1 required)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response/Analysis papers (2 required)</td>
<td>40</td>
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**Total available “regular” points** 498
**Optional 2nd Case Worksheet** 10
**Available attendance points** 5

**Total points available to be earned** 513
The grading scale is as follows, with required percentages based on the available “regular” points:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Minimum number of points needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>463.14</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>448.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>433.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>413.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>398.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>383.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>363.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>348.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>333.66</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>313.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>298.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt;60%</td>
<td>&lt;298.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note, the number of points you earn for the course will not be rounded (up or down), and you must earn at least the minimum required points for each grade above in order to earn it. That means you may want to “round up” the required points, above, when considering what is required for each grade. Letter grades are assigned for the final course grade only and are based on the total accumulated points. You can calculate an estimate of your grade by dividing points earned by points available to date at any time during the semester.

Academic honesty: You are expected to be honest in your academic work. You must not plagiarize, cheat, or collude in connection with exams or assignments and must acknowledge fully all sources and all assistance received in work submitted to a faculty member for evaluation. Please refer to university policy for additional information: [http://www.csus.edu/admbus/umanual/UMA00150.htm](http://www.csus.edu/admbus/umanual/UMA00150.htm). A tutorial on how not to plagiarize is available at [http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353](http://library.csus.edu/content2.asp?pageID=353).

In order to encourage academic honesty in this course, the instructor will implement certain strategies and policies surrounding examinations. Students who are honest should not be disturbed by these precautions and should know that every effort is being made to create an environment in which there exists fair and just evaluation.

Course calendar (dates and topics are subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/Dates</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 01: T/Th 01/30-02/01 | Introduction to the Course  
Looking at Abnormality | Chapter 1 |
| 02: T/Th 02/06-08 | Contemporary Theories of Abnormality | Chapter 2 |
| 03: T/Th 02/13-15 | M 8 AM – W 8 AM, QUIZ #1, Chapter 4  
Assessing and Diagnosing Abnormality  
Epidemiological Studies  
TH 02/15, Assignment 1 DUE | Chapter 4  
Ch. 3, pp. 81-82 |
04: T/Th 02/20-22  TU 02/20, EXAM 1
TH 8 AM – SA 8 AM, QUIZ #2, Chapter 5
Treatments for Abnormality

05: T/Th 02/27-03/01 Treatments (cont’d)
Therapy Outcome Studies

06: T/Th 03/06-08 M 8 AM – W 8 AM, QUIZ #3, Chapter 7
Anxiety Disorders

07: T/Th 03/13-15 TU 03/13, EXAM 2
Stress, Sleep, PTSD

08: T/Th 03/20-22 Stress, Sleep, PTSD
TH 03/22, No class, work on Assignment 2.
F 03/23, 3:00 PM, Assignment 2 DUE

SB: T/Th 03/27-29  SPRING BREAK

09: T/Th 04/03-05 M 8 AM – W 8 AM QUIZ #4, Chapter 9
Mood Disorders

10: T/Th 04/10-12 Suicide
TH 8 AM – SA 8 AM, QUIZ #5, Chapter 12
TH 04/12, Assignment 3 DUE
Personality Disorders

11: T/Th 04/17-19 Personality Disorders (cont’d)
TH 04/19, EXAM 3

12: T/Th 04/24-26 M 8 AM – W 8 AM, QUIZ #6, Chapter 11
Schizophrenia

13: T/Th 05/01-03 Schizophrenia (cont’d)
TH 05/03: No class, work on Assignment 4.
FR 05/04, Assignment 4 DUE

14: T/Th 05/08-10 Mental Health and the Law
TH 8 AM – SA 8 AM, QUIZ #7, Chapter 17
Substance-Related Disorders

15: T/Th 05/15-17 Substance-Related Disorders

************TH 05/24, 12:45-2:45 PM, FINAL EXAM************