

**SYLLABUS**  
**Psychology 168, Section 1: Abnormal Psychology**  
**California State University, Sacramento Department of Psychology**  
**Fall 2012**

**Instructor:** Rebecca Cameron, Ph.D.

**Office:** Amador 353C      **Office Hours:** Mondays 1:30-3:30 PM/Wednesdays 4:15-5:15 PM

**Email:** Please use SacCT 9.1 email for communication related to this course.

For matters unrelated to Psychology 168: [Cameron@csus.edu](mailto:Cameron@csus.edu)

**Phone:** 916-278-6892 (email is usually more efficient) **web:** [www.csus.edu/indiv/c/cameron](http://www.csus.edu/indiv/c/cameron)

**Course meeting time:** M/W 12:00-1:15 PM

**Course location:** Del Norte 1004

**Teaching assistant:** **Vincenzo Roma**, Office Hours Tuesdays 11:00-11:50 AM in AMD 307 (& by aptmt.)

**Rebecca Goodchild**, Office Hours Mondays 10:30-11:30 AM in AMD 307 (& by aptmt.)

**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 2 [OR Psychology 1 with Psychology 5 recommended].

**Required course text:**

Nolen-Hoeksema, S. (2011). *Abnormal psychology* (5<sup>th</sup> edition). New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

- You should have the option to rent the text from the bookstore.
- The text is available in an electronic version from [www.coursesmart.com](http://www.coursesmart.com)
- The text will be placed on reserve at the library to facilitate studying while you are on campus. This resource will be limited to 2 hours per checkout, on campus use only. Library staff contact me when students fail to return the book on time.
- 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.

**Please be sure to obtain a 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 Services to Students with Disabilities (SSWD), Lassen Hall 1008, (916) 278-6955. If you have a documented disability and verification from SSWD, and wish to discuss academic accommodations, 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:** You are expected to be present and on time for all class meetings. Many students find that regular attendance at class enables them to learn assigned material more easily and therefore enhances their performance on exams. 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. It is your responsibility to obtain information about any announcements, class notes, and handouts from other **classmates** in the event of an absence.

### **Exams (100 points each, best 3 of 4 counted, for 300 total available points):**

- **Number:** Four non-cumulative exams will be offered. The top three grades will be used to calculate your final grade; therefore you are free to miss any \*one\* of the exams, although it is recommended that you take all four exams to facilitate both your learning and your ability to earn the highest grade you can. **Do not** schedule travel plans or commit to other obligations that may conflict with the exam schedule. **Please do not request exceptions.**
- **Makeup policy: Makeup exams will not be offered. If you miss an exam for any reason, you will receive a score of zero.**
- **Modifications:** Exams will be offered in class and on the scheduled final exam day. The instructor reserves the right to modify the exam procedures or schedule as needed.
- **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 drop that exam grade.
- **Coverage:** The four non-cumulative exams may integrate concepts from prior exams, but will not comprehensively test previous topics. Each exam will cover material from the assigned readings as well as 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 more than 20 minutes late to exams will not be admitted.**
- **Materials needed for exams:** You will need to bring a bubble sheet (#4521) and an adequate supply of sharpened #2 pencils with you to each exam.

**Quizzes (8 points each, best 6 of 7 counted, for 48 total available points):** Seven open-book quizzes will be offered (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 SacCT, 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, to facilitate enhanced performance on the exams. Each quiz will consist of 4 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each (8 points total). Quiz questions are typically more factual and less complex than exam questions.

**In-Class Assignments & Tasks (4 points each, 10 assignments; 32 points required and up to 8 points extra credit):** There will be 10 brief in-class assignments offered this semester; dates for these will **NOT** be announced in advance. The format of these assignments will vary, but may include response paragraphs, short answers, multiple choice quiz questions, or other formats; these will be related to lecture material. These may be carried out individually or in small groups, at the instructor's discretion. These will be a source of required (32) as well as potential extra-credit (8) points; points will not be available if you are not present in class at the time that the assignment is carried out. [Because 8 of these points are potential extra credit, you will not be unduly

penalized for one or two absences in the event of illness.] You will be expected to have paper and a pen with you in order to complete these assignments

**Evaluation:**

Exam #1	100
Exam #2	100
Exam #3	100
Exam #4	100
(Delete lowest exam score)	-100
Quizzes (Top 6 of 7 scores)	48
Assignments (40 points available)	32

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Total points (388 available)    Basis of grade    380

The grading scale is as follows:

Grade	%	Grade	%	Grade	%
		A	93%	A-	90%
B+	87%	B	83%	B-	80%
C+	77%	C	73%	C-	70%
D+	67%	D	63%	D-	60%
F	<60%				

**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 in order to earn it. That means you may want to “round up” 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/umannual/student/UMA00150.htm> . Information on how not to plagiarize is available at <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):**

<b>Week/Dates</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>
01: M/W 8/27-29	Introduction to the Course Looking at Abnormality	Chapter 1
02: M/W 9/3-5	<b>Labor Day Holiday Monday 9/3</b> Looking at Abnormality (continued)	Chapter 1
03: M/W 9/10-12	Theories and Treatment of Abnormality	Chapter 2
04: M/W 9/17-19	<b>M 8 AM - W 8 AM, QUIZ #1, Chapter 3</b> Assessing and Diagnosing Abnormality	Chapter 3
05: M/W 9/24-26	<b>M 9/24, EXAM 1</b> Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 5
06: M/W 10/1-3	<b>M 8 AM - W 8 AM, QUIZ #2, Chapter 5</b> Anxiety Disorders (continued)	Chapter 5
07: M/W 10/8-10	<b>M 8 AM - W 8 AM, QUIZ #3, Chapter 7</b> Mood Disorders and Suicide	Chapter 7
08: M/W 10/15-17	Mood Disorders and Suicide (continued) <b>W 10/17, EXAM 2</b>	Chapter 7
09: M/W 10/22-24	<b>M 8 AM - W 8 AM QUIZ #4, Chapter 8</b> Schizophrenia and Related Psychotic Disorders	Chapter 8
10: M/W 10/29-31	Schizophrenia (continued)	Chapter 8
11: M/W 11/5-7	<b>M 8 AM - W 8 AM, QUIZ #5, Chapter 9</b> Personality Disorders	Chapter 9
12: M/W 11/12-14	<b>Veterans Day Holiday Monday 11/12</b> <b>W 11/14, EXAM 3</b>	
13: M/W 11/19-21	Eating Disorders	Chapter 12
14: M/W 11/26-28	<b>M 8 AM - W 8 AM, QUIZ #6, Chapter 13</b> Sexual Disorders	Chapter 13
15: M/W 12/3-5	<b>M 8 AM - W 8 AM, QUIZ #7, Chapter 14</b> Substance-Related and Impulse Control Disorders	Chapter 14

\*\*\*\*\***Wednesday 12/12, 10:15 AM-12:15 PM, EXAM 4**\*\*\*\*\*

**Enjoy your winter break!**