

Inver Hills Community College  
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Abnormal Psychology  
PSYC 2250-91  
Fall 2009  
Thursdays, 6:00 - 8:50 pm      LA 132  
3 credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the descriptions, causes, and treatment of the psychological disorders most frequently found in the adult population. Pertinent theories and studies regarding the anxiety disorders, mood disorders, psychotic disorders, personality disorders, and substance-related disorders are addressed.

REQUIRED TEXT

Halgin, R. P., & Whitbourne, S. K. (2005). *Abnormal psychology: Clinical perspectives on psychological disorders* (4th ed.). New York: McGraw Hill.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Classes	Chapters	Topics and Assignments
1. 8/27		Introduction
2. 9/3	1-3	Understanding Abnormality, Classification and Planning, and Assessment
3. 9/10	4	Theoretical Perspectives
4. 9/17	4	Theoretical Perspectives (cont.)
5. 9/24	8	Mood Disorders
6. 10/1	5	Anxiety Disorders
7. 10/8	6	Somatoform Disorders, and Dissociative Disorders <i>Paper 1 due</i>
8. 10/15		<i>No Class!</i>
9. 10/22	9	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders
10. 10/29	7	<i>Midterm Examination in Class</i> Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders
11. 11/5	14	Eating Disorders, and Impulse Control Disorders

12. 11/12	11	Development-related Disorders <i>Paper 2 due</i>
13. 11/19	12-13	Aging-related Disorders, and Substance-related Disorders
14. 11/26		<i>No Class!</i>
15. 12/3	10	Personality Disorders <i>Paper rewrite due</i>
16. 12/10	15	Ethical and Legal Issues, and Final Examination Preparation
17. 12/17		<i>Final Examination on 17 December at 6:00 pm</i>

## PARTICIPATION AND TIMELINESS

1. I expect you to participate in a meaningful way during every class. I encourage you to ask questions relevant to the assigned readings, and to make comments to both myself and your classmates. Comments made during class discussions should be: (a) thoughtful, (b) well-informed and relevant to the topic, (c) indicative of having completed the reading(s), (d) respectful of other participants, and (e) sensitive to people and their cultures.
2. I expect you to attend every class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Thus, please complete all assigned readings prior to the assigned class. Routine absences may negatively affect your grade. ***Since our class only meets once a week, I reserve the right to fail you from the class if you miss more than two classes.***
3. I expect you to arrive to every class on time, and to remain for the entirety of every class. Routine lateness or leaving early may negatively affect your grade.
4. I expect you to be present for all examinations, and to hand in all assignments by their assigned due dates. ***Late work submitted within 24 hours of the due date will be deducted 25 percent from the original score. Late work submitted more than 24 hours after the due date will be deducted 50 percent from the original score. Late examinations will not be accepted.*** However, in very extenuating circumstances, I may allow you to take an examination early if you have made prior arrangements with me.
5. I expect you to do your own work. ***Plagiarized work will earn zero points for that assignment the first time, and failure from the course with a report to the Dean of Students the second time.***

## GRADING

Grades are based on the percent earned of a possible 300 points:

- 2 Papers (50 points for each paper, 100 points  $\approx$  33% of grade)
- Midterm Examination (100 points  $\approx$  33% of grade)
- Final Examination (100 points  $\approx$  33% of grade)

<b>A</b>	93% - 100%	Superior achievement.
<b>A-</b>	90% - 92%	
<b>B+</b>	87% - 89%	
<b>B</b>	83% - 86%	Above-average achievement.
<b>B-</b>	80% - 82%	
<b>C+</b>	77% - 79%	
<b>C</b>	73% - 76%	Average achievement.
<b>C-</b>	70% - 72%	
<b>D+</b>	67% - 69%	
<b>D</b>	63% - 66%	Below-average achievement.
<b>D-</b>	60% - 62%	
<b>F</b>	0% - 59%	Failure to achieve.

Please note that College policy stipulates that instructors can only submit whole course grades. Thus, pluses and minuses unfortunately will not show up on your transcript at the end of the course.

## LECTURE NOTES

The lecture notes summarize, and often expand upon, the information in the textbook. I have written them to provide you with an overview of the various topics we will encounter during the semester. I have posted the lecture notes online at <http://faculty.inverhills.edu/jkaufma/>

## PAPERS

The papers are short assignments (a minimum of 4 pages in length) that require you to locate, read, and summarize a research article from a peer-reviewed journal in psychology or a related discipline that is clearly related to the topic of our course. Each paper must be submitted in class by its assigned due date. I recommend that you use the relevant online databases (**EBSCOHost**, **ProQuest**, and **InfoTrac**) offered by the Inver Hills Community College Library to find the articles.

I require you during the semester to complete two papers. You can rewrite either of the papers for a higher grade. The rewrite is entirely optional. If you choose to rewrite a paper, I will apply the higher of the two grades to your overall course grade. ***Please note that a late or plagiarized paper may not be rewritten. Nor may a paper submitted with a late or absent original article be rewritten.***

I have posted further instructions and an example online at <http://faculty.inverhills.edu/jkaufma/>

## EXAMINATIONS

The midterm examination and final examination are comprehensive tests that each address approximately one-half of the materials covered during the course. Questions are generally multiple-choice and are based primarily on the lectures.

## COURSE GOALS

The following goals are addressed in this course. You are expected to learn how to:

1. Explain the scientific methods used in the study of psychopathology.
2. Identify psychological theories, concepts, and terminology as applied to psychopathology.
3. Integrate psychological theories and research with personal observations.
4. Evaluate relevant societal, cultural, and psychological issues and how they relate to diversity.

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

As described in the *Inver Hills Community College Academic Integrity Policy*:

*Academic integrity is one of the most important values in higher education. This principle requires that each student's work represents his or her own personal efforts and that the student acknowledges the intellectual contributions of others. The foundation for this principle is student academic honesty. IHCC students are expected to honor the requirements of the Academic Integrity Policy.*

The complete policy may be read at:

[http://www.inverhills.edu/Enrollment/CollegePolicies/AcademicIntegrity.aspx?zoom\\_highlight=academic+integrity](http://www.inverhills.edu/Enrollment/CollegePolicies/AcademicIntegrity.aspx?zoom_highlight=academic+integrity)