



Syllabus for Abnormal Psychology (Psyc 300A)

Tuesdays / Thursdays 2:00 – 3:30

Instructor: Joelle LeMoult, Ph.D.

Email Address: jlemoult@psych.ubc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-2 in Kenny Room 3511 and 3:30-4:00 in the foyer after class

Note: If you have questions, I would like to help you in person. Please come see me during office hours, before or after any class, book an appointment with the TA, or post your question on the Canvas discussion board. Email is typically an ineffective way to reach me.

Teaching Assistants: Adri Khalis

TA's Office Hours: Thursdays 3:30-4:30 in Kenny Room 1708

Email Addresses: adrikhalis@psych.ubc.ca

Course Description: This course covers the definition, history, and scope of psychopathology, with an emphasis on the psychological factors that control its origins, maintenance, and modification.

Text: Kring, Johnson, Davison, & Neale. Abnormal Psychology. (13th edition) Wiley.

Attendance & Participation: Attendance is recommended as test questions will be based in large part on class lectures and activities. Active class participation is strongly encouraged and valued.

Course Website: Information related to this course is available through Canvas. I will post class lectures on Canvas before each class, but may make modifications to these slides and will often elaborate on topics in lecture, so if you must miss class, please ask a classmate for notes.

Questions: If you have questions about course content, assignments, exams, or policies, first check the course syllabus then the discussion board. You are likely to find the answer to your question has already been provided. If not, post your question on the discussion board. This will be the fastest way to get your question answered.

If you have a question about a topic being discussed in class, raise your hand and I will try to call on you. If you are shy about speaking in class (or I was not able to call on you), talk to me after class, visit me during office hours, visit your TAs during office hours, or use the discussion board

Email: If you have a simple question **that can be answered in one sentence**, send an email to Adri. (Be sure to read the discussion board carefully before you send an email.) Adri is a highly knowledgeable clinical psychology graduate student and is eager to help you understand the course material and prepare for exams. If you send an email question that is likely to be of interest to other students in the course, we will post the question (not your name) and response on the Discussion board. If you would like us to not post your question, simply let us know when you send your email.

Grades: In order to reduce grade inflation and maintain equity across multiple course sections, all psychology courses are **required** to comply with departmental norms regarding grade distributions. According to departmental policy, the mean grade in a 300-level class is 70% for a good class, 68% for an average class, and 66% for a weak class, with a standard deviation of 13. This means that about half the class will be in the A and B range (combined). Scaling is likely to be used to comply with these norms; grades may be scaled up or down as necessary by the Professor or Department.

Scaling, if necessary, will be done using a method called linear transformation, which applies the same adjustment to everyone's scores. Resulting marks are dependent on how well students demonstrate their mastery of course material relative to their peers. Your scaled mark is a function of how well you did relative to how the class/section as a whole performed. If there is a test that is "too easy" in the sense that marks as a whole tend to be high, then scores in general will be shifted down. If you put everyone's raw scores in order from lowest to highest, you get the same rank order of students as if you put the scaled scores from lowest to highest. The better your raw score, the better your scaled score, but how good or bad your scaled score is depends on how well the section as a whole did.

I will provide you with the class mean and standard deviation after each midterm so you will have a realistic idea of how you are doing relative to your peers, allowing you time to adjust what you are doing before the final.

Academic Honesty: You are expected to follow the UBC academic honesty policies. Cheating or plagiarism can result in automatic failure of this course. Please familiarize yourself with information pertaining to UBC's guidelines on [Academic Misconduct](#) and the [Guide to Academic Integrity](#). To help deter cheating, students are required to display their ID card during exams.

Health Concerns: If you are experiencing any psychological or physical health concerns, please find additional information at UBC's [Student Health Services](#). Additional mental health resources are listed on the course website, which you can access via Canvas.

Exams: The midterm and final examinations will consist of multiple choice, short essay and fill-in-the-blank questions. Expect to see questions covering information presented in the textbook (whether or not it has been discussed in class) as well as material presented during lectures, videos, activities, guest speakers, or class discussions. Research shows that people exhibit greater long-term retention when they expect a final test in the future (Szpunar, McDermott, & Roediger, 2007). Thus, to best prepare you to apply course material in future courses and in your life in general, **the final exam is cumulative**. The final will be held during the regularly scheduled examination period. Do not make travel plans before the exam schedule comes out; there will be no alternative date for the exam.

In most cases, you will receive a zero if you miss a midterm. Make-up midterms are given in only rare instances (such as a religious observance or serious illness). If you must miss an exam for a religious observance or other foreseeable event, you must email the TA for approval 2 weeks in advance of the midterm and the exam must be written within 1 week of the originally scheduled exam. If your illness prevents you from being present **and** a doctor's note is provided (doctor's note must state that your illness prevented you from taking the exam), you must email the TA requesting approval within 24 hours of the exam and you **MUST** take the make-up within 1 week of the scheduled exam at a time arranged with the TA.

Course Requirements	Weight
Midterm 1	30%
Midterm 2	30%
Final Exam	40%

Extra Credit: Students have the opportunity to earn up to three extra percentage points on their overall grade by participating in research conducted in the Psychology Department through the Human Subject Pool (HSP). Participating in research allows you to directly observe the research process and to contribute to ongoing research at UBC. You may get points via this mechanism by one of two means: 1) Participating in a research study (or studies) that provide extra credit through HSP or 2) completing a library writing assignment. More information about these options is provided on the [Human Subject Pool](#) website.

Course Lecture Schedule: This is a best estimate of the pace of the semester. Announcements made in class or via UBC Canvas will override this schedule.

Date	Topic
Jan 3	Introduction
Jan 8	Ch. 1, Introduction & Historical overview
Jan 10	Ch. 3, Diagnosis
Jan 15	Ch. 3, Clinical assessment
Jan 17	Ch. 5, Mood disorders
Jan 22	Ch. 5, Mood disorders cont.
Jan 24	Ch. 6, Anxiety disorders
Jan 29	Ch. 6, Anxiety disorders cont.
Jan 31	MIDTERM 1
Feb 5	Ch. 7, Obsessive-compulsive-related and trauma-related disorders
Feb 7	Ch. 11, Eating Disorders
Feb 12	Ch. 10, Substance use disorders
Feb 14	Ch. 10, Substance use disorders
Feb 19 & 21	No class – Midterm Break
Feb 26	Ch. 9, Schizophrenia
Feb 28	Ch. 14, Late life and neurocognitive disorders
Mar 5	Ch. 15, Personality disorders
Mar 7	Ch. 15, Personality disorders cont.
Mar 12	MIDTERM 2
Mar 14	Ch. 8, Dissociative and somatic symptom-related disorders
Mar 19	Ch. 12, Sexual disorders
Mar 21	Ch. 12, Sexual disorders cont.
Mar 26	Ch. 13, Disorders of childhood
Mar 28	Ch. 13, Disorders of childhood cont.
April 2	Legal and ethical issues
April 4	Flex Day

** the syllabus is subject to modifications as needed throughout the semester **