

Psychology 300A 951 – Abnormal Psychology
2021 Summer Term 2

Course Information:

Instructor: Dr. Silvain Dang

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Office hours: after class & by appointment

Teaching assistants:

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TA office hours: by appointment

Course description: This course will cover the definition, organization, and etiology of psychological disorders, abnormal behaviors, and mental health difficulties. There will be an emphasis on understanding how and why psychological disorders manifest, and how they fit into a broader individual, biological, and societal context. You will be expected to think critically about relevant issues and examine the empirical literature, not merely memorize information.

Lecture time: Tuesdays and Thursdays; 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Lecture location: <https://ubc.zoom.us/j/63482209782?pwd=RERIZU1DY0FucUxWc2EvVjFmc1dzdz09>

- Meeting ID: 634 8220 9782
- Meeting passcode: 024306
- If you need help with using Zoom: <https://lthub.ubc.ca/guides/zoom-student-guide/>

Key dates:

- Jul 5 – Official start of 2021S Term 2
- Jul 6 – First day of class for this course
- Jul 9 – Last day to withdraw without W standing
- Jul 30 – Last day to withdraw with W standing
- Aug 12 – Last day of class for this course
- Aug 16 – First day of final exams
- Aug 20 – Last day of final exams

Course Materials:

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – 5th Edition; American Psychiatric Association (2013)

This text is **mandatory**. UBC students can access this for **free** through the UBC Library: <https://psychiatryonline-org.ezproxy.library.ubc.ca>

Course notes and readings

I will provide additional course notes and readings, which may contain material not covered in lecture. You **are** responsible for knowing this content for exams. These will be posted on the course Canvas website.

Lecture content

You **are** responsible for knowing lecture content, including slides and verbal material, for exams. Slides for lectures will be posted either shortly before or shortly after lectures.

Abnormal Psychology – 17th Edition; Hooley, Butcher, Nock, & Mineka (2017)

This text is **optional**. You may find it useful for providing additional perspectives, examples, and references. You are not required to have this book.

Evaluations:

Exams:

There will be two midterms and one final exam. The midterm dates are noted on the Schedule listed below. The final exam will be scheduled by the university. They will be online via Canvas, and will be 1 hour 30 minutes in length. You will complete these exams on your own during the specified times on Canvas. They will cover material from lecture as well as assigned readings. Exams will be open book, but you are expected to complete them by yourself. Exams are non-cumulative for specific content, but general ideas and concepts will span the entire course. Questions can include recognition (multiple choice, true-false, matching), recall (fill-in-the-blank, short answer), and synthesis (essay).

Grade breakdown:

Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	33%
Exam 3	37%

General Course Policies:

Lectures: Lectures will be delivered during the scheduled times over Zoom. It is your responsibility to be available for the class time and to get the information from a classmate if you miss a lecture. The instructor and TAs will **not** reteach material you have missed. I will try to record each lecture and upload them onto Canvas, but there is no guarantee that this technology will work.

Participation: Participation in class is highly encouraged. Please ask questions, get clarification if anything doesn't make sense, and give a shot at answering questions that I raise. Due to the large number of people that will be on the Zoom call, please use the "raise hand" feature to let me know if you have a question/comment. You may also type your question into the text chat; I will check the chat at some points during the lecture to address any questions there.

Personal anecdotes: Topics covered in this class are likely relevant to the personal lives of some, if not most, of the students in the class. Therefore, I welcome students to share their perspectives and experiences in class if it is in service of helping the class understand and learn more. However, I ask everyone to keep the following in mind:

- 1) If someone else is sharing a personal anecdote, please be respectful towards them and their experience. This includes maintaining their confidentiality when you leave the classroom.
- 2) That being said, please also be aware that with a class of 150 people there is no way I can give promise of confidentiality about anything you share in class.
- 3) If you are sharing a personal anecdote, try to come at it from a place of providing more information for the class. If you need support for your own mental health difficulties, please come talk to me individually (where I can point you to specific resources).

Missed Exams & Paper Extensions:

Alternative arrangements for midterms will be considered in the following situations:

- 1) If you need to miss a midterm due to medical reasons or some other circumstances, let me know as soon as possible. There will NOT be a make-up exam. Instead, the exam you missed will be waived (i.e., it won't be counted in your overall grade). Only one exam may be missed in this way, please come talk to me as soon as possible if you are concerned you might miss both exams.
- 2) Accommodations requested through Access and Diversity Office, with appropriate A&D documentation, will of course be accepted. Please let me know as early as possible if this is the case, and also please let me know what type of accommodation is needed.
- 3) If you need to miss the final exam, you must contact your Faculty advising office.

Department of Psychology Policy on Academic Misconduct

“Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic misconduct are very serious concerns of the University, and the Department of Psychology has taken steps to alleviate them. In the first place, the Department has implemented software that can reliably detect cheating on multiple-choice exams by analyzing the patterns of students’ responses. In addition, the Department subscribes to TurnItIn – a service designed to detect and deter plagiarism. All materials (term papers, lab reports, etc.) that students submit for grading will be scanned and compared to over 4.5 billion pages of content located on the Internet or in TurnItIn’s own proprietary databases. The results of these comparisons are compiled into customized “Originality Reports” containing several sensitive measures of plagiarism; instructors receive copies of these reports for every student in their class.

In all cases of suspected academic misconduct the parties involved will be pursued to the fullest extent dictated by the guidelines of the University. Strong evidence of cheating or plagiarism may result in a zero credit for the work in question. According to the University Act (section 61), the President of UBC has the right to impose harsher penalties including (but not limited to) a failing grade for the course, suspension from the University, cancellation of scholarships, or a notation added to a student’s transcript.

All graded work in this course, unless otherwise specified, is to be original work done independently by individuals. If you have any questions as to whether or not what you are doing is even a borderline case of academic misconduct, please consult your instructor. For details on pertinent University policies and procedures, please see Chapter 5 in the UBC Calendar (<http://students.ubc.ca/calendar>) and read the University’s Policy 69 (available at <http://www.universitycounsel.ubc.ca/policies/policy69.html>).”

Department of Psychology Policy on Grade Scaling

The Department of Psychology requires that all grades in this course be scaled to a certain mean average and distribution. Please note that this is not my personal policy, but a departmental requirement. For this course, I am required to produce a final grade distribution as follows:

- 1) Class average (mean): 66% – 70%
- 2) Letter grade distributions:
 - Grade A: 5%-25% of students in the class
 - Grade A or B: not more than 75% of students in the class
 - Grade F: not more than 20% of students in the class

Bonus Credit with the Human Subject Pool (HSP)

You can gain research experience by serving as a participant in one of the many different psychological studies that are being conducted by the department. For each hour of experimental participation you can earn 1 credit towards your final grade for this course. You may receive up to 3 additional credits for this course. You can sign up for studies by visiting: <https://ubc-psych.sona-systems.com/>.

If you prefer, you can earn these same extra credits by completing a library-writing project instead of participating in studies. For this project, you will read and summarize a peer-reviewed research article.

You can find out more about how you can earn extra credits at: <https://psych.ubc.ca/hsp>. There is a guide about how to participate in the HSP and a list of frequently asked questions. Questions about these bonus credits should be directed to the HSP administrator directly (see above website for their contact info).

Course Outline & Schedule

Part 1 – Jul 6 – Jul 15

Introduction to contexts & concepts
Biomedical perspectives
Biological perspectives
Psychological perspectives
Sociocultural perspectives
Mood & depressive disorders

Midterm 1 – Jul 16 – Jul 18

Part 2 – Jul 20 – Jul 29

Trauma & traumatic disorders
Anxiety, fear, & anxiety disorders
Obsessive-compulsive disorders
Dissociation & dissociative disorders
Mania & bipolar disorders
Psychosis & psychotic disorders

Midterm 2 – Jul 30 – Aug 1

Part 3 – Aug 3 – Aug 12

Somatic symptoms & related disorders
Eating disorders
Sexual dysfunctions & sexual “deviance”
Substance use disorders
Personality disorders
Perfectionism

Final Exam – Aug 16 – Aug 20 – Scheduled by the university