<table>
<tr><td>Psyc 250:

Course Outline

Fall 2004</td></tr>
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INSTRUCTORS:

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I. Texts:

Davison, G.C.,Neale, J.M.Blankstein, & Flett
(2002) *Abnormal Psychology: Canadian edition.*
N.Y.: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Course Aims:

This course provides an overview of the field of Abnormal
Psychology including the basic methods of research used in
this field, the current method of classifying disorders (DSM-
IV), the nature of the most salient mental disorders and the
current status of the treatment methods in use. The unique
status of abnormal psychology in Canada and the
relationship between this field and Canadian law will also be
addressed.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course you should understand:

The basic structures of the Central Nervous System
The research methods used to study the cause and treatment of mental

disorders

The various models currently applied to the attempt to understand the etiology of mental disorders

The status of treatments applied to the most significant mental disorders

The basic nature, cause and treatment of mood, anxiety, dissociative, substance-related, personality, sexual and gender identity disorders as well as schizophrenia and developmental disorders.

The basic methods of treatment in use today and their relative efficacy.

The relationship between the Canadian legal system and mental disorders, especially section 16 of the criminal code and the Canadian Mental Health Act.

Presumed Knowledge:

Presumed Knowledge for Psychology 250

In order to get the most out of Psychology 215, An Introduction to Biopsychology the following are recommended:

Knowledge

A basic understanding of the various fields and activities of psychology. See for example the homepage of the American Psychological Association http://www.apa.org/

or

the Canadian Psychological Association http://www.cpa.ca/

and the various divisions and activities listed there

Some basic understanding the structure of the brain would be useful. The brain is constructed of neurons, various centres of the brain perform different functions, etc. Have a look at:

http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/introb.html

I know it says "neuroscience for kids" but it is a good foundation in biopsychology.

Some understanding of very basic chemistry would be very useful, ions, osmosis, etc. Again

Chem4kids http://www.chem4kids.com/

has all the basic background that you should need. A bit more advance is the

Chemistry Basics site:
http://chem.neopages.com/tutorials/basc.shtml

The whole field of psychology is based on the scientific method and its various research methods. For an introduction to the scientific method try here:

http://teacher.nsrl.rochester.edu/phy_labs/AppendixE/AppendixE.html

or

http://home.xnet.com/~blatura/skep_1.html

or

http://koning.ecsu.ctstateu.edu/Plants_Human/scimeth.html

I would be good to have some basic understanding of several basic human functions that have been

investigated by psychology:
for example

Memory:

The San Francisco Exploratorium memory exhibit: http://www.exploratorium.edu/memory/

Perception:

The Joy of Visual Perception

http://www.yorku.ca/eye/noframes.htm

Tutorials in Sensation and Perception

http://psych.hanover.edu/Krantz/sen_tut.html

Disorders, etc.

This site has links to a variety of relevant topics including basic information of a number of mental disorders:

http://cep.jmu.edu/psychology/neuro/

For a basic on-line review of psychology including videos click here:

http://cybersisman.com/aepsychology1a/

For many links that preview topics taught in this course:

http://www.univ.trieste.it/~brain/NeuroBiol/Neuroscienze%20per%20tutti/ehceduc.html

[These prerequisites would usually be covered by taking Camosun Psychology 110 and one of 120, 130, 150, or 164.]

Skills:

The most important skill in any science course is being able to find current information about what is going on in the field from primary sources. This used to be called "library research" and now would be called Internet/library research I guess.

Here is a tutorial that includes video from the Cornell library:

http://www.library.cornell.edu/okuref/research/tutorial.html

Here are some hints from the APA site:

http://www.apa.org/science/lib.html

And here are tips for using PsycInfo from their web site:

http://www.apa.org/psycinfo/training/

Writing a Research Paper:

Hopefully you will have written a research paper with some guidance in an English course. For review try here:

A Guide for Writing Research Papers based on Styles Recommended by The American Psychological Association

http://webster.commnet.edu/apa/apa_index.htm

Writing a Research Paper Purdue Univ.

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/ResearchW/

Ten steps in writing a research paper

Dr. Gwen's Research Paper Information Page

[These prerequisites would usually be met by taking an English course in which a research paper is written (Camosun English 150), or another course where such a paper is produced]

Computer and Internet Skills

Much that is helpful for this course is online. We don't do anything that you can't learn as we go, but it would be very helpful if you knew how to use a keyboard with 10 fingers ("type"); find information on the Internet, and create and send files using a word processor and email system.

[These days many of these skills are picked up by having an Internet linked computer in the home, or taking a course such as Camosun Comp 156.]

Attitudes:

To get much out of a course like this you need to possess the basic attitudes of science. You need to open to new ideas, willing to subject your beliefs to testing, you need to

see learning new stuff as just about as much fun as a person can have and you need to be willing to do all this publicly.

See also:

Values and attitudes in science:

http://isis.csuhayward.edu/ALSS/soc/NAN/scivals.htm

American Scientist site:

http://www.americanscientist.org/

II. Course Description

For the calendar description of this course click here.

Psychology 250, Psychopathology, is a second year course designed for university transfer students who intend to continue their education in psychology, social science or related fields. It could also prove interesting and useful to anyone with an interest in human behavior and its vicissitudes. This course looks at various models of the cause of "abnormal" behavior, methods of diagnosing and classifying abnormal behavior, several syndromes and various methods of treating and preventing them.

III. Course Requirements:

Psychology 250 is a second year course so we will make certain assumptions about your background in psychology and your intellectual and research skills. We will assume that you have a general grounding in psychology including methods of research, the basics of schools or approaches to psychology, and an overview of the content areas of psychology such as sensation, perception, learning, abnormal, developmental, social, etc. If we mention the difference between correlational research and experimental research or the relationships between sensation and perception we will assume that no explanation is needed, but don't hesitate to ask questions about these or other topics that are not clear to you.

We also assume that you have written a research paper, are somewhat skilled at finding primary source material in a library or on the Internet and understand the rules of citing sources in research papers. You may not be familiar with the intricacies of APA (American Psychological Association) style, but we assume that you are familiar with some style and can adapt to APA style. For a quick overview of APA paper style try [Psych Web by Russ Dewey](#).

IV. Course Organization

This course is organized around two methods of teaching and learning. The first is quite traditional involving lectures, seminars, written assignments, and tests. The second involves using computers and the Internet to facilitate research, self study and communication with the instructor, me, other students and perhaps others in other parts of the world who are researching similar topics.

We will offer you the opportunity to use computers extensively in this course. All of you will be registered in the WebCT resource facility for this course where you will find learning aids. For some basics on computer ethics have a look at the [Camosun Computer Users Ethic Policy](#)

Perhaps the most important tool in psychology, in science in general, is critical thinking. We live in a world that virtually awash with ideology, propaganda and general bs. Science is a tool that offers some suggestions for ways to clean your lenses so you can have a better look at the world as it is rather than the way you have been conditioned to believe it is.

V. Marking

You have a choice of marking schemes. In A you will do the following:

ASSIGNMENTS A

Weekly Assignments + Practice Tests	20%
Article Review	10%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Second Exam	20%
Research Paper	30%

In B you will do the following:

ASSIGNMENTS B	
Weekly Assignments	20%
Article Review	10%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	50%

In A you will do a research paper and take a second test over just the second half of the course. In B there is no research paper, but there there is a comprehensive final over the whole book. Some people prefere tests, some research papers. You need to let me know by the third week of class which system you will be using and after that no changes.

Marking System

A+	94.5%-100%	B-	69.5%-74.5%
A	89.5%-94.5%	C+	64.5%-69.5%
A-	84.5%-89.5%	C	59.5%-64.5%

B+	79.5%-84.5%	D	49.5%-59.5%
B	74.5%-79.5%	F	0-49.5%

ASSIGNMENTS

In general all work and assignments must be handed in on the due date. If an emergency or serious problem comes up prior to the exam or due date you may apply for an extension. This must be done in person before, preferably well before, the date in question. All written work should be typed, preferably on a word processor. Work occasionally goes missing at an institution so you are responsible for keeping a copy of all work handed in. All work must be handed to me in person. Work will be handed back during class. All written work must be in APA format.

WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS

Each week there will be an assignment that can usually be done in a variety of ways. To obtain credit for the weekly assignments you need to bring the results of your work to seminar (typed in advance), hand it in and participate in the discussion about the assignment. Sometimes the weekly assignment is as simple as reading the assigned chapter, writing a question or two about what you have read, and bringing it to seminar. Some weeks there are several options. Some assignments involve doing some research either in the library or on the Internet and sharing that information with others. Each assignment will be posted in the WebCT course informatin..

ARTICLE REVIEW

The basis of most research in psychology is in knowing the nature of what has come before. Most research is designed to test a theory (explanatory model) by devising an experiment or set of observations that would develop in a particular direction if the theory is correct. But a theory is never created wholly out of the present, it is based on the past, on previous thinking and experimentation. Most research reports begin with a review of previous literature. This assignment involves obtaining some previous literature, from a psychological journal, and summarizing it briefly. This involves reading something about a topic, searching an index, usually "Psychological Abstracts", obtaining a copy of the article, reading it, and summarizing it. You don't need to summarize every aspect of the article. We are only interested in the "theory" or explanatory model the study is investigating. The authors won't label the theory, but they will usually present their thinking on what causes what in the introduction and conclusion. If you are interested in computer based research and the Internet as a research tool you may obtain some information on your topic off the Internet, obtain a journal article and compare the two. The libraries "EBSCOhost" database is great for this. You can set it to search for only "full text" articles in "academic journals." In either case this assignment will run to about 250 words. Note: Make sure that your article has to do with the topic of this course: "Abnormal Psychology."

EXAMS

There will be one major exam and a midterm during the course. The midterm exam, about half way through, will cover the material to that point. It will include multiple choice questions, charts, short answer and essay questions. Use of the study guide and the "goals" linke attached to each lecture will prove useful in studying for these exams. At

the end of the course there will be a final exam in the exam period.

RESEARCH (REVIEW) PAPER

A review paper is one that gathers the most recent relevant information about a topic, organizes it and presents a summary of findings. A typical topic would be the current state of theories or models of the cause of schizophrenia. A writer would find several primary source articles, organize their content and present a summary that basically answers the question: "what is the current state of the field with regard to a model of the etiology of schizophrenia?" There may be several competing theories in which case the paper would be organized along the lines of a compare and contrast paper that draws conclusions. This paper should be a minimum of five pages or about 1200 words exclusive of the title page, abstract, and reference list. It should include several sources, mostly primary sources. Textbooks, encyclopedias, and the like are not appropriate sources for research papers and would be used only in rare circumstances. The reference list should contain only sources actually used for the paper, no filler please.

The library also offers a course in doing library research that includes an on-line component. This will include the very valuable skill of how to do a Psychological Abstracts search via the computer. I highly recommend this course.

To: **[Psychology Home Page](#)**