



**BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**2014 - 2015**  
**Psychology 3311, Section 530**  
**Abnormal Psychology**  
**Dick Shugar, MSc**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides an introduction to psychopathology. General principles such as description and classification, development and dynamics, causation, evaluation, treatment, and research design will be examined. These principles will be then applied to the analysis of the main syndromes of abnormal behaviour.

**PREREQUISITES:** At least 70% in any 1.0 or 0.5 course in Psychology at the 2100 level.

**ANTIREQUISITES:** Psychology 2050, 3310F/G, 3320F/G

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Through readings, lectures, and structured discussions, students will explore the significant issues related to abnormal behaviour and its management. By the end of this course, a successful student should be able to:

- identify the differing perspectives inherent in defining abnormality, and in deciding where to draw the line between normality and disorder.
- provide historical and contemporary explanations for abnormal behavior, with an emphasis on how psychological, biological, and social factors interact to produce and maintain mental disorders.
- critically evaluate the debate over how mental disorders should be represented, defined, and organized within the formal classification system—and why this really matters.
- describe the challenges involved in assessing and accurately diagnosing mental disorders, and the tools that professionals have developed to facilitate these tasks.
- explain the main forms of abnormal behavior found in adults, including the prevalence, symptoms, clinical course, risk factors, and best-available treatments for these disorders.
- appreciate the experience of coping with a mental disorder in order to respond to these individuals with empathy, compassion, and respect.

- appraise current controversies and unresolved questions in the field of abnormal psychology. The aim is not only for the student to become familiar with these controversies, but to be challenged to think analytically about them and to consider their implications for clients, the public, and the field.

*Students may vary in their competency levels on these abilities. You can expect to acquire these abilities only if you honour all course policies, attend classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of you as a student.*

### **COURSE INFORMATION:**

Classes: Tuesday 11:30 – 1:30, UH 30  
Thursday 11:30 – 12:30, UH 30

Instructor: Dick Shugar, MSc

Office: BR 301D

Email: [rshugar@uwo.ca](mailto:rshugar@uwo.ca) OR [dick.shugar@rogers.com](mailto:dick.shugar@rogers.com)

Phone:  
Brescia 519-432-8353.  
Home 519-657-4820

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30 – 2:30 pm  
Thursday 12:30 -1:30 pm  
or by appointment

Website: The course website, on OWL/Sakai, has pages with lecture powerpoints, a copy of the course outline, test and exam marks, and other information. Students should visit the website at least weekly .

### **COURSE MATERIALS:**

#### **Textbook:**

**Dozois, David J.A.** (2013). Abnormal Psychology: Perspectives, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Toronto: Pearson Education Canada

This package includes the "Introduction to the DSM-5" booklet.

#### **Readings:**

For Discussions, students will also be expected to study supplemental readings, which will be made available on the OWL/Sakai website.

### Fall Term Schedule

Thurs.	Sept. 4	Introduction - Myths	
Tues.	Sept. 9	Issues in Defining Abnormality	<b>Chapter 1</b>
Thurs.	Sept. 11	Historical Perspectives	<b>1</b>
Tues.	Sept. 16	Theoretical Perspectives: Contemporary Theories	<b>2</b>
Thurs.	Sept. 18	Classification and Labelling	<b>3</b>
Tues.	Sept. 23	The Medical Model and the Process of Diagnosis	<b>3</b>
Thurs.	Sept. 25	Research and Assessment Methods	<b>4</b>
Tues.	Sept. 30	Research and Assessment Methods	<b>4</b>
Thurs.	Oct. 2	Diagnostic Systems - The DSM	<b>4+booklet</b>
Tues.	Oct. 7	<i>Discussion 1 - Stigma and mental disorders</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Thurs.	Oct. 9	Anxiety Disorders	<b>5</b>
Tues.	Oct. 14	Anxiety Disorders	<b>5</b>
Thurs.	Oct. 16	Anxiety Disorders	<b>5</b>
Tues.	Oct. 21	Stress , Adjustment Disorders, and PTSD	<b>5</b>
Thurs.	Oct. 23	Dissociative and Somatiform Disorders	<b>6</b>
Tues.	Oct. 28	Psychophysiological Disorders	<b>7</b>
Thurs.	Oct. 30	<i>Fall Study Day</i>	
Tues.	Nov. 4	<i>Exam 1</i>	
Thurs.	Nov. 6	Mood Disorders	<b>8</b>
Tues.	Nov. 11	Mood Disorders	<b>8</b>
Thurs.	Nov. 13	Suicide	<b>8</b>
Tues.	Nov. 18	<i>Discussion 2 - Coping: How to stay sane in a crazy world</i>	<i>TBA</i>
Thurs.	Nov. 20	Schizophrenia	<b>9</b>
Tues.	Nov. 25	Schizophrenia	<b>9</b>
Thurs.	Nov. 27	Eating Disorders and Obesity	<b>10</b>
Tues.	Dec. 2	Eating Disorders and Obesity	<b>10</b>

### Winter Term Schedule

Tues.	Jan. 6	Substance Related Disorders	11
Thurs.	Jan. 8	Substance Related Disorders	11
Tues.	Jan. 13	Personality Disorders	12
Thurs.	Jan. 15	Personality Disorders	12
Tues.	Jan. 20	Sexual Variants and Dysfunctions	13
Thurs.	Jan. 22	Sexual Variants and Dysfunctions	13
Tues.	Jan. 27	<b>Discussion 3 - Homosexuality: Issues and Theories</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Thurs.	Jan. 29	Child Sexual Abuse - Victims and Perpetrators	13
Tues.	Feb. 3	<b>Exam 2</b>	
Thurs.	Feb. 5	Developmental Disorders	14
Tues.	Feb. 10	Developmental Disorders	14
Thurs.	Feb. 12	Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence	15
Tues.	Feb. 17	<b>Reading Week</b>	
Thurs.	Feb. 19	<b>Reading Week</b>	
Tues.	Feb. 24	Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence	15
Thurs.	Feb. 26	Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence	15
Tues.	Mar. 3	Cognitive Disorders and Aging	16
Thurs.	Mar. 5	Transcultural Issues in Psychology	-
Tues.	Mar. 10	Therapies	17
Thurs.	Mar.12	Therapies	17
Tues.	Mar. 17	Mental Disorder and the Law	19
Thurs.	Mar. 19	Mental Disorder and the Law	19
Tues.	Mar. 24	<b>Discussion 4 - Responsibility for a criminal act</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Thurs.	Mar.26	Issues of Prevention and Mental Health Promotion	18
Tues.	Mar. 31	<b>Discussion 5 - Should treatment be mandated?</b>	<b>TBA</b>
Thurs.	Apr. 2	Issues of Prevention and Mental Health Promotion	18
Tues.	Apr. 7	Review	

Topics will be covered in the order given above. You should do the assigned reading before that topic is covered in class. In class, I will discuss those parts of the chapter that I feel are the most important, most difficult, or the most interesting. For chapters that are on the class schedule, a file will be posted on OWL/Sakai that will guide you as to which parts of each chapter you are responsible for.

### **EVALUATION:**

There will be two two-hour tests and a final exam, based on the text and, lectures. The tests and exam will consist of multiple-choice questions and are not cumulative.

**Test 1** is scheduled for November 4<sup>th</sup> in class. Questions will be based on material from Chapters 1-7 and the corresponding classes. Test 1 contributes 20% of your course grade.

**Test 2** is scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup> in class. Questions will be based on material from Chapters 8-13 and the corresponding classes. Test 2 contributes 20% of your course grade.

The **Final Exam** will be held during the Final Examination period (April 11-30) and will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. The Final Exam will be based on Chapters 14-18 and the corresponding classes. The Final exam contributes 20% of your course grade.

### **DISCUSSIONS:**

Attendance at in-class Discussions is **mandatory**. There will be five formal Discussion sessions, spaced throughout the year, and held during a Tuesday lecture period. Answers to set questions on assigned articles or readings are to be handed in at each Discussion. At times the questions will require some research beyond the specific assigned articles. Discussion marks will include a component for participation; as much as 75 % of an assignment mark can be deducted for lateness or non-attendance at Discussion.

### **WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT: A Critical Analysis**

Each student will write a critical analysis of a controversial issue relating to abnormal psychology. This may take the form of a review including research or journal articles on competing sides of the issue, or a rebuttal, backed up by scientific evidence, of an article in the popular media. The paper should be 8 - 10 pages in length, and must include a minimum of 10 articles (8 published within the last 5 years). Chosen references must have been published in scholarly journals appropriate to the discipline. Copies of the abstracts of references must be provided in an appendix. Written work must be sure to follow APA style properly, and to avoid plagiarism. *Topics for the paper must be submitted no later than January 8, 2015 and must be approved by me. If you do not clear your topic with me, you will not be permitted to write the term paper. Once approved, you will not be permitted to change your topic.*

The assignment will be due **in class** on **March 19, 2015**, and will be worth **20% of the final mark**. Note that **late papers will be subject to penalty (5% per day) and may not be accepted**.

Evaluation Summary:

Test 1 (November 4, 2014)	20%
Test 2 (February 3, 2015)	20%
Discussions	20% (ie. 4% each)
Written Assignment	20%
Final Exam	20%

*Total 100%*

Please note that grades **cannot** be adjusted on the basis of need. Your mark in the course will be the mark that you earn. Tests and exams cannot be re-written to obtain a higher mark and there are no extra credit assignments available.

For academic accommodation to be considered for any course component worth less than 10% of the final course grade, it is the responsibility of the student to approach the course instructor(s) in a timely fashion. Documentation may be required to be submitted to the academic advisor. If documentation is required, the request for accommodation will be decided by the academic advisor in consultation with the instructor. If documentation is not required, the instructor will make the final decision. The policies governing requests for academic accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section included at the end of the course outline.

*Note: In Psychology you are expected to follow the American Psychological Society (APA) guidelines for writing and for acknowledgment of sources, and to use APA referencing format. Further information on use of APA style will be given in class. There is also a copy of the APA style manual on reserve in the Brescia library.*

In keeping with university regulations, failure to attend a test or exam **will result in a mark of zero**, unless documentary evidence of extenuating circumstances is provided. Social events, travel plans, vacations, misreading the test schedule or sleeping in are not legitimate reasons for missing a test. Only under special circumstances will a student be allowed to write a make-up test. The instructor must be notified of any such case as soon as possible, and the student request a make-up. If the instructor allows a make-up test, the student will be expected to write the test within a week or two after the missed test.

Late submission of assignments will result in a penalty of 10% of assignment mark per day and late submissions will not be marked after the fifth day, unless evidence of extenuating circumstances has been provided. All submissions must be typed or clearly hand-written. Illegible handwritten submissions will not be accepted.

**N.B. There will be no re-taking of tests/examinations nor extra work available for the purpose of improving grades.** You must plan to study and prepare well in advance of examinations. The course involves a fair amount of reading on your own. It is best to read text sections before the corresponding lectures. You are advised to attend every lecture - especially as in this course attendance for discussions is mandatory. If you are unable to attend a discussion session, arrange to be excused in advance. Missing lectures is the responsibility of the student. Should you be absent you are advised to find out what material you missed and make arrangements to catch up on that material. It is pointless to come to any instructor at the end of the term to plead for a higher grade on grounds that you had problems (personal or academic). Deal with problems as soon as they arise - see someone, take action - no-one will think less of you for doing so; in fact it shows intelligence and sense of personal responsibility.

## BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2014/pg117.html>

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

## 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

## 4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

### Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

#### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

### **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

### **6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

### **7. SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at [http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar\\_services/index.html](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html). The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.