

**Abnormal Psychology**  
**University of Notre Dame**  
**Spring Semester 2010**

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**Class Location:** B-16 Hagggar Hall  
**Time:** M W 1:30 - 2:45  
**Credits:** 3.0 (PSY 30310)  
**Office Hours:** Anytime by appointment or drop-in  
**TA:** Jamie Serrano - [jlh121@gmail.com](mailto:jlh121@gmail.com)

**Description:** This course is about psychopathology as it is represented in the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (2000: 4<sup>th</sup> ed., Text Revision). In this course I hope to: a) help you appreciate and understand the scientific bases of contemporary theories of major psychological disorders, such as schizophrenia, depression, and anxiety; b) encourage greater empathy for people suffering from mental illness; c) inform you, as future policy-makers and citizens, about societal implications of mental disorders; d) educate about mental health treatment for those of you who will be future consumers of, and referrers to, such services; e) promulgate preventive information; and f) prepare you for graduate-level psychopathology training.

**Required Texts:** Kring, A.M., Johnson, S.L., Davison, G.C., & Neale, J.M. (2010). *Abnormal Psychology* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley. (ISBN: e-Book 978-0-470-46453-3, Hardback 978-0-470-38008-6)

Halgin, R.P., & Whitbourne, S.K. (1998). *A Casebook in Abnormal Psychology: From the Files of Experts*. New York: Oxford University Press. (ISBN: 978-0-195-09298-1)

**Optional Text:** Hindman, D. (2009). *Study Guide to Accompany Kring, Johnson, Davison, and Neale's 'Abnormal Psychology'* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley. (ISBN: 978-0-470-48137-0)

**Websites:** A Notre Dame website with PowerPoints, handouts, syllabus, etc. can be accessed with your ID and password via the "30310" link under "Course Information" at [www.nd.edu/~dsmith11](http://www.nd.edu/~dsmith11). Emendations welcome!

**Exams:** There will be three in-class exams and a final exam during Finals Week. Each exam will have 50 multiple-choice questions that you will have 75 minutes to answer. Since the textbook is comprehensive and provides a disproportionate share of the course material, exam content will come approximately 70% from the text and 30% from lecture, cases, class discussion, and film clips. Exams are not cumulative; they will cover material assigned only since the prior exam. You **will** be responsible for material that is assigned but not covered in class.

**Makeup Exams:** Essay makeup exams will be given only for *previously* approved absences or in cases of documented emergencies. Makeups must be taken within one week of the regular exam.

**In-class Essays:** Ten times this semester I will ask you to write a brief in-class essay about a topic under consideration at that point in the course. For instance, I might ask that you write about a video clip; I might ask you to state your views on a controversial subject, such as the not-guilty-by-reason-of-insanity verdict; or I might ask your personal impressions about topics such as the prevalence of eating disorders at Notre Dame. These essays will be quite brief, so you will need to get right to the point and not spend time restating the question, describing the context for your comments, or simply asserting your unsupported opinion. Most valuable are novel or interesting views that are backed-up with logical argument or course-related information. Each essay will be worth 5 points toward your course total. Therefore, the in-class essays will sum to the equivalent of one exam.

**Grading:** Grades are based on the sum of the four exam scores (200 points), in-class essays (50 points), and extra credit (10 points: described separately), according to the following system. If scores are unusually low, a curve will be used with the third highest score in the class taken as the 100% value against which the remaining scores are compared. Extra credit points will be added *after* the final curve is set. Class attendance is required, and **participation will help students on grade borderlines**.

|    |               |    |        |    |        |   |               |
|----|---------------|----|--------|----|--------|---|---------------|
| A  | 93% and above | B+ | 87-89% | C+ | 77-79% | D | 60-69%        |
| A- | 90-92%        | B  | 83-86% | C  | 73-76% | F | 59% and below |
|    |               | B- | 80-82% | C- | 70-72% |   |               |

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## Class Schedule and Assigned Readings

| Week | Date | Day       | Topic  | Kring Textbook | Halgin Casebook |
|------|------|-----------|--|----------------|-----------------|
| 1    | 1/13 | Wednesday | Introduction & History   | 1              |                 |
| 2    | 1/18 | Monday    | Paradigms & Integration (skip psychodynamic paradigm, review methods in chapter 4 instead) | 2              |                 |
|      | 1/20 | Wednesday | Diagnosis <b>(last change day 1/20)</b>  | 3              | 1               |
| 3    | 1/25 | Monday    | - continued  |                |                 |
|      | 1/27 | Wednesday | Assessment   |                |                 |
| 4    | 2/1  | Monday    | Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders   | 13             | 8, 9            |
|      | 2/3  | Wednesday | <b>Exam #1</b> (6 classes: bring pencils and eraser)                                       |                |                 |
| 5    | 2/8  | Monday    | Anxiety Disorders  | 5              |                 |
|      | 2/10 | Wednesday | - continued  |                | 4               |
| 6    | 2/15 | Monday    | - continued  |                | 5               |
|      | 2/17 | Wednesday | - continued  |                | 6               |
| 7    | 2/22 | Monday    | Somatoform Disorders   | 6              |                 |
|      | 2/24 | Wednesday | Dissociative Disorders   |                | 7               |
| 8    | 3/1  | Monday    | <b>Exam #2</b> (6 classes: bring pencils and eraser)                                       |                |                 |
|      | 3/3  | Wednesday | Eating Disorders <b>(Spring Break: 3/6 to 3/14)</b>  | 9              |                 |
| 9    | 3/15 | Monday    | - continued  |                | 17              |
|      | 3/17 | Wednesday | Mood Disorders   | 8              | 10              |
| 10   | 3/22 | Monday    | - continued <b>(last drop day 3/19)</b>  |                | 11              |
|      | 3/24 | Wednesday | - continued  |                | 12              |
| 11   | 3/29 | Monday    | Schizophrenia  | 11             |                 |
|      | 3/31 | Wednesday | - continued <b>(Easter Break 4/2 - 4/5)</b>  |                | 13              |
| 12   | 4/5  | Monday    | <b>(No Class)</b>  |                |                 |
|      | 4/7  | Wednesday | <b>Exam #3</b> (7 classes)   |                |                 |
| 13   | 4/12 | Monday    | Personality Disorders  | 12             | 2               |
|      | 4/14 | Wednesday | - continued  |                | 3               |
| 14   | 4/19 | Monday    | Substance-Related and Impulse-Control Disorders  | 10             |                 |
|      | 4/21 | Wednesday | - continued  |                | 16              |
| 15   | 4/26 | Monday    | Forensic and Social Policy Issues  | 17             |                 |
|      | 4/28 | Wednesday | - continued <b>(CIFs!!)</b>  |                |                 |
| 16   | 5/3  | Monday    | <b>Final Exam – 4:15 to 6:15 pm</b> (6 classes)<br>** 5/15 Feast of St. Dymphna **         |                |                 |