Psychology 460
Abnormal Psychology
Fall 2006

Instructor: Irina Diyankova, M.S.
Office: W235 Lagomarcino Hall
Office phone: 294-9668
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Office hours: M 10:30 – 12:00 & Th 3:30 – 5:00
Class meets: MWF 9:00 – 9:50 at 2115 Pearson Hall

Required Readings & Materials
2. Powerpoint slides for each lecture presented will be posted on WebCT. I will try to post the slides for the coming week on Sunday night or earlier whenever possible. However, it may not always be possible. So, please, come to the class ready to take notes.

Optional readings
2. Selected papers from the peer reviewed journals (TBA)

Objectives
• To acquire knowledge and understanding of general concepts and terms of abnormal psychology.
• To understand some of the major issues and controversies in this area and think critically about them.
• To apply knowledge of the concepts and issues to understanding of behavior of the people around you.
• To develop sensitivity and sympathy in relation to people suffering from psychological disorders.

Course requirements and assignments
1. Tests (250 pts.)
   There will be four tests throughout the course. Each test will be composed of multiple-choice questions. It will cover both lecture and textbook material. Final test (#4) will be in part cumulative. Please, remember to bring # 2 pencil on the test days.
   Test dates:
   Test 1 September 18, Monday 50 pts.
   Test 2 October 13, Friday 50 pts.
   Test 3 November 10, Friday 50 pts.
   Test 4 December 12, Tuesday 100 pts
   7:30 – 9:30 a.m. (subject to change)
2. **Self-help book project (75 pts.)**

   Due on **November 17, Friday.** See assignments handout for more details. The objectives for this project are the following: (1) learn in more depth about processes, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment of the disorder of interest; (2) think critically about obtained information; (3) learn to apply information in the creative ways; (4) learn helping strategies. The paper should NOT exceed four pages (including the cover page). Please, use 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, and single spacing.

3. **Journal (75 pts.)**

   I believe that learning is the most effective when students are involved with the material and think critically about it. That is why you will be required to journal. You need to write one journal entry for each week. Overall there should be 15 entries.

   You will submit your journal three times during the semester for grading. The work will be accepted ONLY in the following format: cover page with the student’s name, assignment title, and class number should be on the top; everything should be typed; all pages should be stapled together.

   **Submission due dates:**
   - **September 22, Friday** - entries 1-5; 25 pts.
   - **October 27, Friday** - entries 6-10; 25 pts.
   - **December 8, Friday** - entries 11-15; 25 pts.

   See assignments handout for more specifics.

**Extra-credit**

Extra-credit points may be added to your grade **ONLY if you completed four tests, a self-help book project, and a journal.** Overall, no more than 25 pts. may be added to your grade.

1. **Active class participation.** I will reward people who actively participate in the class (by asking questions, responding to my questions, commenting on the readings, etc.) with extra-credit points. You may earn up to 20 pts.

2. Write one of the following **papers** (10 pts. each):
   (1) Diagnosis of Melvin Udall (main character in “As Good As It Gets”) according to DSM-IV
   (2) Reflection of psychopathology in … (name of the movie or a book).

   Watch a movie or read a book depicting mental illness. Determine which disorder is described and analyze how accurate is presentation of this disease.

   (3) Depiction of schizophrenia in the movie “Beautiful Mind”.

   You can choose to do 1 or 2 of the aforementioned papers. The work should be typed in 12 pt. size font and have a cover page. It should NOT exceed 2 pages single-spaced. The paper(s) is(are) **due on 12/04/06.**

3. **Research.** There will be an opportunity to participate in research studies for extra-credit points. Dates and titles of the eligible studies will be announced. In general, you will get 2 points for each 50 min. of participation.
Policies and Guidelines
In order for our joint experience to be successful several requirements and guidelines were established.

1. Attendance
   Although class attendance is not mandatory, attendance and participation are central to the way this class is conducted and organized. Lectures will include material not covered in the textbook, and you will be tested on the textbook, lectures, class discussions, and videos. It is your responsibility to obtain any missed information and announcements from me or your classmates, including changes in the course schedule.

2. Class participation and ethics
   - It is very important to come to class prepared to learn and participate.
   - Respect the person who is speaking. This includes me, the instructor, guest speakers, and any student who has been given “the floor”.
   - If you want to say something, please, raise your hand and wait for instructor to give you “the floor”.
   - No one in the class should be ridiculed, insulted or singled out for offering their opinion. We all are very different. If we respect these differences, they will make our joint exploration more valuable and interesting.
   - I believe that the more you participate in the class the more you learn. I encourage everyone to participate in class discussions, ask questions, comment on readings and themes discussed.

3. Reading assignments
   You should complete the readings assigned for a given date before coming to the class.

4. Missed test
   If you missed a test for a serious reason, such as documented illness or documented family emergency, contact me right away via e-mail to make appropriate arrangements. Make-up tests/exam will differ from the regular tests and must be made up within 1 week of your return to class or you will not receive credit. **If you missed a test for another reason you will not receive any credit for it.** If you have foreseeable scheduling conflicts, please alert me of this situation as soon as possible!

5. Requirements to written assignments
   All assignments should have your name printed, title of the class, date, and title of an assignment on the cover page. All pages should be stapled or sewed. The projects are due at the BEGINNING of class on the due dates listed on the course schedule.

6. Late assignments
   **I do not accept late assignments!** The only exclusions to this rule are documented cases of emergency or very unusual circumstances. You have to notify me about your circumstances on the day when assignment is due or earlier. However, even in these cases I leave myself a right to not accept your assignment if, from my perspective, described emergency or circumstances did not interfere with your ability to complete and turn in your assignment on time.

7. Disabilities
   If you need special accommodations due to any form of disability, please, (1) obtain a Student Academic Accommodation Request (SAAR) from the Disability Resources Office (ph. 294-6624; 1076 Student Services Building); (2) contact me in the beginning of the semester or as soon as
you become aware.

8. **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty**

In my experience most students approach their academic work with integrity. However, sometimes academic dishonesty or plagiarism occur. Often it happens because of lack of information. I think that familiarizing yourself with these issues may help you choose an effective and appropriate behavior when confronted with situation.

**Plagiarism** refers to borrowing thoughts or formulations of other people without citing them or giving them a credit. It is unethical. In any written material that you submit to me I want you:
- to put quotation marks (“”) around direct quote of another person’s writings and to cite the source and page number;
- to cite the source for any thoughts which you have changed and presented in your own words.

In the case of a student demonstrating any form of *academic dishonesty* university policies and procedures will be followed. Academic dishonesty may result in the “F” grade for the class (for more details see http://www.iastate.edu/~catalog/2001-03/acad-dishonest.html).

9. **Contacting instructor**

I want to make myself available to you for an individual consultation. Please, feel free to e-mail me requesting an individual meeting or just stop by during the office hours. I encourage you to ask questions, share your comments and feedback, or discuss your ideas. I am looking forward to these opportunities to talk with you.

10. **Course feedback**

I am open to the constructive feedback from you. Please, let me know how the class is going for you, what works and what does not. You can e-mail me, put a note in my mailbox, or use WebCT discussion to express your opinion. I am asking you to be respectful and specific in your reactions. Also, I will solicit feedback from the whole class twice throughout the semester.

11. **Other questions and issues**

When you encounter any issues not described above, please talk to me as soon as possible. I promise not to reprimand or criticize you but rather help you to resolve the problem.

**Evaluation**

You may earn up to 400 points in this class. I will not curve test grades. If you are not strong on multiple choice tests, do your best to participate in the class and compensate through extra-credit. The only case in which I may consider curving the final grade is if no one in the class earns 400 pts.

The final grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>≥92</td>
<td>368-400</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-81</td>
<td>320-327</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-69</td>
<td>272-279</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82-87</td>
<td>328-351</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-71</td>
<td>280-287</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>≤59</td>
<td>≤239</td>
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### CLASS SCHEDULE*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week #</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Theme/ Assignments due</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>08/28 - 09/01</td>
<td>Models of abnormality. Clinical Assessment, diagnosis and treatment</td>
<td>CH. 3 &amp; 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>09/04 M 09/06 &amp; 09/08</td>
<td>No class (Labour Day) Stress Disorders</td>
<td>CH. 6</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>09/11 – 09/15</td>
<td>Anxiety Disorders</td>
<td>CH. 5 + paper TBA</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>09/18 M 09/20 &amp; 09/22 09/22 F</td>
<td>Test # 1  Somatoform &amp; Dissociative Disorders Journal (entries 1-5) due</td>
<td>Review CH. 1-6 + lecture notes CH. 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>09/25 – 09/29</td>
<td>Mood Disorders</td>
<td>CH. 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10/02 – 10/06</td>
<td>Treatments for Mood Disorders</td>
<td>CH. 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>10/09 &amp; 10/11 10/13 F</td>
<td>Suicide  Test # 2</td>
<td>CH. 10+ paper TBA  Review CH. 7-10 + papers + lecture notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10/16 – 10/20</td>
<td>Eating Disorders</td>
<td>CH. 11 + paper TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/23 – 10/27 10/27 F</td>
<td>Substance-Related Disorders  Journal (entries 6-10) due</td>
<td>CH. 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10/30 – 11/03</td>
<td>Schizophrenia</td>
<td>CH. 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11/06 &amp; 11/08 11/10 F</td>
<td>Treatments for Schizophrenia  Test # 3</td>
<td>CH. 15  Review CH. 11, 12, 14, 15, papers &amp; lecture notes</td>
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<td>***</td>
<td>11/20 – 11/24</td>
<td>No class (Thanksgiving break)</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>11/27 – 12/01</td>
<td>Disorders of Childhood &amp; Adolescence</td>
<td>CH. 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>12/12 T 7:30 – 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Test # 4 – Cumulative Final*  * Finals schedule is tentative. May change.</td>
<td>Review CH. 5-12, 14-17, 19, papers &amp; lecture notes</td>
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</table>

* Please, note that the schedule is tentative. Some topics may take more or less time than originally estimated. So, we will adjust the dates as we move along.