

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Division of Social Science  
SOSC2970 Abnormal Psychology  
Spring Semester 2019  
Course Syllabus

Lecturer	Teaching Assistant
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**Lecture Time:** Tue and Thur 13:30-14:50  
**Venue:** Rm 6591

### Course Description

Abnormal psychology is the scientific study of psychopathology and abnormal behavior. This course introduces theories, research methods, and the most updated research findings in the field of abnormal psychology. Students will be introduced to various types of psychological disorders, such as mood disorders, schizophrenia, anxiety disorders, somatoform disorders, etc. They will also learn about the diagnosis, causes, maintenance, and treatment of major psychological disorders from an integrative perspective.

### Learning Outcomes and Approach

After taking this course, you should be able to:

1. demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of selected theories and concepts that are of importance and interest in abnormal psychology
2. understand how clinical psychologists classify and diagnose various types of psychological disorders
3. evaluate the development and treatment of psychological disorders from an integrative perspective.
4. apply the theories and concepts to daily lives and real cases of psychological disorders. Students are expected to take part in class activities and to complete the assignments to achieve this goal.
5. analyze, synthesize, and integrate key ideas within the field in a research project they design

### Required Textbook

Sue, D., Sue, D. W., Sue, S., & Sue, D. M. (2016). *Understanding Abnormal Behavior* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). Cengage.

<http://www.cengageasia.com/Browse/2015/1/1/9781305088061>

### Suggested Reading

American Psychiatric Association (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing.

## Course Assessment

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<b>Class participation</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Quiz 1</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Quiz 2</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Group project</b>	<b>30%</b>
- <b>Presentation (20%)</b>	
- <b>Individual paper (10%)</b>	

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### 1. Class participation (10%)

- The prerequisite for class participation is attendance. You are expected to attend lectures ON TIME as late-comers may disrupt the class.
- I believe interaction between the lecturer and the students is one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. To achieve this, you are encouraged to participate actively in class activities and discussions.

### 2. Quizzes (30% each, total 60%)

- There are two quizzes to test your understanding of course materials. Quizzes are multiple-choice questions only and noncumulative. Each quiz accounts for 30% of your course grade and covers all materials in lectures and required readings. I will list the required readings in each lecture note.
- Quiz 1 is scheduled on **Mar 19, 2019** and Quiz 2 is scheduled on **May 9, 2019**.
- Arrive on time for the quizzes as no additional time will be given to students arriving late.
- No make-up quiz will be given to students who are absent from the examination unless there are validated medical reasons. You must present a written note from your doctor attesting to the fact that you were too ill to attend the quiz. This note must be presented to me within 24 hours of the quiz to arrange for a make-up quiz. All make-up quizzes will be in the form of essay questions.

### 3. Group Project (30%)

- Task: You are required to work in groups of 5-7 people to complete a group project. Your task is to investigate ONE specific psychological disorder (The disorder must be other than the ones listed in the teaching schedule). In the group project, you have to
  - describe the diagnostic criteria of the disorder
  - provide a case vignette (a celebrity or someone you know in person) of the disorder
  - identify the etiology of the disorder for the case vignette
  - suggest treatment for the case vignette

Each group has to present their project to the class.

- In addition, each student has to submit an individual paper. You have to choose a treatment approach for the disorder chosen and to evaluate its effectiveness and limitations.

### **Academic Integrity**

I expect all of you to observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (<http://www.ust.hk/vpao/integrity/student-1.html>). Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating are a serious offense and will result in a reduced or failing grade in the course. All cases will be reported to the Division. Please consult me if you are not clear about the guidelines.

### **Course Communication Platform**

All lecture materials and announcements will be posted on the CANVAS. Make sure you check the CANVAS from time to time for any updated news. Please consult the teaching assistant if you are not familiar with the system.

### **Your Feedback**

Your opinions about the course are very valuable in helping me to better improve the course. A course evaluation exercise will be held at the end of the course. You are also very much welcomed to talk to me in person.

## Teaching Schedule

Lecture	Date	Topic	Required Readings
1.	Jan 31	Introduction	Ch. 1
-	<i>Feb 5</i>	<i>Holiday - Lunar New Year</i>	-
-	<i>Feb 7</i>		
2.	Feb 12	What is Abnormality?	Ch. 1
3.	Feb 14		
4.	Feb 19	Models of Abnormal Behavior	Ch. 2
5.	Feb 21		
6.	Feb 26		
7.	Feb 28	Assessment and Diagnosis	Ch. 3
8.	Mar 5		
9.	Mar 7	Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders	Ch. 5
10.	Mar 12		
11.	Mar 14		
12.	<b>Mar 19</b>	<b>Quiz 1</b>	-
13.	Mar 21	Mood Disorders	Ch. 8
14.	Mar 26		
15.	Mar 28		
16.	Apr 2	Group Project Consultation	-
17.	Apr 4		
18.	Apr 9	Trauma and Stress-Related Disorders	Ch. 6
19.	Apr 11		
20.	Apr 16	Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders	Ch.12
-	<i>Apr 18</i>	<i>No Class – Mid Term Break</i>	-
-	<i>Apr 23</i>		
21.	Apr 25	Somatic and Dissociative Disorders	Ch. 7
22.	Apr 30		
23.	<b>May 2</b>	<b>Group Project Presentation</b>	-
24.	<b>May 7</b>		
25.	<b>May 9</b>	<b>Quiz 2</b>	-

## Important Dates

Date	Task
Feb 19	Submission of group list in class
Mar 19	Quiz 1
Mar 28	Submission of group project proposal by 11am
Apr 30	Group project PowerPoint slides & individual paper due by 11am
May 10	Groupmate evaluation forms due by 11am