

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Social Science
SOSC3900 Abnormal Psychology
Fall Semester 2020
Course Syllabus

Lecturer	Teaching Assistant
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Lecture Time: Tuesday and Thursday HKT 12:00-13:20

Zoom ID: 956 5771 3477

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* (11th ed.). Cengage.

Suggested Reading

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

Course Assessment

Quizzes	30%
Group project	40%
- Presentation and Q&A (30%)	
- Individual paper (10%)	
Film Critique	30%

1. Quizzes (15% each, total 30%)

- There are two quizzes to test your understanding of course materials. Quizzes are essay questions and noncumulative. The quizzes cover all materials in lectures and required readings. I will list the required readings in each set of lecture slides.
- Join Zoom 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 quiz 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.

2. Group Project (30%)

Tasks:

(1) Case Analysis – Presentation and Q&A (30%)

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 different from 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

(2) Individual paper (10%)

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.

3. Film critique (30%)

We often see psychological disorders depicted in films. The objective of this paper is to review and critique a film from a psychological perspective. Select a film and analyze the film based on your knowledge about psychological disorders.

Academic Integrity

I expect all of you to observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (<https://acadreg.ust.hk/generalreg.html#b>). 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.

Teaching Schedule

Lecture	Date	Topic	Required Readings
1.	Sep 8	Introduction	Ch. 1
2.	Sep 10	What is Abnormality?	Ch. 1
3.	Sep 15		
4.	Sep 17		
5.	Sep 22	Models of Abnormal Behavior	Ch. 2
6.	Sep 24		
7.	Sep 29		
8.	Oct 6	Assessment and Diagnosis	Ch. 3
9.	Oct 8	Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders	Ch. 5
10.	Oct 13		
11.	Oct 15		
12.	Oct 20	Quiz 1	-
13.	Oct 22	Mood Disorders	Ch. 8
14.	Oct 27		
15.	Oct 29		
16.	Nov 3	Group Project Consultation	-
17.	Nov 5		
18.	Nov 10	Trauma and Stress-Related Disorders	Ch. 6
19.	Nov 12		
20.	Nov 17	Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders	Ch.12
21.	Nov 19	Somatic and Dissociative Disorders	Ch. 7
22.	Nov 24		
23.	Nov 26	Quiz 2	-
24.	Dec 1	Group Project Presentation	-
25.	Dec 3		

Important Dates

Date	Task
Sep 23	Submission of group list
Oct 20	Quiz 1
Oct 30	Group project proposal due
Nov 26	Quiz 2
Nov 30	Group project PowerPoint slides & individual paper due
Dec 4	Groupmate evaluation due
Dec 11	Film critique due