PSYC 3018 – Abnormal Psychology

Unit of Study Code: PSYC3018

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Format of Unit: 2 x 1 hour lectures/week x 13 weeks
1 x 2 hour tutorial/week x 10 weeks

Credit Point Value: 6 Credit Points

Prerequisite: 12 credit points of Intermediate Psychology Unit of study from PSYC (2011 or 2111), PSYC (2012 or 2112), PSYC (2013 or 2113) and PSYC (2014 or 2114).


Assessment: a) Formal Assessment:
60% One 2hr exam
25% One 2000 word essay Due date: week 8, Thursday 21 April
10% Tutorial presentation Due dates: weeks 4-11
5% Online Quiz Due dates: week 12

b) Out of class prescribed student workload
2hr/wk library research (essay & tutorial presentation)

Evaluation of teaching and learning: Date: week 13 of semester
Type: questionnaire

Unit of study general description:
This unit of study critically examines core issues in Abnormal Psychology. These include the conceptual and theoretical bases of the definition and classification of abnormal behaviours, as well as the diagnosis, explanation and treatment of psychological disorders.
The unit of study will include topics such as:

(a) Adult abnormal psychology: Anxiety disorders, Mood disorders, Schizophrenia, Personality disorders; Addictive disorders; Eating disorders
(b) Child abnormal psychology: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; Conduct disorder; Anxiety disorders, Depression.

Graduate Attributes and Student Learning Outcomes

This course is structured around the graduate attributes associated with the scientist-practitioner model, the basis for the training of psychologists in Australia and internationally. Graduate Attributes are the generic skills, abilities and qualities that students should acquire during their university experience and the School of Psychology is committed to providing an environment to promote these skills. This unit of study will provide students with generalised and transferable skills that will also be useful in careers outside psychology. The following graduate attributes and student learning outcomes will be developed through the course and assessed primarily in the major essay, tutorial quiz, student presentations, and exam.

1: Knowledge and Understanding of Abnormal Psychology

Display knowledge and understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and empirical findings in research on abnormal psychology.

Student learning outcomes:
(ii) Ability to describe, explain and evaluate major theories and research studies examining the definition, causes and treatment of various psychological disorders, including Mood disorders, Anxiety disorders; Addictive disorders; Eating disorders, Schizophrenia, and Personality disorders in adults.
(ii) Ability to describe, explain and evaluate major theories and research studies examining the definition, causes and treatment of common childhood disorders, including Mood disorders, Anxiety disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Conduct disorder.

2: Research Methods in Abnormal Psychology

Understand and evaluate basic research methods used in Abnormal Psychology, including research design, data analysis and interpretation, and the appropriate use of technologies.

Student learning outcomes:
(i) To develop a critical understanding of the major methods of research in these areas.
(ii) To interpret statistical analyses.
(iii) Use web-search, word-processing, database, and email programs.

3: Critical Thinking Skills in Abnormal Psychology

Respect and use critical and creative thinking, sceptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to thought and behaviour.

Student learning outcomes:
(i) Demonstrate an attitude of critical thinking that includes persistence, open-mindedness, and intellectual engagement.
(ii) Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation.
(iii) Use reasoning and evidence to recognise, develop, defend, and criticise arguments.

4: Values in Abnormal Psychology

Value empirical evidence; act ethically and professionally; and understand the complexity of sociocultural and international diversity.

Student learning outcomes:
(i) Recognise and respect social, cultural, linguistic, spiritual and gender diversity.
(ii) Use information in an ethical manner (e.g., acknowledge and respect the work and intellectual property rights of others through appropriate citations in oral and written communication)
(iv) Be able to recognise and promote ethical practice in research.
(v) Promote evidence-based approaches to understanding behaviour.

5: Communication Skills in Abnormal Psychology

Communicate effectively in a variety of formats and in a variety of contexts

Student learning outcomes:
(i) Write a standard literature review or case report using American Psychological Association (APA) structure and formatting conventions.
(iii) Demonstrate effective oral communication skills in various formats (e.g., debate, group discussion, presentation) and for various purposes.
(iv) Collaborate effectively, demonstrating an ability to: work with groups to complete projects within reasonable timeframes; manage conflicts appropriately and ethically.

6: The Application of Abnormal Psychology

Understand and apply psychological principles to personal and social issues.

Student learning outcomes:
(i) To develop an awareness of the applications of the theories and research findings of Abnormal Psychology in society.
(ii) To develop an ability to critically evaluate media representations of mental health issues in society.

Evidence of learning:

During the semester, the learning outcomes will be assessed through participation in tutorial discussions, presentation, online quiz, and the written assignment. At the end of semester, a multiple-choice + short answer exam will assess all learning outcomes, including all lecture, tutorial and set reading material.
PSYC3018 Abnormal Psychology will introduce students to recent knowledge concerning the diagnosis, causation and treatment of mental disorders. The following lecture outline contains the entire syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tutorial topic</th>
<th>Lecture topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>01/03</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>What is Abnormal Psychology?</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>03/03</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Classification and Diagnosis 1.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>08/03</td>
<td>1. What is ‘abnormal’?</td>
<td>Classification and Diagnosis 2.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/03</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Psychotherapy evaluation.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15/03</td>
<td>No tutorial: prepare presentations</td>
<td>Anxiety Disorders 1.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17/03</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Anxiety Disorders 2.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>22/03</td>
<td>2. Diagnosis</td>
<td>Anxiety Disorders 3.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<td></td>
<td>24/03</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Anxiety Disorders 4.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>29/03</td>
<td>3. Anxiety Disorders</td>
<td>Mood Disorders 1: Depression</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<td></td>
<td>31/03</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Mood Disorders 2: Depression</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>05/04</td>
<td>4. Depression</td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology 1.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<td></td>
<td>07/04</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology 2.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<td></td>
<td>14/04</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Eating Disorders 1: Anorexia Nervosa</td>
<td>Evelyn S</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>19/04</td>
<td>No tutorial: ESSAY DUE</td>
<td>Eating Disorders 2: Bulimia Nervosa</td>
<td>Evelyn S</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21/04</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Eating Disorders 2: Binge eating</td>
<td>Evelyn S</td>
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<td>Mid-session break: Friday 22 April to Friday 29 April</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>03/05</td>
<td>6. Eating Disorders</td>
<td>Addictive Behaviours 1.</td>
<td>Catalina L</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>05/05</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Addictive Behaviours 2.</td>
<td>Catalina L</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10/05</td>
<td>7. Addictive behaviours</td>
<td>Sexual Dysfunctions 1.</td>
<td>Catalina L</td>
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<td>12/05</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Sexual Dysfunctions 2.</td>
<td>Catalina L</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>17/05</td>
<td>8. Psychosis</td>
<td>Mood Disorders 3: Bipolar Disorder</td>
<td>Catalina L</td>
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<td>19/05</td>
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<td>Schizophrenia 1.</td>
<td>Catalina L</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>24/05</td>
<td>9. Personality disorders</td>
<td>Schizophrenia 2.</td>
<td>Catalina L</td>
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<td></td>
<td>26/05</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Personality Disorders 1.</td>
<td>Niko T</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>31/06</td>
<td>10. Revision / feedback</td>
<td>Personality Disorders 2.</td>
<td>Niko T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>02/06</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Personality Disorders 3.</td>
<td>Niko T</td>
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The tutorial program will begin in week 2. It will involve a mixture of class exercises, video demonstrations and discussions of topics related to lectures. Tutorial presentations of set readings by students will form an integral part of tutorials from week 3 to week 12. A list of set readings and additional references will be available in the first tutorial.
**School of Psychology Plagiarism Policy information for Students**

**Plagiarism is not permitted**

i) Are you sure you know what plagiarism is?
Please refer to the University policy on plagiarism:


ii) The School of Psychology will penalise all submitted work that is plagiarised;

iii) The School of Psychology is using software to detect all forms of plagiarism.

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**Diagram:**

- **PLAGIARISM**
  - More than 50% plagiarised
    - Unit Coordinator ensures that the student receives no marks for submitted work and requests a resubmission for a mark of zero
  - Less than 50% plagiarised
    - Tutor/marker ignores plagiarised section(s) and marks remainder of submitted work, plus 10% penalty
Research and resource support for Psychology students

The University of Sydney Library has 12 libraries in different locations, on different subjects with different facilities. Fisher Library is where you will find the physical collection of most relevance to your Psychology studies. Fisher Library is located on Eastern Ave, Camperdown campus. We also have loads available online – find us at sydney.edu.au/library/

You can contact your Psychology Faculty Liaison Librarian at library.psychology@sydney.edu.au <mailto:library.psychology@sydney.edu.au> . The Psychology Librarian is located at Badham Library, level 1, Badham Building, Science Rd, Camperdown Campus. You can phone 91141292 or send an email psychology.library@sydney.edu.au

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