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).

Textbook:

Assessment:
a) Formal Assessment:
  50% One 2hr exam During sem1 examination period
  30% One 2000 word essay Due date: 02/05/14 (Friday week 8)
  15% Tutorial presentation Due date: weeks 5-7 in tutorials
  5% Online Quiz Due date: 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, concerning the description, explanation and treatment of psychological disorders. The unit of study will include topics such as:
(a) Adult abnormal psychology: Anxiety disorders (specific phobias, panic disorder, generalised anxiety disorder, OCD); Addictive disorders (drug, alcohol, gambling); Eating disorders (anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa); Mood disorders (dysthymia, major depressive disorder, cyclothymia, bipolar disorder); Schizophrenia, Personality disorders.
(b) Child abnormal psychology: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity disorder; Conduct disorder; Anxiety disorders, Depression.

Lecture times and locations:

Tuesdays at 2-3 pm in Wallace Lecture Theatre
Thursdays at 1-2 pm in Easter Avenue Auditorium

Lecture slides will be posted on Blackboard, and echo360 will be used to record the lectures. However, we strongly encourage you to attend all lectures. Lecture recordings are not guaranteed, as technical problems can occur at any time. Therefore, lecture recordings should not be used as a substitute for regular attendance.

Tutorials:

The tutorial program will begin in week 2. It will involve a mixture of class exercises, video demonstrations, student-led presentations, and class discussions. A list of set readings and additional references will be available in the first tutorial in week 2.

Tutorials are an essential and compulsory part of this course. Therefore, your attention is drawn to the following:

1. **Your tutorial time.** You must attend the tutorial to which you have been allocated. It will not be possible to switch or change tutorial classes once allocations are finalised. Be aware that late enrolments have fewer choices of times, and students may not be able to sign up for the time of their choice.

2. **Tutorial attendance.** Attendance will be recorded at the beginning of every tutorial class.

3. **Missing tutorials.** Inadequate attendance (less than 80%) may result in failure to pass the course.

4. **Tutorial content.** Due to the nature of the core concepts and topics, some classes may be disturbing for some students. If this is the case, it is important that you contact the course coordinator, or another member of the team as soon as possible to discuss this with them. You are not required to share confidential information with us if you don't wish to; however, as the content of the tutorials is examinable it is important for you that we can assign you comparable reading and study materials. If you attend the tutorial but at any point you feel distressed, you are free to leave the tutorial, after indicating this to your tutor. You will need to contact one of the lecturing staff after the tutorial so that you can be assigned comparable readings and study materials.
# CURRICULUM and IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tutorial topic</th>
<th>Lecture topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>04/03</td>
<td></td>
<td>What is Abnormal Psychology?</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>06/03</td>
<td></td>
<td>Classification and Diagnosis 1.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11/03</td>
<td>1. Introduction</td>
<td>Classification and Diagnosis 2.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13/03</td>
<td></td>
<td>Psychotherapy evaluation - ethics.</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>18/03</td>
<td>2. Diagnosis &amp; Ethics</td>
<td>Anxiety and Related Disorders</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20/03</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anxiety and Related Disorders</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>25/03</td>
<td>3. Anxiety Disorders</td>
<td>Anxiety and Related Disorders</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27/03</td>
<td></td>
<td>Major Depression</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>01/04</td>
<td>4. In-class presentations</td>
<td>Major Depression</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>03/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: Depression</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>08/04</td>
<td>5. In-class presentations</td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: Anxiety</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bipolar Disorder</td>
<td>Alex B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>15/04</td>
<td>6. In-class presentations</td>
<td>Schizophrenia /psychosis</td>
<td>Alex B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Personality Disorders</td>
<td>Evelyn S</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**18-25 April: Easter break**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tutorial topic</th>
<th>Lecture topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>29/04</td>
<td>NO TUTORIAL CLASS Essay due 4pm Friday 2\textsuperscript{nd} May</td>
<td>Personality Disorders</td>
<td>Evelyn S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>01/05</td>
<td></td>
<td>Addictive Behaviours</td>
<td>Alex B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>06/05</td>
<td>7. Gambling &amp; Addiction</td>
<td>Addictive Behaviours</td>
<td>Alex B</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>08/05</td>
<td></td>
<td>Eating Disorders 1: Anorexia Nervosa</td>
<td>Evelyn S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>13/05</td>
<td>8. Eating Disorders</td>
<td>Eating Disorders 2: Bulimia Nervosa</td>
<td>Evelyn S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15/05</td>
<td>NOTE: Presentation marks released 4pm 16/05.</td>
<td>Eating Disorders 3: Binge Eating</td>
<td>Evelyn S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>20/05</td>
<td>9. Childhood Disorders</td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: ADHD</td>
<td>David H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22/05</td>
<td></td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: Conduct problems</td>
<td>David H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>27/05</td>
<td>NO TUTORIAL CLASS Week 12 online quiz available</td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: Treatment of ADHD and Conduct problems</td>
<td>David H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>29/05</td>
<td>NOTE: Essay marks released 4pm Fri 30/05/2014. No essays accepted after this time.</td>
<td>Transdiagnostic approaches: The example of anger</td>
<td>Marianna S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>03/06</td>
<td>10. Revision / feedback</td>
<td>Alternatives to individual psychopathology</td>
<td>Paul R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>05/06</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marital &amp; Family Dysfunction</td>
<td>Paul R</td>
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**9 – 13 June: STUVAC**

**16 – 28 June: EXAMS**

**NOTE:** No alternative essays accepted after the date of the PSYC3018 exam
FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ASSESSMENT SUBMISSIONS:

There are four main assessment components for PSYC3018: a written assignment, tutorial presentation, online quiz, and a final examination. The following table shows the percentage contribution of each assessment to your final mark.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>% Assessment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignment (Essay)</td>
<td>4pm Friday 2nd May (Week 8)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Presentation</td>
<td>Weeks 5 - 7</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quiz</td>
<td>Week 12 (9am Mon - 4pm Fri)</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2hr Exam</td>
<td>During exam period</td>
<td>50%</td>
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NOTE: If you do not submit a serious attempt on your tutorial presentation, written assignment or final exam, you will receive an Absent Fail grade for the entire course.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT: ESSAY (30% IN TOTAL)
You must submit a 2000 word essay by 4 pm on Friday the 2nd of May 2014 (week 8). The essay question and marking criteria will be available in week 4. You will submit your assignment online. It will be marked online, and returned to you with comments online. For detailed instructions about how to submit your assignment online, please see the School of Psychology Student Guide.

Penalties applying to the late submission of written assignments:

| Assignment submitted late, up to 7 days late (i.e. 1 second after 4pm on 2/5/14 to 4pm on 9/5/14) | -10 marks deducted from raw mark |
| Assignment submitted 7 to 14 days late (i.e. 1 second after 4pm on 9/5/14 to 4pm on 16/5/14)       | -20 marks deducted from raw mark |
| Assignment submitted 14 to 21 days late (i.e. 1 second after 4pm on 16/5/14 to 4pm on 23/5/14)    | -30 marks deducted from raw mark |
| Assignment submitted 21 to 28 days late (i.e. 1 second after 4pm on 23/5/14 to 4pm on 30/5/14)    | A mark of ZERO will be awarded. |
| No assignment submitted until 4pm on 30/5/14                                                   | No mark will be awarded. The topic for an alternative assignment must be requested from psychology.info@sydney.edu.au to avoid AF (absent fail) for the entire course. |
| No assignment (or alternative) submitted by the day of the PSYC3018 exam                        | AF (absent fail) for PSYC3018 |

If you suffer illness or misadventure while completing your assignment, apply for special consideration within five working days of the due. See the School of Psychology Student Guide for further details.

The above penalties may be modified by a successful application for SPECIAL CONSIDERATION. However, this does not apply to the final possible submission date and time of 4pm, 30/5/2014 for the original assignment topic. All assignments must be received by 4pm on 30/5/2014, because assignments on the same topic will be returned to students at this time.

If you still have not completed and submitted an essay by 4pm, 30/05/2014, you must request an alternative assignment topic from psychology.info@sydney.edu.au. A 2000-word essay on this alternative topic must be submitted by the day of the PSYC3018 exam (date to be advised) to avoid AF (absent fail) for the entire course. A mark of ZERO will be awarded for the alternative essay if it is deemed to be a 'serious attempt' by the unit coordinator.
TUTORIAL PRESENTATIONS (15% IN TOTAL)

Student presentations will take place in weeks 5, 6, and 7. Two groups of students will present a debate, on a different topic in each week. Topics will be discussed and allocated to students in the first tutorial in week 2. Criteria for assessing the presentations will also be available in the first tutorial in week 2. Follow these criteria when preparing your presentations.

The maximum time allocated for each group’s presentation is 40 minutes. Do not go over your set time limit. Your presentation will be stopped after a warning.

Tutorial presentations are a compulsory part of assessment for PSYC3018. If you do not participate in the presentations, you may fail the entire course.

If you suffer illness or misadventure close to the time of your presentation, you may apply for special consideration within five working days of your presentation date. Please see the School of Psychology Student Guide for further details.

It is not possible to repeat or reschedule tutorial presentations, or to change your mark as a result of your illness or misadventure. However, an alternative written assignment in lieu of the presentation may be available to students whose application for Special Consideration is successful. These written assignments will need to discuss BOTH sides of the debate on the same topic and to cite additional references. The due date for this alternative assignment will be set after considering the nature and extent of the students’ illness/misadventure. However, this does not apply to the final possible submission date and time of 4pm, 16/5/2014. Presentation marks will be returned to students at this time, and no written assignment on the tutorial debate topic will be accepted after this time.

If you still have not submitted an essay in lieu of your tutorial presentation by 4pm, 16/5/2014, you must request an alternative written assignment topic from psychology.info@sydney.edu.au. A 1500-word essay on this alternative topic must be submitted by the day of the PSYC3018 exam (date to be advised) to avoid AF (absent fail) for the entire course. A mark of ZERO will be awarded for the essay if it is deemed to be a ‘serious attempt’ by the unit coordinator.

ONLINE QUIZ (5% IN TOTAL)

In week 12, a short multiple choice online quiz will be available on Blackboard. Its main purpose is to provide you with feedback on how well you have learnt the material so far, and to give you an indication of the sorts of questions you might encounter in the exam.

The quiz will be available on Blackboard for one week only. It will go online at 9 am Monday 26/5/2014 and close at 4pm Friday 30/5/2014 (week 12). It is your responsibility to ensure you can access Blackboard during week 12 and complete the quiz. You will have an opportunity to complete the quiz up to 3 times, and the mark you achieve on your LAST attempt will stand. You will receive more information about the quiz in the first tutorial, in week 2.

If you suffer illness or misadventure for the WHOLE of week 12 and are therefore unable to complete the quiz, you may apply for special consideration and sit an alternative quiz. See the School of Psychology Student Guide for further details. Note that the quiz is NOT a compulsory part of assessment: if you do not complete the quiz you will NOT fail the entire course. However, you will miss your chance to practice multiple choice questions and to receive up to 5 marks.

EXAMINATION (50% IN TOTAL)

You will sit a two hour examination during the University exam period, consisting of short-answer (60% of the exam) and multiple choice (40% of the exam) questions. The examination
will cover material from lectures, tutorials, and the textbook. More information about the exam will be available in tutorials.

**If you suffer illness or misadventure** close to the final examination, consider whether you will attempt it. If you choose to sit the exam while you are ill, you can still apply for special consideration within 5 working days of the examination date. You may be offered a supplementary exam at a later date. If you choose not to sit the exam, then apply for special consideration within 5 working days of the examination date and you may be offered a supplementary exam at a later date. We will inform you about the time and location of any supplementary exam via email. See the School of Psychology Student Guide for further details.

**STUDENT POLICIES GUIDELINES**

For information about all undergraduate student policies and guidelines, please see the School of Psychology Student Guide, which includes details about the following:

- Online assignment submission guidelines and instructions
- Special consideration (including requests for extensions)
- Disability services and how to register
- Academic dishonesty and plagiarism and how to avoid it
- Assessment re-marking and appeals
- Research and resource support for Psychology students

**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 in the major essay, tutorial presentations, mastery quiz, 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:**

(i) Describe, explain and evaluate major theories and research findings examining the definition, causes and treatment of various psychological disorders

(ii) Understand the development of current concepts in Abnormal Psychology in their historical and philosophical contexts

(iii) Understand the major concepts and findings in Abnormal psychology in the context of intercultural diversity

**Assessment:** essay (i), quiz (i), tutorial presentations (i), exam (i), (ii), (iii).

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) describe the basic characteristics of the science of Abnormal Psychology
(ii) describe and critically evaluate the research methods used in Abnormal Psychology
(iii) undertake literature searches
(iv) critically analyse theoretical and empirical studies in Abnormal Psychology

Assessment: essay (ii), (iii), (iv), tutorial presentations (ii), (iii), (iv), exam (i), (ii), (iv)

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) apply knowledge of the scientific method in thinking about problems related to Abnormal Psychology
(ii) question claims that arise from myth, stereotype, pseudoscience or untested assumptions

Assessment: essay (i), (ii), exam (i), (ii)

4: Values, research and professional ethics in Abnormal Psychology

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

Student learning outcomes:
(i) 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)
(ii) recognise and promote ethical practice in research in Abnormal Psychology.
(iii) recognise and understand the need for ethical conduct in clinical settings.

Assessment: essay (i), tutorial presentations (i)

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) formatting conventions.
(ii) Demonstrate effective oral communication skills in various formats (e.g., debate, group discussion, presentation).
(iii) Collaborate effectively, demonstrating an ability to: work with groups to complete projects within reasonable timeframes; manage conflicts appropriately and ethically.

Assessment: essay (i), tutorial presentations (ii), (iii)

6: The Application of Abnormal Psychology

Understand and apply psychological principles to personal and social issues.

Student learning outcomes:
(i) describe the profession of clinical psychology as an area of applied psychology
(ii) begin to develop an understanding of legislation relevant to the application of psychological treatments
(iii) understand consumer and carer participation in psychological care
(iv) understand the relevance of Abnormal psychology in the wider context of society
(v) demonstrate a capacity for independent learning to sustain personal and professional development in the changing world of the science and practice of psychology

Assessment: essay (v), tutorial presentations (v), quiz (v), exam (v)