# PSYC3018 – 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:  
- 50% 2hr exam* During semester 1 examination period  
- 30% 2000 word essay* Due date: 01/05/15 (BEFORE 4pm Friday week 8)  
- 15% Tutorial presentation* Due date: weeks 5-7 in tutorials  
- 5% Online Quiz Due date: week 11

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

*Completion of these assessments is compulsory to pass this unit. Students who fail to complete any of these components will receive an Absent Fail, regardless of their marks in other assessments.

**NB** It is very important that you read the general administrative guidelines for submission of written work, penalties for late work, assessment criteria, procedures for applying for extensions and special consideration in the [Undergraduate Student Guide](http://sydney.edu.au/science/psychology/current_students/doc/Psych_UG_Student_Guide.pdf) available on eLearning or via the link below:
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Note that students who apply for and are granted either special arrangements or special consideration for examinations in units offered by the Faculty of Science will be expected to sit any replacement assessments in the two weeks immediately following the end of the formal examination period. Later dates for replacement assessments may be considered where the application is supported by appropriate documentation and provided that adequate resources are available to accommodate any later date.

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. Beginning with an exploration of how mental disorders are classified and diagnosed, this unit will then discuss what is known about the causes, prevalence and treatments of each of the main psychological disorders (e.g., depression, anxiety, schizophrenia – see page 5). Biological, psychological and social theories that try to account for these disorders will be explored and, where available, empirical evidence supporting these theories will be discussed.

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This unit 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 unit 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), (iii), 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)

Syllabus

The unit of study will introduce current concepts in Abnormal Psychology, starting with a discussion on the historical and philosophical contexts that have led to how ‘abnormal’ behaviour is defined and mental disorders are diagnosed today. Theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence on the nature, cause, treatment and maintenance of psychopathology will be critically examined for each of the following topics:

(a) Adult abnormal psychology: Anxiety disorders (specific phobias, panic disorder, generalised anxiety disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder); Mood disorders (dysthymia, major depressive disorder, cyclothymia, bipolar disorder); Eating disorders (anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating); Addictive disorders (drug, alcohol, gambling); Schizophrenia; Personality disorders; and Sexual dysfunction.

(b) Child abnormal psychology: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity disorder; Conduct disorder; Anxiety disorders; Depression.

While the unit of study will focus mainly on individual psychopathology, alternative frameworks that consider the systems in which an individual operates will also be considered.

Also see LECTURE/TUTORIAL Schedule on page 5.
Lecture times and locations: Tuesdays at 2-3 pm and Thursdays at 1-2 pm, both in Eastern 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 unit. 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 unit.

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 unit 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wk</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tutorial topic</th>
<th>Lecture topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>What is Abnormal Psychology?</td>
<td>Ilona</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Classification and Diagnosis</td>
<td>Ilona</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10/3</td>
<td>1. Introduction</td>
<td>Psychotherapy evaluation - ethics</td>
<td>Ilona</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anxiety and Related Disorders</td>
<td>Ilona</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>17/3</td>
<td>2. Diagnosis &amp; Ethics</td>
<td>Anxiety and Related Disorders</td>
<td>Ilona</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Anxiety and Related Disorders</td>
<td>Ilona</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>24/3</td>
<td>3. Anxiety Disorders</td>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>Catalina</td>
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<td></td>
<td>26/3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>Catalina</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>31/3</td>
<td>4. In-class presentations</td>
<td>Child abnormal Psychology: Anxiety</td>
<td>Lisa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Child abnormal Psychology: Depression</td>
<td>Lisa</td>
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<td>3-10 April: Semester Break</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>14/4</td>
<td>5. In-class presentations</td>
<td>Eating Disorders: Anorexia Nervosa</td>
<td>Lisa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>16/4</td>
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<td>Eating Disorders: Bulimia Nervosa</td>
<td>Lisa</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>21/4</td>
<td>6. In-class presentations</td>
<td>Eating Disorders: Binge Eating</td>
<td>Lisa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>23/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bipolar and Related Disorders</td>
<td>Ilona</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>28/4</td>
<td>NO TUTORIAL CLASS</td>
<td>Schizophrenia /Psychosis</td>
<td>Alex</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30/4</td>
<td>Essay due BEFORE 4pm Friday 1\textsuperscript{st} May</td>
<td>Personality Disorders</td>
<td>Alex</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>5/5</td>
<td>7. Eating Disorders</td>
<td>Personality Disorders</td>
<td>Alex</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7/5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Addictive Behaviours: Gambling</td>
<td>Alex</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>12/5</td>
<td>8. Gambling &amp; Addiction</td>
<td>Addictive Behaviours: Substance</td>
<td>Alex</td>
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<td></td>
<td>14/5</td>
<td>NOTE: Presentation marks released 4pm Fri 15\textsuperscript{th} May.</td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: ADHD</td>
<td>David</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>19/5</td>
<td>NO TUTORIAL CLASS</td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: Conduct problems</td>
<td>David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21/5</td>
<td>Online quiz available</td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: Treatment of ADHD and Conduct problems</td>
<td>David</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>26/5</td>
<td>9. Childhood Disorders</td>
<td>Health psychology: Adjustment to illness</td>
<td>Ilona</td>
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<td></td>
<td>28/5</td>
<td>NOTE: Essay marks released 4pm Fri 29\textsuperscript{th} May. No essays accepted after this time.</td>
<td>Sexual Dysfunctions</td>
<td>Catalina</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2/6</td>
<td>10. Revision / feedback</td>
<td>Alternatives to individual psychopathology</td>
<td>Paul</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marital &amp; Family Dysfunction</td>
<td>Paul</td>
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<td>8-12 June: STUVAC</td>
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<td>15-26 June: EXAMS</td>
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FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ASSESSMENT SUBMISSIONS:

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT: ESSAY (30% IN TOTAL)
You must submit a 2000 word essay BEFORE 4 pm on Friday the 1st of May 2015 (week 8). The essay question and marking criteria will be available in week 2. 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 Undergraduate Student Guide.

If you still have not completed and submitted an essay BEFORE 4pm, 29/5/2015, you will be offered an alternative assignment. 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 unit. 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 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 Undergraduate 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, 15/5/2015. 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 BEFORE 4pm, 15/5/2015, you will be offered an alternative assignment. 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 unit. 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 11, 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 18/5/2015 and close at 4pm Friday 22/5/2015 (week 11). It is your responsibility to ensure you can access Blackboard during week 11 and complete the quiz. You will have an opportunity to complete the quiz up to three 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 11 and are therefore unable to complete the quiz, you may apply for special consideration and sit an alternative quiz. See the School of Psychology Undergraduate 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 unit. However, you will forfeit 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 five 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 five 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 Undergraduate Student Guide for further details.