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).

Time Commitment: 4 hours face-to-face teaching per week, 8 hours private study per week

Lecture attendance: Required. 80% recommended to pass the unit. Lectures are audio-recorded and lecture slides are posted online.

Tutorial attendance: Required. 80% recommended to pass the unit. Tutorial attendance recorded.

Assessment: Formal Assessment:
50% 2hr exam During semester 1 examination period
30% 2000 word essay Due date: 29 April (Friday week 8)
15% Tutorial presentation Due date: weeks 7, 9, and 10 in tutorials
5% Online Quiz Due date: week 11
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 presentation, 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 in order 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 of 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 and related disorders; trauma- and stress-related disorders; depressive and bipolar disorders (dysthymia, major depressive disorder, cyclothymia, bipolar disorder); eating disorders (anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating); addictive disorders (drug, alcohol, gambling); schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders; personality disorders; and sexual dysfunctions.

(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 will be recorded. Audio recordings and lecture slides will be posted on the University Learning Management System (LMS). 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 students who enroll late have fewer choices of times, and 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.

## LECTURE & TUTORIAL TIMETABLE & Syllabus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tutorial topic</th>
<th>Lecture topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>01/03</td>
<td>What is Abnormal Psychology?</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>03/03</td>
<td>Classification and Diagnosis 1.</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>08/03</td>
<td>1. Classification, Diagnosis</td>
<td>Classification and Diagnosis 2.</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10/03</td>
<td>Anxiety Disorders</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>15/03</td>
<td>2. Anxiety disorders</td>
<td>Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17/03</td>
<td>Trauma-Related Disorders</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>22/03</td>
<td>3. Addictive disorders</td>
<td>Addictive Disorders : Substance-related</td>
<td>Alex B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24/03</td>
<td>Addictive Disorders: Gambling</td>
<td>Alex B</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>25 March – 1st April: Easter break</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>05/04</td>
<td>NO TUTORIAL CLASS</td>
<td>Eating Disorders 1: Anorexia Nervosa</td>
<td>Stephen T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>07/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Eating Disorders 2: Bulimia Nervosa</td>
<td>Stephen T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>12/04</td>
<td>4. Eating disorders</td>
<td>Eating Disorders 3: Binge Eating Disorder</td>
<td>Stephen T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Major Depression 1</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>19/04</td>
<td>5. In-class presentations</td>
<td>Major Depression 2</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>21/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: Depression</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8**</td>
<td>26/04</td>
<td>6. Childhood Disorders</td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: Anxiety</td>
<td>Marianna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28/04</td>
<td></td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: ADHD</td>
<td>Mark D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>03/05</td>
<td>7. In-class presentations</td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: Conduct</td>
<td>Mark D</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>05/05</td>
<td></td>
<td>Child Abnormal Psychology: Treatment</td>
<td>Mark D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10/05</td>
<td>8. In class presentations</td>
<td>Bipolar and related disorders</td>
<td>Ilona J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12/05</td>
<td></td>
<td>Schizophrenia spectrum disorders</td>
<td>Ilona J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>17/05</td>
<td><strong>NO TUTORIAL CLASS : online quiz</strong></td>
<td>Personality Disorders</td>
<td>Ilona J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19/05</td>
<td></td>
<td>Personality Disorders</td>
<td>Ilona J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>24/05</td>
<td>9. Personality Disorders</td>
<td>Sexual dysfunctions</td>
<td>Ilona J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>26/05</td>
<td><strong>NOTE: essay and presentation marks released on Friday 27/05/16</strong></td>
<td>Health psychology: adjustment to illness</td>
<td>Ilona J</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31/05</td>
<td>10. feedback and revision</td>
<td>Alternatives to individual psychopathology</td>
<td>Paul R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>02/06</td>
<td></td>
<td>Marital &amp; Family Dysfunction</td>
<td>Paul R</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>6 – 10 June: STUVAC</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>13 – 25 June: EXAMS</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Anzac Day Public Holiday 25/04/2016 (Monday week 8). Tutorials are not held on Public Holidays. If you are in one of the affected tutorials please go to another tutorial session. Ask the tutor before the tutorial if you can sit in. You will find a list of tutorial times here:**

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

**Disruptions to your study**

If your assessments are disrupted by illness or misadventure or unavoidable community commitments, you can apply for special consideration. All claims for special consideration are processed by a central University unit, and will be subject to strict documentation requirements. Professional Practitioners certificates will be cross checked with medical service providers. The Unit Coordinator, lecturers and tutors cannot give informal special considerations.

If you have (or develop) a continuing issue, register with Disability Services here:


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.

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**PSYC3018 Assessment Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Closing date (no more submissions accepted)</th>
<th>% Assessment</th>
<th>Compulsory?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written assignment (Individual)</td>
<td>Online on Friday 29/04/2016</td>
<td>Friday 27/05/2016*</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Presentation (Group)</td>
<td>Weeks 7, 9, 10 – you must attend your allocated tutorial</td>
<td>Friday 27/05/2016*</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Quiz (Individual)</td>
<td>Week 11 (9am Mon – midnight Fri)</td>
<td>Marks available immediately; feedback provided in week 13 tutorial*</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Non-Compulsory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam (Individual)</td>
<td>During exam period at the end of semester</td>
<td>University Final Results Release Date</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Compulsory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 100%

*This is the last possible date for submission of the assignment with or without extensions*
Assessment standards and criteria

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT: ESSAY (30% IN TOTAL)

You must submit a 2000-word essay, due on Friday 29/04/2016 (week 8). The essay question, marking criteria, and guidelines for writing the assignment will be posted on the University Learning Management System (LMS) on Friday 11/03/2016 (week 2). You will submit your assignment online. It will be marked online, and returned to you with comments online. You will receive detailed instructions about how to submit your assignment on the University Learning Management System (LMS).

The Written Assignment is a compulsory assessment and must be:
- Within 5% of the word limit of 2000 words, not including the abstract and reference list
- On the correct topic, and in the correct APA style format
- Written wholly by you for this assignment

Otherwise it will not be considered a serious attempt. Because this is a compulsory assessment requirement, if you do not submit a serious attempt at the Written Assignment, you will receive an AF (Absent fail) for PSYC3018.

Late penalties

You will receive a penalty of 2% of the maximum value of the assignment (e.g. 2 marks / 100) for each calendar day (or part thereof) it is late, up to the closing date of the assignment (Friday 27/05/2016, week 12). No more submissions will be accepted after the closing date.

If you have not submitted an essay by the closing date (Friday 27/05/2016, week 12), you will be offered an alternative assignment topic. A 2000-word essay on this alternative topic must be submitted by the Monday after the close of the formal examination period (27th June 2016) 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 7, 9, and 10. 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 your assessment is disrupted by illness or misadventure or unavoidable community commitments, apply for Special Consideration.

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. The topic and due date for this alternative assignment will be set after considering the nature and extent of the student’s illness or misadventure. However, this does not apply to the final possible submission date of Friday 27/05/2016: 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 on Friday 27/05/2016, you will be offered an alternative assignment. A 1500-word essay on this alternative topic must be submitted by the Monday after the close of the formal examination period (27th June 2016) to avoid AF (absent fail) for the entire unit. A mark of ZERO will be awarded for the essay if it is not 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 the University Learning Management System (LMS). 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 LMS for one week only. It will go online at 9am Monday 16/05/2016 and close at midnight Friday 20/05/2016 (week 11). It is your responsibility to ensure you can access LMS 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. 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 believe that your examination performance is affected by illness or misadventure or unavoidable community commitments, apply for Special Consideration online. 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.

Assuring the Academic Integrity of PSYC3018

All written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin similarity-detecting software in this unit. If we suspect that your assignment has been written by someone else, we reserve the right to ask you to explain and defend the work you have submitted as your own, in person. If you are a commencing student at the University of Sydney, you are required to complete the Academic Honesty Education Module. Please do this before you submit any written work to any unit of study.

To assure the integrity of our final exam, replacement exams will contain different questions from the main exams.

All Special Consideration requests are now processed centrally and Professional Practitioners certificates will be cross checked with medical service providers. Keep a hard copy of all documentation you submit until you graduate.

Changes made to this unit in response to student feedback

Some of the topics in the tutorials have been replaced with alternative topics.

Data collection

Note that your participation in this unit of study permits us to use your learning analytics to be used to improve your experience of learning.