

# MALADAPTIVE BEHAVIOR AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

## SYLLABUS

Course # PC6005

Argosy University San Francisco Bay Area  
FALL I, 2006  
Donald Fallin, Psy.D.

**Class:** Psychopathology and Maladaptive Behavior  
**Program** M.A. - Counseling Psychology  
**Instructor:** Donald Fallin, Psy.D.  
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**Telephone:** 510-783-6899 (only if you do not have access to email, please)  
**Format:** Weekend/Blended  
**Class Meets:** Saturday - Sunday 9/16 - 9/17  
Saturday - Sunday 10/14 - 10/15  
**Online Component:** Approximately one hour during each week of the term

- Required Texts (2):**
1. Abnormal Psychology with MindMap II CD-ROM and PowerWeb, 5th Edition  
Richard P Halgin, UNIV OF MASS-AMHERST  
Susan Krauss Whitbourne, UNIV OF MASS-AMHERST  
Hardcover with CDROM, ©2007  
ISBN 0073228729
  2. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Test Revision: DSM-IV-TR  
Publisher: American Psychiatric Association  
ISBN: 0-89042-024-6 or 0-89042-025-4, © 2000

### **Course Description:**

This class is an introductory graduate course in psychopathology, which may be alternately referred to as “abnormal psychology” or “maladaptive behavior.” Instruction will be primarily focused on the accurate diagnosis of mental disorders and developing an adequate understanding of the differences between them. Related topics include history of diagnosis, ethical issues and socio-cultural factors in diagnosis, controversies in the field, and professional application of diagnostic knowledge.

## **Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course students should be able to:

- Recognize the signs and symptoms of mental illness, and other forms of psychological and behavioral dysfunction.
- Understand and use the DSM-IV-TR nosological system for the classification and diagnosis of psychological disorders.
- Consider the complex factors that contribute to psychological and behavioral dysfunction, including biological, developmental, psychodynamic and socio-cultural issues.
- Obtain a general understanding of the common treatments of major classes of mental illness.

## **Reading and Lecture Schedule:**

There are two required texts for this class; both are listed above. You are expected to read the Abnormal Psychology text thoroughly. The DSM-IV-TR should be read selectively, and used as a reference. You must become very familiar with its use; you need not memorize all the details of every diagnosis. Below are approximate guidelines for which text chapters correspond to the teaching outline. It is understood that, given the weekend format of the class, almost all of your preparations will be done in the weeks preceding the first and second weekends. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to choose a reading and study schedule that works for you. In the strictest sense, because there is only one exam at the end of the class, you are not “responsible” for knowing all the material until then, but you will be expected to participate in a thoughtful way throughout. Suggested reading schedules are included below. You may be asked to do some supplemental reading and discussion for the online component of the class

### **Lectures, topics, and corresponding reading for first weekend:**

Saturday 9/16 -

Introductions, Class Outline, The DSM Diagnostic System, History and Theories of Abnormality, Assessment, Disorders of Childhood, Cognitive Disorders (Sleep Disorders, Delirium, Dementia and Amnestic Disorders)

*(Abnormal Psychology, Chapters 1, 2, 4; DSM pp 1-38)*

*(Abnormal Psychology, Chapters 3, 11, 12 and corresponding DSM chapters)*

Sunday 9/17 -

Anxiety Disorders, Mood Disorders, Adjustment Disorders,

Other Conditions that May be a Focus of Clinical Attention  
(*Abnormal Psychology, Chapters 5, 8 and corresponding DSM chapters*)

**Lectures, topics, and corresponding reading for second weekend:**

Saturday 10/14 -

Psychotic Disorders (Schizophrenia), Personality Disorders, Substance-Related Disorders. Case Presentations.

(*Abnormal Psychology, Chapters 9-10 and corresponding DSM chapters*).

Sunday 10/15 - Dissociative Disorders, Sexual Disorders, Gender Identity

Disorders, Impulse-Control Disorders, Eating Disorders, Somatoform Disorders, , Legal and Ethical Issues. Final Exam Review. Case Presentations. Psychopathology Topic Paper Due. Final Exam.

(*Abnormal Psychology, Chapters 6, 13, 14, 15 and corresponding DSM chapters*)

**Course Requirements:**

Your performance will be evaluated in four ways: a written assignment, a verbal presentation, a final exam, and class participation. Because all the assignments are due at the end of the last class meeting, and the final exam will be on that day, it is suggested that you complete most or all of your work before the last weekend.

**ASSIGNMENT 1: Psychopathology Research/Topic Paper, 80 points  
(due no later than the Friday following the last class meeting).**

You will choose *one* psychological disorder from the DSM, and write a brief (approximately 5 double-spaced pages) paper addressing *at least two* topics related to the disorder.

You must address *both* of the following topics in your paper:

1. What is the etiology of this disorder? In other words, what genetic, biological, psychological or social factors cause or contribute to the development of the disorder in an individual?
2. According to current research, what treatment options or interventions are considered best for treating people with this disorder?

Your paper should include at least two references other than your textbooks. These should be books, articles or periodicals. You *may* include additional references, including websites, but at least two must be traditional format references. Your paper will be graded on following the instructions, writing clarity, and level of applied thoughtfulness. Please staple your paper, and do not include a report cover.

**ASSIGNMENT 2: Case Presentation, 60 points  
(presented to class during second weekend)**

You will be asked to present a mock clinical case to the class. The format of this presentation will be a verbal discussion of a person, including identifying information, presenting problem, history, mental status and multi-axial diagnosis. You will also write a brief report outlining the case. For your subject, you may choose a character from a well-known movie or book, or a famous historical or cultural personality. A list of possible choices will be distributed during the first class weekend. You may choose a subject from this list, or choose your own subject, with the prior approval of the instructor.

The purpose of this assignment is to expose you to the kind of critical thinking about a person that is a necessity in understanding psychopathology, and familiarize you with the DSM system of diagnosis.

More detailed instructions for this assignment will be given to you in a handout.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION: 20 points (0-5 points per class meeting)**

Because this is a high-intensity class occurring over two long weekends, attendance is critical. You are expected to attend all classes. If you are absent even once, your ability to synthesize the material will be undermined. Unless special arrangements are made ahead of time with the instructor, your final grade will be negatively impacted by any absences. You will earn up to 5 points a day for attending and participating in a meaningful way during the four class meetings.

**ONLINE INSTRUCTION: 35 points (0-5 points per weekly assignment)**

In addition, you will earn up to 5 points per week (35 points total) for your participation in the online component of the class. The 7 weekly topics are listed below (the order in which they occur may change during the semester). You are required to log on each week to participate in the online component via Embanet-Interlearn:

<http://online.argosyu.edu>. Note that the first week of "class" occurs before we actually meet in person, and that there may be one or more online assignments after the final meeting. Check with the school to confirm when the official start and end of the semester is. (Fall 2006: 9/5 through 10/25; Fall2 2006: 10/26 through 12/16)

Week 1 : Careers in counseling psychology. Explore the following website:

<http://www.psychwww.com/careers/masters.htm> and discuss your future educational and career goals.

Week 2 : Debate. Instructor will pose several debate questions online. Choose a side and respond thoughtfully to each question.

Week 3 : Case Discussion: Instructor will provide a case study. Discuss possible diagnoses.

Week 4 : Case Discussion: Instructor will provide a case study. Discuss possible

diagnoses.

Week 5 : Respond to several brief diagnostic case vignettes.

Week 6 : Exam Review. Post questions and answers with classmates about difficult or confusing material. Each student must pose three questions, and must respond thoughtfully to at least nine questions posed by other classmates. Instructor will clarify unresolved issues online or during final class weekend.

Week 7: Please read the article “Psychopathy and Antisocial Personality Disorder:” <http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/p960239.html>. Discuss online; instructor will provide a structure.

### **Final Examination, 150 points (given at end of last class meeting)**

There will be only one graded exam in this class, a comprehensive final exam at the end of the final class meeting. The exam may cover all relevant material from your texts, and any material in the instructor’s lectures. There will be both an online review and an in-class review before you take the exam. Some elements of the exam will be open-book; be sure to bring your DSM-IV-TR to class. The exam format will include a large number of multiple choice questions, at least 5 brief essay questions, and at least 1 diagnostic case vignette.

### **Grading:**

Your final course grade will be based on the following:

Psychopathology Paper	80 points (due no later than last class)
Individual Presentation	60 points (presented to class during final weekend)
Attendance and Participation	55 points (0-5 points per class, 0-5 online per week)
Comprehensive Final Exam	150 points (given at end of final weekend)
Total	345 points

Letter grades will be assigned according to a traditional percentage system. I assign Ds when appropriate, but the university may not recognize a D as a final class grade (final class grades of less than 70% may be considered failure).

### **Additional Recommended Reading:**

These are books related to psychopathology or forensics that I have personally found helpful. None are required for this class, but you may be interested in purchasing or examining them as an aide in this class and/or your degree program.

DSM-IV-TR Casebook: A Learning Companion to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision. Robert L. Spitzer (Editor), Miriam Gibbon (Editor), Andrew E. Skodol (Editor), Janet B. W. Williams (Editor), Michael B. First (Editor), Mariam Gibbon. American Psychiatric Pr; 4th edition (January 2002) ISBN: 1585620599

*Vignettes give prose examples for hundreds of difficult diagnostic situations.*

Essential Psychopathology and Its Treatment. Jerrold S. Maxmen and Nicholas G. Ward.  
W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN: 0393701735.

*The perfect companion for the DSM...discussions about all the diagnoses in DSM-IV.*

Testifying in Court: Guidelines and Maxims for the Expert Witness. Stanley L. Brodsky.  
American Psychological Association. © 1991

*A handy and user-friendly reference for anyone who may be put in the position of testifying in court.*

## **University Policies**

### **Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism**

In an effort to foster a spirit of honesty and integrity during the learning process, Argosy University requires that the submission of all course assignments represent the original work produced by that student. All sources must be documented through normal scholarly references/citations and all work must be submitted using the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition (2001)*. Washington DC: American Psychological Association (APA) format. Please refer to Appendix A in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition* for thesis and paper format. Students are encouraged to purchase this manual (required in some courses) and become familiar with its content as well as consult the Argosy University catalog for further information regarding academic dishonesty and plagiarism.

Additionally, Argosy University considers resubmission of a work produced for one course in a subsequent course or the submission of work done partially or entirely by another to be academic dishonesty. It is the student's responsibility to seek clarification from the instructor regarding how much help may be received in completing an assignment, exam or project and what sources may be used.

Scholarly writing: The faculty at Argosy University is dedicated to providing a learning environment that supports scholarly and ethical writing free from academic dishonesty and plagiarism. This includes the proper and appropriate referencing of all sources. You are responsible for maintaining an electronic copy of any work submitted, because you may be asked to submit your course assignments through "Turnitin," ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)), an online resource established to help educators develop writing/research skills and detect potential cases of academic dishonesty. Turnitin compares submitted papers to billions of pages of content and provides a comparison report to your instructor. This comparison detects papers that share common information and duplicative language.

### **ADA Policy**

It is AU/San Francisco Bay Area Campus policy not to discriminate against qualified students with a documented disability in its educational programs, activities or services. If you have a disability-related need for accommodations in this class, contact the Campus Director of Student Services at 510-215-0277.

**Your instructor is responsible for delivering this curriculum in a format that will ensure the objectives are met and measured. This can be accomplished in a variety of ways depending upon the experience, orientation, technological acumen, emphasis and preferences of the instructor as well as the resources available. Your instructor is also required to ensure that the course Outline include details regarding assignments and method of instruction.**