



PY420 – Abnormal Psychology
Fanuchãnan (August-December) 2024

Instructor:	Dr. Rita Sharma	Class Time:	MW 12:30pm - 1:50 pm
Office:	HSS 220C	Class Location:	HSS Room 203
Phone:	(671) 735-2880		

E-mail: sharmar@triton.uog.edu (please write PY420 in subject of email)

Office Hours: MW 2:00 to 3:00 pm; TTh 12:00 to 2:00 pm

Moodle Key: 

Catalog Description: This course covers the study of historical changes in theories and methods of treatment; theory of personality development; dynamics of adjustment; the symptoms, dynamics, therapy, and prognosis of various abnormal reaction patterns, both functional and organic; and modern theories and methods of diagnosis, therapy, and prevention.

Course Approach: In this course, you will gain a broad understanding of abnormal psychology, the zeitgeist and context in which abnormal behavioral is defined. We will utilize an empirical approach as well as a cultural approach to understand psychopathology. We will also look at specific psychological disorders according to The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V), including symptoms, criteria for diagnoses, and possible causes and treatments for various mental health disorders. We will discuss some culturally specific disorders while looking at the relevance of abnormal psychology across history and global cultures, in order to understand how to best diagnose, treat and prevent these conditions. You will gain a better understanding about the types of symptoms and behaviors that are associated with such disorders, including the etiology, the onset and course of illnesses, response to interventions and prognosis both in Western medicine, and global and indigenous cultures.

- *Prerequisite:* PY101, General Psychology
- *General Remarks from the Instructor:* Please approach me at any time during the course if you are having any difficulty in meeting the goals of this course so that we can work together to ensure your success.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Sue, Sue, Sue & Sue (2016). Understanding Abnormal Behavior. (11th Edition). Cengage
Additional readings may be assigned at the instructor's discretion.

Evaluation Methods

Your final grade will be based on your online class participation (i.e. discussions, debates, group exercises), response papers to films or videos, and 3 exams. The multiple activities allow you to develop a variety of skills to showcase your learning. It will be calculated as follows:

- 10% - Class Participation, Attendance, Group Activities
- 15% - Response Paper to Films, Presentations, Assignments
- 25% - Exam 1
- 25% - Exam 2
- 25% - Exam 3 - Finals Week

Grades - Numerical scores will be converted to letter grades based on the following percentages:

A+	98-100%
A	93-97%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	70-76%
D	60-69%
F	<60%

UW – Unofficial Withdraw (not recommended as it affects financial aid)

W – Withdraw (this is an official withdraw but student must submit to registrar prior to deadline; this does not affect your GPA).

Student Learning Objectives (SLO's)

COURSE-SPECIFIC STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES (SLOs):

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate the following abilities. These objectives reflect both national and UOG standards: aligning with learning outcomes endorsed by the Psychology Program and by the University of Guam.

- 1) Identify and describe the main characteristics of a disorder when given a description of an individual's symptoms and other background information.
- 2) Analyze, evaluate, and compare major models of abnormal behavior, and how those models are reflected in the etiology (causes) of disorders and treatments of disorders.
- 3) Understand and analyze research (e.g. original research studies, summaries of research, specific data or observations) in abnormal psychology, with particular attention to the nature and quality of research studies in the field, the role of theory in interpreting data, and the role of data in evaluating and refining theoretical positions and arguments. Understand how research

guides us to evaluate treatment approaches and decide which are the most effective. Specifically, we will focus on models, research designs (correlational, experimental), aspects of experimental designs (random assignment, independent and dependent variables), and the relationship between random sampling and generalization.

- 4) Formulate logical and organized arguments and conclusions based on analysis of theories and/or research data.
- 5) Critically evaluate how multiple perspectives, from genetics to culture and other contextual variables, influence the diagnosis, etiology, and treatment of mental disorders.

PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM SLOs:

The student learning objectives for the Psychology Program are articulated with those of the American Psychological Association. Graduating students will demonstrate that they have:

- 1) Developed a broad and deep knowledge base in Psychology.
- 2) Acquired and can appropriately apply knowledge of psychological research skills.
- 3) Acquired and can appropriately apply critical thinking skills in Psychology.
- 4) Developed competence in making appropriate applications of Psychology.
- 5) Acquired and can appropriately apply the values of Psychology.
- 6) Developed competence in information and technology literacy.
- 7) Developed competence in communication skills.
- 8) Acquired and can appropriately apply sociocultural and international awareness.
- 9) Acquired effective personal development skills.
- 10) Acquired knowledge and competence in career planning and development.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM SLOs:

Some of the expected fundamental knowledge, skills, and values that the University of Guam student will have demonstrated upon completion of *any* degree are:

- 1) Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving.
- 2) Mastery of quantitative analysis.
- 3) Effective oral and written communication.
- 4) Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context.
- 5) Responsible use of knowledge, natural resources, and technology.
- 6) An appreciation of the arts and sciences.
- 7) An interest in personal development and lifelong learning.

University of Guam Policies

ADA Accommodation Services

For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), if you are a **student** with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Disability Support Services Office to discuss your confidential request. A Faculty Notification letter from the Disability Support Services/Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodation counselor will be provided to me. To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit Sallie S. Sablan, DSS counselor in the School of Education, office 110, disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/TDD 671-735-2460.

EEO/ADA & Title IX Office

The University is committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our community. Federal and local laws protect the University community from any act of sex discrimination. Such acts violate the essential dignity of our community members. If you need assistance with EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) and/or Title IX concerns, please contact the Director of EEO/ADA & TITLE IX Office at 671-735-2244, 671-735-2971, TDD 671-735-2243 or eeo-ada@triton.uog.edu.

Student Evaluation of Faculty Information

The student course and faculty evaluations for courses will be administered at the completion of the semester within CollegeNet. Student participation is essential and appreciated. Student responses are anonymous and cannot be traced back to individual students. You will need your WebAdvisor login credentials to complete the evaluation.

COVID Statement

The University of Guam is experiencing continued disruption to delivery of instruction during the global coronavirus pandemic. The University will follow executive orders and may be forced to close again, causing more modifications as the semester progresses. All changes will be posted on the UOG website, www.uog.edu. Other support resources are listed below:

- Contact Office of Information Technology at 735-2630 or oit@triton.uog.edu
- Contact the Triton Advising Center at 735 – 2271 or tac@triton.uog.edu
- Contact Uplift Counseling Services at 787-7978 or uplift@westcare.com
- Contact Project Tulaika Mental Health Services at 647-5317; 647-1901; 647-5440; 647-8833/34 or care@gbhwc.guam.gov; GBHWC crisis hotline 988

Tobacco-Free/Smoke-Free Policy

UOG is a tobacco-free/smoke-free campus. Thank you for not using tobacco products on campus, for helping to fight cancer, and for helping to make UOG a healthy learning environment.

No Recording Policy

Recording of class meetings is not allowed. Not only is the delivery of course content the intellectual property of the instructor, but students enrolled in the course have privacy rights. Unauthorized recording and distribution of courses may violate federal law.

Plagiarism Policy

The term “plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the use, by paraphrase or direct quotation, of the published or unpublished work of another person without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials (UOG Student Handbook, p. 49). Cases of plagiarism are referred to the Student Discipline and Appeals Committee. In this course the penalties for plagiarism may include: (1) no credit for the assignment, or (2) failure in the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Date	Day	Weekly Topic and Chapter Reading	Chapter
8/14	Wed	<i>Introductions; Course Overview</i>	
8/19	Mon	Introduction to Abnormal Behavior	Ch. 1
8/21	Wed	Understanding and Treating Mental Disorders	Ch. 2
8/26	Mon	Understanding and Treating Mental Disorders	Ch. 2
8/28	Wed	Assessment and Classification of Mental Disorders	Ch. 3
9/2	Mon	LABOR DAY – NO CLASSES	
9/4	Wed	Anxiety and Related Disorders, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	Ch. 5
9/9	Mon	Anxiety and Related Disorders, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder	Ch. 5
9/11	Wed	Depression, Bipolar, and Other Mood Disorders	Ch. 8
9/16	Mon	Depression, Bipolar, and Other Mood Disorders	Ch. 8
9/18	Wed	<i>Silver Lining Playbook Film</i>	
9/23	Mon	<i>Silver Lining Playbook Film Continued</i>	
9/25	Wed	EXAM 1 (CHAPTER 1, 2, 3, 5, 8)	
9/30	Mon	Trauma And Stress Related Disorders <i>Film Paper Due</i>	Ch. 6
10/2	Wed	Trauma and Stress Related Disorders <i>Handout for Group Presentations</i>	Ch. 6
10/7- 10/12		FANUCHANAN BREAK – NO CLASSES!	
10/14	Mon	Eating Disorders	Ch. 10
10/16	Wed	Eating Disorders	Ch 10
10/21	Mon	Substance Abuse and Related Disorders	Ch. 11
10/23	Wed	Schizophrenia And Other Psychotic Disorders	Ch. 12
10/28	Mon	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders	Ch. 12
10/30	Wed	Exam 2 (6, 10, 11, And 12)	
11/4	Mon	<i>Group presentations</i>	
11/6	Wed	<i>Group presentations</i>	
11/11	Mon	VETERAN'S DAY – NO CLASSES	
11/13	Wed	Neurocognitive And Sleep Wake Disorders	Ch 13
11/18	Mon	Neurocognitive And Sleep Wake Disorders	Ch 13
11/20	Wed	Sexual Dysfunctions, Paraphilia; Gender Dysphoria	Ch.14

11/25	Mon	Personality Disorders	Ch. 15
11/27	Wed	Personality Disorders	Ch. 15
12/2	Mon	Neurodevelopmental Disorders (Autism Spectrum Disorder, ADHD)	Ch. 16
12/4	Wed	Course wrap up; Careers in psychology (Last day of class)	
12/9	Mon	OUR LADY OF CAMARIN DAY – NO CLASSES	
12/11	Wed	Final Exam (Chapters 13, 14, 15 and 16)	