

**PSCH 270: Abnormal Psychology  
Fall 2021**

**Professor:** Dr. Michael Meinzer  
**Class Time:** 3:30pm – 4:45 pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays  
**Place:** Virtual Classroom via Blackboard Collaborate  
**E-mail:** [mmeinzer@uic.edu](mailto:mmeinzer@uic.edu)\*  
*\*When emailing Dr. Meinzer, Please CC TAs (Nellie and Logan) on ALL correspondence*  
**Office Hours:** Via Zoom Tuesdays, 2:00-3:30 – by appointment only\*\*  
<https://uic-phi.zoom.us/j/84522189873?pwd=cWw3Qm9tQkJMRktPcHR5VjdPR0gydz09>

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

**Nellie Shippen** (email: [nshipp2@uic.edu](mailto:nshipp2@uic.edu))  
Office hours: Thursday 1:00-2:00  
<https://uic-phi.zoom.us/j/88904093536?pwd=Ynk1eUc1dGloUkJ3UIViRytPWXU1dz09>

**Logan Tufty** (email: [lschwa22@uic.edu](mailto:lschwa22@uic.edu))  
Office hours: Wednesday 10:00-11:00  
<https://uic-phi.zoom.us/j/3352709498?pwd=a0VnQU05YjYvdENEZjdoczA0N3I3Zz09>

*\*\*Dr. Meinzer and your TAs (Nellie and Logan) will log into office hours only when a student emails that they will be attending ahead of time. You MUST make an appointment for office hours\*\**

REQUIRED TEXT: Nolen-Hoeksema, S. (2020). Abnormal Psychology, 8th Edition. McGraw Hill Education. W.W. Norton & Company. ISBN-13: 978-1260500189

CORRESPONDENCE: I ask that you send all correspondence via email NOT through blackboard. When contacting me, I also ask that you CC both TAs on all correspondence. Thank you!

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course provides students with a broad overview of various maladaptive behavior patterns with a focus on diagnostic criteria, etiology, and treatment. Throughout this course, an emphasis will be placed on helping students understand that individuals are neither “normal” nor “abnormal” but instead, exhibit specific behaviors that can be placed along a continuum of “normalcy”. In addition, students will be encouraged to think about the various disorders and treatments from a scientific, research-oriented perspective.

COURSE STRUCTURE:

During lecture, I will focus on elements of greatest significance—with respect to psychopathology and interventions in general and the course exams in particular. In preparing for lectures, you should read the pertinent assignments before the subject is discussed in class. Portions of the lecture notes will be posted on the course website no later than the morning of class. I recommend that you print these notes and bring them with you. The purpose is to facilitate note taking in class.

They should NOT be used as a substitute for attending class. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions (either verbally or via the class chat box). Students are encouraged to share relevant insights, knowledge, or experiences with the class during lectures or group discussions. It is expected that all assigned readings will be read prior to class to enhance discussion and understanding. If you have an excused absence, please send an email to the instructor and TAs before class begins on the day you are absent.

### **Assignments & Grades**

**EXAMS:** There will be 4 exams, occurring on September 9<sup>th</sup>, October 7<sup>th</sup>, November 4<sup>th</sup>, and December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each exam will cover both the lectures and chapter readings. Exams are non-cumulative, except that the material from the first three weeks of class (History, Theories & Treatment, and Assessment and Diagnosis) as it will be relevant to all other topics. Each exam will be worth 100 points toward the final grade. Your lowest exam grade will be dropped. All exams will be conducted on Blackboard. They will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions. You will have access to the exam the entire day that the exam is scheduled (until 11:59pm). You will have 90 minutes to take the exam. Once you start the exam, you **MUST** complete it, you **CANNOT** save it and come back to it later. At the end of the 90 minutes, your exam will be submitted automatically and you will immediately see your score. If you have academic accommodations, please let both me and your TAs know ahead of time. **Given that your lowest exam will be dropped, there will be no make-up exams.**

#### **TERM PAPER:**

Students will write a 5-page paper reviewing and critically analyzing a popular media work that focuses on some aspect of abnormal psychology. A few ground rules:

- Works can include fiction books (NOT self-help books), movies, TV shows, and so forth
- Works cannot be animated, cartoons, anime, etc. Please choose a human (real-life) character
- Dramatized works about a real person are permitted (e.g., *The Aviator*, *A Beautiful Mind*). However, you cannot use documentaries, memoirs, or autobiographies (e.g., Robin Williams: *Come Inside My Head*).

Note that this course is *Abnormal Psychology*. Therefore, the paper should focus on a person with a mental illness. The paper should discuss what aspects of the person's disorder are portrayed accurately and effectively, what aspects of the disorder are incorrectly represented, and what aspects seem to be missing. Briefly summarize the character in his or her environment and, using the information you have gained from this course, hypothesize how (a) the individual's life has influenced his or her disorder, and (b) how the individual's disorder has influenced his or her life. Please pay special attention to the instructions and rubric posted on blackboard. It lists the specific issues that you **must** address to receive full credit.

If you are having trouble finding an appropriate work, your TAs can provide suggestions. This assignment is due on **OCTOBER 26<sup>th</sup>**. Failure to turn in the paper by October 26<sup>th</sup> will result in an automatic 10-point loss for **each** day that it is turned in late (e.g., 10 points off for 1 day late, 20 points off for 2 days late). You will receive a score of "0" if it is turned in 10 or more days late. You must submit your papers through blackboard– I will not accept papers any other way. The

papers will be run through software to detect plagiarism. If you have questions regarding plagiarism, please see the end of the syllabus, consult with a TA, or discuss with me during office hours.

Unfortunately, due to the large number of students in the class, TAs will not be able to read your term papers before the due date to give you feedback. If you have specific questions about the assignment, we will be happy to answer them in office hours.

#### IN-CLASS REFLECTIONS:

At the end of 5 randomly selected classes, students will be assigned with a “reflection topic.” Five to ten minutes will be spent preparing a written response about a topic that is related to that day’s material that you will turn in on Blackboard. This cannot be made up if you are not in attendance at that day’s class unless you have an excused absence, in which case you can write a one-page double spaced reflection after reviewing slides, readings, and video links. The make-up reflection will not be a response to the question given in class. Instead, you should write your own reflection on your impressions of the material, what you learned, what you found interesting, etc. These reflections should be emailed to your TAs. The make-up reflection is due 7 days after the missed reflection. It is therefore in your best interest to attend and be actively engaged in each class period. Of the 5 reflections, the 4 highest scores (100 points) will be used toward this category.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: All students are expected to regularly attend and participate in class. In the event of an unforeseen absence, the student is responsible for obtaining lecture notes.

GRADES: Grades will be based on the students’ performance on three required exams, and one term paper. **There will be no extra credit. One exam and one reflection will be dropped.** Based on a total possible score of 500 points, the scale for this course is as follows:

In class reflections, (5 x 25 points, lowest dropped)	100 points
Paper	100 points
Exams (4 x 100 points, lowest dropped)	300 points
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>500 points</i></b>

Final letter grades will be assigned as follows:

- A = 448 points or above
- B = 398 to 447 points
- C = 348 to 397 points
- D = 298 to 347 points
- F = 297 points or below

### **Technology Requirements**

#### COMPUTER/TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Online students will need regular access to a personal computer that runs on a broadband Internet connection.

BLACKBOARD LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM:

For all technical questions about Blackboard, email ACCC-Learning Technology Solutions at [LTS@uic.edu](mailto:LTS@uic.edu)

**Miscellaneous**

ACADEMIC YEAR HOLIDAYS AND RELIGIOUS DAYS OF SPECIAL OBSERVANCE:

Please inform me via email if you miss class or need to reschedule an exam due to observance of a religious holiday. See the following website for the University's list of holidays/religious days: <http://oe.uic.edu/docs/ReligiousHolidaysAY20162018.pdf>

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DISABILITIES:

I will make accommodations for disabilities as indicated by the Disability Resource Center. In keeping with the university policy: "Students with disabilities must provide the instructor in writing the need for accommodations and what they are. Those who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Disability Resource Center. Please contact ODS at 312/413-2183 (voice) or 312/413-0123 (TTY)."

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism occurs when you use someone else's text or ideas in your writing without citing that person as a reference. **No form of cheating will be tolerated.** If you cheat on any exam or assignment in this class, you will fail the entire class and I will file official judicial charges against you immediately with the Dean of Students, who will place a notice about the incident in your permanent record. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: copying or giving others test answers, plagiarism which includes copying the words of a fellow student or any other author in your papers, copying even short phrases from written work that you are using as a reference (even if you cite it properly), handing in work that you have handed in for another class, handing in papers you've gotten from the internet or from other students, etc., and copying others' discussion posts. All violations of student conduct or academic integrity will be handled according to UIC's student conduct policy: I encourage all students to take a look at this excellent infographic on what plagiarism is and how to avoid it: <http://bit.ly/1Ksb2pv>.

## Class Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Chapter (pages)</b>
8/24/2021	1	Introduction/Review Syllabus/Looking at Abnormality	1
8/26/2021	1	Theories and Treatment of Abnormality	2
8/31/2021	2	Theories and Treatment of Abnormality	2
9/2/2021	2	Assessing & Diagnosing Abnormality	3
9/7/2021	3	Assessing & Diagnosing Abnormality	3
<b>9/9/2021</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>EXAM I</b>	<b>1-3</b>
9/14/2021	4	Substance Use and Gambling	14
9/16/2021	4	Substance Use and Gambling	14
9/21/2021	5	Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders	11
9/23/2021	5	Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders	11
9/28/2021	6	Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders	11
9/30/2021	6	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	10
10/5/2021	7	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	10
<b>10/7/2021</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>EXAM II</b>	<b>10, 11, 14</b>
10/12/2021	8	Anxiety Disorders Part I	5
10/14/2021	8	Anxiety Disorders Part II	5
10/19/2021	9	PTSD	5
10/21/2021	9	Mood Disorders & Suicide Part I	7
10/26/2021	10	Mood Disorders and Suicide Part II <b>**PAPER DUE**</b>	7
10/28/2021	10	Eating Disorders (Anorexia and Bulimia)	12
11/2/2021	11	Eating Disorders (Feeding Disorders and Obesity)	12
<b>11/4/2021</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>EXAM III</b>	<b>5, 7, 12</b>
11/9/2021	12	Personality Disorders	9
11/11/2021	12	Schizophrenia Spectrum & Other Psychotic Disorders	8
11/16/2021	13	Schizophrenia Spectrum & Other Psychotic Disorders; Dissociative Disorders	8 Ch. 6 (p. 155-167)
11/18/2021	13	<b><i>NO CLASS- WATCH VIDEO</i></b>	--
11/23/2021	14	Sleep Disturbances Gender Dysphoria	Ch. 15 (p.436-451) Ch. 13 (p.377-383)
<b>11/25/2021</b>	<b>14</b>	<b><i>THANKSGIVING NO CLASS</i></b>	--
11/30/2021	15	Graduate School in Clinical Psychology	--
<b>12/3/2021</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>EXAM IV</b>	<b>8, 9, parts of chapters: 6, 13, 15</b>

## **UIC Resources**

If you find yourself having difficulty with the course material or any other difficulties related to this course, please come talk with the instructor at any time and preferably early on (i.e., before an exam date or paper due date). If you are having difficulty about an issue beyond this course, please contact your college advisors, or get help from any number of other support services on campus. You can get a referral to the right place, or help on the spot, from an advisor in the Undergraduate Success Center (USC) at 111 Stevenson Hall or [usc@uic.edu](mailto:usc@uic.edu).

**The Writing Center**, located in Grant Hall 105, offers one-on-one consultation with student writers who need help developing ideas, or need advice, guidance or additional instruction on any aspects of writing in any class. Tutors are prepared to spend 50 minutes per appointment, and there is no limit to the number of tutoring sessions you can have each semester. Make an appointment and be on time! Bring the paper on which you're working, as well as any related drafts or notes, and information about the assignment. For an appointment, call the Writing Center at (312) 413-2206, or stop by room 105 of Grant Hall. Visit the Writing Center website at [www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing](http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing) for more information.

**Counseling Services** are available for all UIC students. You may seek free and confidential services from the Counseling Center ([www.counseling.uic.edu](http://www.counseling.uic.edu)). The Counseling Center is located on the 2nd floor in the Student Services Building or you may contact them at (312) 996-3490. In addition to offering counseling services, the Counseling Center also operates the InTouch Crisis Hotline from 6:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. They offer support and referrals to callers, as well as telephone crisis interventions; please call (312) 996-5535 to contact InTouch.