

# PROVIDENCE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

**Course:** 222.31 - Abnormal Psychology  
**Credit:** 3 Hours  
**Session:** Fall Semester 2011  
**Instructor:** Dr. Morgan Mulenga, Associate Professor of Psychology  
**Tel.:** (204) 433-7488 ext. 283  
**Office Hours:** (# 2A20) **Mondays:** 1:30 - 3:30; **Tuesdays:** 9:00 - 11:00; 1:30 - 3:30 &  
**Thursdays:** 3:00 - 4:00  
**Class:** **Wednesdays:** 08:30 - 11:05, in Classroom # 4.

---

## SYLLABUS

---

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to help broaden your knowledge and conceptual understanding of abnormal psychology. We will look for scientific answers to questions such as:

1. What makes a behaviour “abnormal?”
2. What are the major psychological disorders?
3. How do professionals make diagnoses?
4. What are the causes of psychological disorders?
5. What are effective treatment strategies?

### B. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overall aim of this course is to introduce students to the study of psychological disorders. Upon completion of this course, students will be expected (through exams, quizzes, class discussions, and written assignments) to:

1. Define abnormal behaviour.
2. Describe symptoms of various types of psychological disorders.
3. Describe the main factors associated with the causation of psychological disorders.
4. Differentiate between the many types of psychological disorders such as anxiety, psychosomatic, personality, mood, schizophrenia and organic disorders, among others.
5. Provide an appreciation of the complexities and consequences of labelling human behaviours as “abnormal”.
6. Increase their knowledge of the therapies utilized in the treatment of psychological disorders and how effective these therapies are.

### C. COURSE TEXT(S) AND SUPPLEMENTARY RESOURCES

**Text:** Comer, R. J. (2011). *Fundamentals of abnormal psychology*. (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4<sup>th</sup> ed. text revision). Washington, DC: Author.

---

#### *Special Note to Students:*

It is your responsibility to retain course syllabi for possible future use to support applications for transfer of credit to other educational institutions.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

Useful Site: <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/comerfund6e/default.asp>

#### D. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Readings:** You will be expected to come to class prepared by having read the listed portions of the text for that day's topic.

The final course grade will be based on quizzes, 2 exams, class presentations, evaluations of presentations, and 1 written assignment.

**Quizzes:** Brief quizzes based on the assigned reading material for the day will be given. NO prior notification will be given for these quizzes. Questions for the quizzes will typically be short and basic. As long as you have read the material, you should have little trouble answering the quiz questions. There will be several quizzes given throughout the semester. In calculating your final grade for these quizzes, I will drop your **two (2) lowest scores**.

The quizzes will be given either at the beginning or the end of class. It is your responsibility to be in class on time. **THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES.** This includes missed quizzes due to illness, being at an official school related event, came to class late (**at least 5 minutes from the start of the quiz**) or left the class early. **If a quiz is given at the end of the class and you were not in class that day, you will not be permitted to write it if you show up just for the quiz. You have to have attended that day's class to be eligible to take it.**

**Exams:** Two non-cumulative exams are scheduled for the semester. Exams will typically cover the assigned reading materials, lectures notes and any demonstrations used in class.

**Assignment:** You will be required to submit **ONE** type-written assignment. This assignment is to be double-spaced and must be **between 8 and 10 pages long. I Will Subtract Points for Writing Too Much or for Not Writing Enough.**

Provide a cover page for your assignment. The cover pages must contain (a) your full names; (b) student number; (c) the name and number of this course; (d) the name of the institution; (e) the name of the professor; (f) the due date of the assignment; and (g) the title of the assignment (*the cover page must look exactly like the example given at the end of this syllabus, with the same font and font size as the rest of the paper*).

This assignment will be marked out of 20 points. It is worth 20% of your final course grade. The due date is Wednesday, November 9, 2011. **Choose ONE from the following 3 options:**

##### **Option # 1: Provide a Case Summary**

This assignment requires that you write a case summary on an individual who meets the criteria and characteristics of a particular psychological disorder. The purposes of this assignment are to provide you with a greater understanding of the symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of a particular disorder as well as to familiarize you with the process of preparing a case summary. It

is hoped that this assignment will help you to personalize this material by recognizing that we are all regularly confronted with varying degrees of normality and abnormality in our daily lives.

**Option # 2: Popular Misconceptions About Mental Illness:**

Write a paper stating your position, supported by empirical data. You must conclude your paper by indicating whether or not the statement is true. Your conclusion about the idea needs to be well-informed by current relevant research.

In order to do this, you will need to draw on your reading of at least 10 psychological journal articles (Not from book chapters, including your textbook nor from my lectures).

**Option # 3: Personal Experience.**

**DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF EACH OF THESE ASSIGNMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE HARDCOPY TO BE GIVEN IN CLASS ON THE FIRST DAY OF CLASSES AND ON BLACKBAUD.**

For any of these options, your paper should be clear, concise, as well as spelling and grammatically correct. You must also cite every source that you use. Provide a reference section that lists full references to every source cited within the text of your paper.

This assignment must be submitted to me in a hardcopy ONLY. **I do not accept e-mail submissions of assignments.** Your typed assignment must be printed in **black ink**. It must be double-spaced **with 1 inch margins all round**. Also, use only one font and one font size for your entire document. **Use only “COURIER NEW” with a font size of 12.**

Be sure to **staple, NOT PAPER-CLIP**, your papers together in the top left corner. **Do not use a folder or cover.** Each entire paper should be **left-justified**. Also, make sure your **pages are numbered**. Please print your assignment only on **white sheets of paper**.

If you include any references, then the reference page, **which must also be double-spaced**, should be headed **“REFERENCES”**. **DO NOT** use the words **“WORKS CITED”**.

**Note:** *Any violation of the instructions given regarding how the papers should be written will result in points being deducted - to as much as 25% of the paper's total mark.*

**CLASS PRESENTATIONS: Critical Analysis of a Popular Movie:**

The objective of this activity is for you to work in groups of 3 or 4 people and then to critically analyze a recent movie (*released between 2005 and 2011*) that includes a portrayal of mental illness. Each group should present on a different movie. As a group, you must turn in your first and second choice of a movie by *September 21*. I will then ensure that each group is presenting on something different.

The presentation will comprise of: (a) making a brief summary of the relevant issues as you see them from the movie to be discussed; (b) showing video clips that support your observations; (c) engaging the class into some meaningful discussions. You might find it useful to prepare before hand some thought provoking questions for class discussions.

Your grade for the presentation will be determined by your classmates and me, and will depend on a number of factors which I will put on the evaluation form.

The evaluations by class members will be graded and altogether will be worth 5% of your final course grade

Please be well-prepared for this presentation. I do not wish to see you reading your presentation verbatim from a prepared text. This makes for a boring presentation. Each group will be required to provide the following:

- i. A summary of the movie. Provide enough detail so that someone who has not seen the movie can readily understand it.
- ii. A description of the symptom profile for the character. Indicate the specific disorder that your group believes the character exhibits and point out how the character does or does not meet DSM-IV-TR criteria for the disorder. You may have to research the disorder if it has not been covered in class at that point. Your class text and the DSM-IV-TR (reference section of the library) would be appropriate resources.
- iii. A summary of the character's experience of the mental illness, using his/her actual words or actual incidents depicted in the movie.
- iv. Your group's response to the manner in which the person and the mental illness were presented in the movie.
- v. Anything else your group feels is important to help others understand the movie or how mental illness is portrayed in the movie.

**NB: You must be in class at the beginning of the presentation for you to complete the evaluation form. If you walk into class 5 minutes after the presentation has started, you will not be allowed to evaluate the presentation.**

**E. GRADING SUMMARY (and Percentage to Letter-Grade Breakdown)**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>G.P.</b>		<b>Grade</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>G.P.</b>	
A+	95 -100	4.0	<i>Exceptional</i>	C+	67 - 73	2.5	<i>Satisfactory/Average</i>
A	88 - 94	4.0	<i>Excellent</i>	C	60 - 66	2.0	<i>Adequate</i>
B+	81 - 87	3.5	<i>Superior</i>	D	50 - 59	1.0	<i>Marginal</i>
B	74 - 80	3.0	<i>Good</i>	F	< 50	0.0	<i>Failure</i>

**NOTE: Last Day for Voluntary Withdrawal (VW) From a Course is November 14, 2011.**

## F. COURSE POLICIES

Full text to the academic policies, procedures and regulations of Providence University College can be found online in the Student Handbook

([http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student\\_life/](http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/)) and the Providence University College Academic Calendar

([http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars\\_office/calendar/](http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars_office/calendar/)).

In addition to these policies the following policies will also apply to this course:

### 1. Class Attendance Policy

Although I do not keep a record of class attendance, students are expected to attend regularly and punctually. You disrupt the class when you arrive late. Also, try not to leave until the class is over. If, for some vital reason you must leave class early, please let me know before class starts. I will probably ask you to sit close to the exit so as to not disrupt the class when you leave.

Attendance will be important because much of the lecture material will go well beyond what is covered in the text. Exams will cover both material presented in the text as well as material presented via lectures and any demonstrations, such as videos. Attending class regularly therefore, will be vital to your learning and performance on exams.

Come to class everyday prepared to learn. Please stay silent when others are speaking. This includes when the instructor is speaking AND when other students are asking questions or making contributions to class discussions. Be polite and realize that everyone has the right to ask questions and to be heard.

### 2. Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will be penalized @ 2.5% per day (**including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays**) up to a maximum of 25% (i.e., 10 days). **I will not accept assignments that are more than 10 days late.** If you need an extension, you may request for one **at least 3 days prior to the due date.** Once an extension has been granted, it is expected that the assignment will be submitted on the extended date, without penalties. **If the assignment is not submitted on the new date, the extension becomes null and void.**

Notwithstanding this policy, I will also consider extensions when you find yourself in circumstances that are beyond your control, such as sickness, (**not the sickness of another person**), or you are involved in an accident, as examples.

If your assignment is going to be submitted late, please attach to it the “**Late Assignment Submission Form**”, found at the end of this syllabus. If you ask another person to submit the assignment on your behalf, make sure that they do so on or before the due date, otherwise your assignment will be marked late. **Assignments are deemed duly submitted when I have received a hard copy from you.**

**It is your responsibility to back up data. Lost data due to computer/printer-related problem(s) will not be an acceptable excuse for failing to meet the deadlines.**

### 3. **Academic Integrity**

Issues of academic integrity will be dealt with according to the policies outlined in the Academic Conduct section of the Student Handbook ([http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student\\_life/](http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/student_life/)), the Providence University College document entitled “Academic Dishonesty: The Problem of Plagiarism in Academic Writing,” in the Providence University College Academic Formation Guide available in the Bookstore. Students are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the policies and with the consequences attached to their violation.

### 4. **Missed Exams**

No make-up exam will be given except in the case of extreme circumstances such as a serious illness **on your part**, death in the family or an accident in which you are directly or indirectly involved, etc. Written proof from a physician, in case of an illness, may be required. To qualify for a make-up exam, I must be notified at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled exam, where possible. When permission is granted, make-up exams must be completed within the shortest possible time from the original exam date, **at a time that is convenient for me**.

Requests to write **mid-term** exams earlier or later than scheduled will normally not be granted. However, if there are extenuating circumstances that dictate that the exam be given to you at a different date than scheduled, please talk to me ahead of time, preferably two weeks in advance.

#### **Final Exams: (Early Leave Policy)**

All requests to have a final exam rescheduled must be approved by the Academic Committee in accordance with the Early Leave Policy (available in the Providence University College Academic Calendar [http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars\\_office/calendar/](http://www.providencecollege.ca/college/programs/registrars_office/calendar/)).

### 5. **Information and Communication Technologies in the Classroom**

Student use of electronic information and communication technologies, such as laptops, iPads, iPods, etc., is **NOT allowed in this class**. While I deeply regret the inconvenience for note-taking this becomes, too many students in the past have abused ICTs in the classroom, distracting themselves, their classmates, as well as me, thereby disrespecting the educational enterprise. As partial compensation, I will post the PowerPoint presentations from my lectures in your Blackbaud student portal for three (3) days after each topic is completed, for you to download if you wish.

## G. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Draguns, J., & Tanaka-Matsumi, J. (2003). Assessment of psychopathology across and within cultures: Issues and findings. *Behaviour Research and Therapy, 41*, 755-776.

Kaye, W., Klump, K., Frank, F., & Strober, M. (2002). Anorexia and Bulimia Nervosa. In T. Bradbury & C. Yee-Bradbury (Eds.), *Abnormal psychology: Essential cases and readings* (pp.259-265). New York: Norton.

- Kent, L., & Craddock, N. (2003). Is there a relationship between attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and bipolar disorder? *Journal of Affective Disorders, 73*, 211-221.
- Marks, I., & Nesse, R. (1994). Fear and fitness: An evolutionary analysis of anxiety disorders. *Ethology and Sociobiology, 15*, 247-261.
- Rapoport, J. (2002). The biology of obsessions and compulsions. In T. Bradbury & C. Yee-Bradbury (Eds.), *Abnormal psychology: Essential cases and readings* (pp. 68-75). New York: Norton.
- Rohan, K., Sigmon, S., & Dorhofer, D. (2003). Cognitive-behavioral factors in seasonal affective disorder. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 71*, 22-30.
- Stice, E., Burton, E., & Shaw, H. (2004). Prospective relations between bulimic pathology, depression, and substance abuse: Unpacking comorbidity in adolescent girls. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 72*, 62-71.
- Wakefield, J. (1992). The concept of mental disorder: On the boundary between biological facts and social values. *American Psychologist, 47*, 373-388.
- Weisberg, R. (1994). Genius and madness? A quasi-experimental test of the hypothesis that manic-depression increases creativity. *Psychological Science, 5*, 361-367.

<b>Course Evaluation</b>	<b>Worth</b>	<b>Due Dates</b>
Assignment	20%	November 09, 2011
Class Presentation	15%	See "Dated Course Outline"
Evaluations of Class Presentations	5%	See "Dated Course Outline"
Exam # 1	20%	October 26, 2011
Exam # 2	20%	TBA
Quizzes	20%	Any Class Time
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	

## **October 5**

### **9:50 - 12:15 "How to Do Academic Research and Write Excellent Papers"**

**All students, and especially new students, should attend this helpful workshop. At various points during your time as a Providence University College student you will be expected to submit research and writing assignments. This workshop will help you to excel in these tasks.**

## H. COURSE OUTLINE / SCHEDULE

### Dated Course Outline

Date	Topic	Read
Sep. 07	Course Introduction; Understanding Abnormality; Definitions and History	Ch. 1
Sep. 14	Conceptual Models of Abnormal Behaviour; Classification, Assessment & Diagnosis	Chs. 2 & 3
<b>Sep. 21</b>	<b>Day of Prayer - No Class</b>	
Sep. 28	Anxiety Based Disorders	Ch. 4
Oct. 05	Anxiety Based Disorders (Contd.) <b>Class Presentation</b>	Ch. 4
Oct. 12	Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders	Ch. 6
Oct. 19	Mood Disorders <b>Class Presentation</b>	Ch. 7
<b>Oct. 26</b>	Mood Disorders (Contd.) <b>Exam # 1: Chs. 1-4, 6 &amp; Lecture/Video Notes</b>	Ch. 7
Nov. 02	Sexual (The Paraphilias) & Gender Identity Disorders <b>Class Presentation</b>	Ch. 11
Nov. 09	Sexual (The Paraphilias) & Gender Identity Disorders (Contd.) <b>ASSIGNMENT DUE</b>	Ch. 11
Nov. 16	Personality Disorders	Ch. 13
Nov. 23	Schizophrenia <b>Class Presentation</b>	Ch. 12
Nov. 30	Schizophrenia (Contd.)	Ch. 12
Dec. 07	Legal, Ethical, and Professional Issues	Ch. 16
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Exam # 3: Read Chs. 7, 11 - 13, 16 &amp; the Lecture/Video Notes.</b>	

#### Materials Not Covered Due To Lack of Time Include:

- Chapter 5 - Stress Disorders
- Chapter 8 - Suicide
- Chapter 9 - Eating Disorders
- Chapter 10 - Substance Related Disorders
- Chapter 14 - Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence

**Late Assignment Submission Form**  
**Providence University College**

---

**Student Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student number: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_

**Assignment information**

Title of Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment Submission Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Lateness: *Please provide an explanation for the lateness of the assignment.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Please provide all relevant documentation (e.g. Doctor's note)

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Instructors Use Only**

Date Assignment Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Late Penalty Waived / Assessed

Late Penalty: \_\_\_\_\_%

Faculty Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Paper

By  
Full Names  
Student Number  
Box Number  
Due Date

Course Number and Name of Course  
Instructor's Name: Dr. Morgan Mulenga  
Providence University College