



Course Outline

PSYC1023

Abnormal Psychology

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T1, 2019

1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor	Dr Natalie Rogers	n.rogers@unsw.edu.au	Email to arrange a consult time	Email
Lecturer	Dr Natalie Rogers	n.rogers@unsw.edu.au	Email to arrange a consult time	Email

2. Course information

Units of credit:	6
Pre-requisite(s):	None
Teaching times and locations:	PSYC1023 Timetable

2.1 Course summary

This course provides a contemporary overview of human mental disorders. It will address questions such as What is “abnormal”? What causes mental illness and how do we treat them? Each week, students will explore a different mental disorder (e.g. depression, anxiety, eating disorders, schizophrenia) and discuss the symptoms, causes and treatment of these illnesses. Students will also learn about the scientific theories that attempt to explain psychopathology as well as recent breakthroughs in our understanding and treatment of mental disorders.

This course is appropriate for students with and without a background in science and is taught entirely online through Moodle. The final exam will be held on the Kensington campus (i.e. not on Moodle) during the official exam period.

2.2 Course aims

This course aims to provide you with a contemporary view of psychological and biological theories of and issues associated with human psychopathology. It will provide an overview and discussion of the notion of abnormal behaviour, diagnostic practice, stigma, aetiology, prognosis and treatment in major mental disorders such as depression, anxiety eating disorders, schizophrenia, child psychopathology and others.

2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of transdisciplinary concepts of abnormal psychology with regard to: risk factors, classification, aetiology and treatments of common mental disorders.

2. Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific method in order to understand how these principles are applied in abnormal psychology research and clinical settings.
3. Apply critical thinking skills in order to intellectually engage with literature, differentiate quality empirical evidence from speculation, develop an argument and critique those of others.
4. Demonstrate an appreciation of ethical principles and values in the area of abnormal psychology.
5. Demonstrate effective written communication skills in psychology for the purpose of informing and arguing.

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2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

CLO	Program Learning Outcomes						Assessment
	1. Knowledge	2. Research Methods	3. Critical Thinking Skills	4. Values and Ethics	5. Communication, Interpersonal and Teamwork	6. Application	
1.	Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities					Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities	Quizzes, exams, essay
2.		Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities				Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities	Quizzes, exams, essay
3.	Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities	Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities	Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities				Quizzes, exams, essay
4				Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities			Quizzes, exams, essay
5					Workshops, forums, self-assessment of essay writing		Essay

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

The lecture content of this course is presented entirely online via the [Moodle](#) eLearning website. The lectures will be delivered in video format (closed-captioned). In addition, lecture notes are also made available. Students should watch the lectures and write separate notes to maximise their understanding and retention of the material. The resources for each topic will be made available at the start of each week and will be left online for the duration of the course. This will allow students to go through the activities at their own pace. The lecture material and prescribed textbook readings are intended to provide you with the majority of information required to gain an in depth knowledge of abnormal psychology – not only of specific disorders, but also of the scientific processes utilised in the study of them. The textbook content is required reading for this course and will supplement and extend the lecture material.

Formative topic revision quizzes are available on a weekly basis to provide an opportunity for students to evaluate their understanding of course material. Timely completion of the weekly quizzes will assist students in gaining a proper understanding of each topic.

The Course Content Discussion Forum provides students with an opportunity to question and clarify the lecture and textbook material. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with this forum by posting questions or comments, and reading, answering, and replying to other student's posts to help build a sense of community, enhance understanding of the content, critical thinking, and written communication skills.

Research and Writing skills workshops will provide students with an important introduction to the essay assessment and an opportunity for students to develop their research and writing skills. Students will learn how to find relevant information (using databases), understand and summarise that information, and then clearly communicate these ideas in an essay format. These workshops will also introduce students to the APA referencing system.

The essay will give students an opportunity to consolidate their learning of course material and to demonstrate independent research and analytical skills. The mid-semester and final examinations will provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of examinable course material.

3.2 Expectations of students

It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment policy and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment/exam due to illness and/or misadventure.

It is expected that students have read through the School of Psychology Student Guide.

All news updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email. It is the student's responsibility to check Moodle and their student emails regularly to keep up to date. All students must read the Course Outline and Instructions for Online Course Completion documents. Following this, students are required to complete the Course Information Quiz to demonstrate their understanding of course administration information.

Although this is an online course, it is expected that students dedicate the same amount of time each week to studying for this course as they would for an 'on-campus' course. Timely completion of online activities is essential in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure.

Students are required to watch the lectures in the week in which they are set and to complete the assigned readings for that week. In accordance with UNSW and School of Psychology policy, failure to meet these expectations may result in rejection of: special consideration applications, essay extension requests, supplementary exam/assessment requests, fee remission etc.

Given that the course content and some assessable components are delivered online, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have access to a computer with a stable internet connection and a browser capable of handling the features of the Moodle eLearning website and any of its content. There will be no special consideration granted due to internet connection or computer issues arising from the use of a non-UNSW computer. If an internet disconnection takes place during an assessment/exam, there will be no way of changing a mark and these will be allocated according to the progress that was saved. To help students establish whether or not their computer/internet access is suitable for the online exam/s, a test quiz is available. This quiz will not contribute to final marks and will be able to be completed multiple times in order to test computer/internet connection prior to assessments/exams.

The Moodle forums should be the first line of contact with the Course Co-ordinator (meeting requests, personal or matters related to disability provisions can be sent by email in the first instance). Due to the online nature of the course, under no circumstances are specific exam/quiz questions/answers to be discussed online or via email, such matters can only be discussed during in person appointments with the Course Coordinator.

The final exam for this course will take place on campus during the UNSW examinations period. Students should not arrange travel during the UNSW exam period until the date of the final exam has been released. Students who arrange travel prior to the release of the final exam date will not be granted consideration in the event they are scheduled to be out of country when the final exam is to occur. This is especially important for study abroad students – do not arrange travel home until the final exam date has been released.

Students registered with Disabilities Support Services must contact the course co-ordinator immediately if they intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. Letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

4. Course schedule and structure

This typically involves 2 hours of lecture material and 1 hour of online modules. In addition students are expected to engage in 8 hours of self-determined study per week to complete course readings, assessments, revision and exam preparation.

Week	Online Lectures	Online modules	Self-determined activities
Week 1 18/02/2019	Introduction to Psychopathology <u>Topic 1: How is abnormality defined and classified?</u> Lecture 1: What is “abnormal”? Lecture 2: DSM classification and assessment <u>Topic 2: History of Psychopathology: The good, the bad and the ugly</u> Lecture 1: Early approaches to studying the mind Lecture 2: The 20 th Century and beyond <u>Topic 3: How is Psychological Research Conducted?</u> Lecture 1: The scientific method Lecture 2: From research to treatment	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 1 (pp 3 – 26); Chapter 3 (pp 70 – 97)
Week 2 25/02/2019	From DNA to society: What causes mental illness? <u>Topic 4: What biological factors contribute to mental illness?</u> Lecture 1: Genetics Lecture 2: Neuroscience <u>Topic 5: What psychological factors contribute to mental illness?</u> Lecture 1: Emotions and cognition Lecture 2: Fear, anxiety and learning <u>Topic 6: What social and developmental factors contribute to mental illness?</u>	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 2 (pp 33-66)

	Lecture 1: Interpersonal and social factors Lecture 2: Bringing it all together: Integrative models of mental illness		
Week 3 4/03/2019	Mood Disorders <u>Topic 7: What are mood disorders?</u> Lecture 1: Depressive disorders and suicide Lecture 2: Bipolar disorder <u>Topic 8: What causes mood disorders?</u> Lecture 1: Genetics and neurotransmitters Lecture 2: The biopsychosocial model <u>Topic 9: "While there's life, there's hope"</u> Lecture 1: Biological treatments Lecture 2: Psychological treatments	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 6 (pp 201 – 242)
Week 4 11/03/2019	Anxiety, OCD and PTSD <u>Topic 10: Anxiety disorders</u> Lecture 1: Types of anxiety disorders Lecture 2: Causes and treatment <u>Topic 11: OCD and related disorders</u> Lecture 1: Clinical description Lecture 2: Causes and treatment <u>Topic 12: PTSD and trauma disorders</u> Lecture 1: Clinical description Lecture 2: Causes and treatment	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 4 (pp 118 – 163)
Week 5 18/03/2019	Schizophrenia and psychotic disorders <u>Topic 13: What is schizophrenia?</u> Lecture 1: History and symptoms Lecture 2: Other psychotic illnesses	Writing and APA Referencing workshop Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 12 (pp 445 – 472)

	<p><u>Topic 14: Why causes schizophrenia?</u> Lecture 1: Genetics, neurotransmitters and the brain Lecture 2: Environmental risk-factors</p> <p><u>Topic 15: How do clinicians treat schizophrenia?</u> Lecture 1: Medications and their side-effects Lecture 2: Psychological treatments</p>		
<p>Week 6 25/03/2019</p>	<p>Substance use and impulse control disorders <u>Topic 16: What are substance-use disorders?</u> Lecture 1: Use or abuse? Lecture 2: Other impulse control disorders</p> <p><u>Topic 17: What causes substance abuse?</u> Lecture 1: Opponent-process theory Lecture 2: An integrative model</p> <p><u>Topic 18: Breaking the cycle</u> Lecture 1: Treatment Lecture 2: Prevention strategies</p>	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 10 (pp 367 – 401)
<p>Week 7 1/04/2019</p>	<p>Developmental disorders <u>Topic 19: When kids lose control</u> Lecture 1: ADHD, ODD and conduct disorder Lecture 2: Medication or education?</p> <p><u>Topic 20: Autism spectrum disorder</u> Lecture 1: Genetics, parenting and immunisation: What causes ASD? Lecture 2: Treatment goals and strategies</p> <p><u>Topic 21: Intellectual disability</u> Lecture 1: What are intellectual disabilities? Lecture 2: What causes intellectual disabilities and what can we</p>	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 13 (pp 481-505)

	do to support people with ID?		
Week 8 8/04/2019	<p>Personality disorders</p> <p><u>Topic 22: Cluster A – Odd or eccentric personality disorders</u> Lecture 1: Characteristics Lecture 2: Causes and treatment</p> <p><u>Topic 23: Cluster B - Dramatic, emotional, or erratic personality disorders</u> Lecture 1: Characteristics Lecture 2: Causes and treatment</p> <p><u>Topic 24: Cluster C - Anxious or fearful personality disorders</u> Lecture 1: Characteristics Lecture 2: Causes and treatment</p>	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 11 (pp 409 – 438)
Week 9 15/04/2019	<p>Cognitive disorders</p> <p><u>Topic 25: Memory and aging</u> Lecture 1: Where did I put my keys? The psychology of memory Lecture 2: Delirium</p> <p><u>Topic 26: Alzheimer's disease</u> Lecture 1: Clinical description of Alzheimer's disease Lecture 2: Cause, treatment and prevention</p> <p><u>Topic 27: Other neurocognitive disorders</u> Lecture 1: Clinical description of neurocognitive disorders Lecture 2: Cause, treatment and prevention</p>	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 13 (pp 505 – 520)
Week 10 22/04/2019	<p>Eating and sleep disorders</p> <p><u>Topic 28: Under-eating and over-eating</u> Lecture 1: What's the difference between anorexia and bulimia? Lecture 2: Binge eating disorder</p> <p><u>Topic 29: Getting help</u></p>	Revision quiz	Readings: Chapter 8 (pp 283-219)

	Lecture 1: Treatments for eating disorders Lecture 2: Maintaining a healthy relationship with food <u>Topic 30: "You are getting sleepy..."</u> Lecture 1: Why do we sleep? Lecture 2: Sleep disorders		
Study period 2/05/2019			Exam preparation; Revision
Exam period 6/05/2019			Exam preparation; Revision

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5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment task	Length	Weight	Mark	Due date
Assessment 1: Topic revision MC quizzes	Varied	0% (formative)	N/A	N/A
Assessment 2: Mid-session exam	20 MCQ	20%	/20	9am – 11:59pm 15/03/2019
Assessment 3: Essay	1200 words	40%	/100	11:59 21/04/2019
Assessment 4: Final exam	100 MCQ	40%	/100	Exam period

Assessment 2: The mid-session exam is worth 20% of the total course mark. It is a 20 question multiple-choice quiz (MCQ) will be made available online via Moodle from 9am – 11:59pm Friday 15th March 2019 (Sydney time). Students will be able to sit the examination once. The quiz will last 15 mins allowing for 45s per question. The time limit on this MCQ means that the exam should not be attempted “open book” with reference material nearby, as there is not enough time to consult any reference material to answer these questions. The time limit will provide ample opportunity for students to read and answer all the questions. The material assessed in this exam will cover all material presented in Weeks 1-4 including textbook readings. In combination with formative weekly revision quizzes, this assessment will allow students to self-assess their progress in the course prior to the Term 1 Census Date (11:59pm 17th Mar 2019) and make an informed decision about their progress.

Assessment 3: A written assignment in essay format will be required for submission via Turnitin 11:59pm Sunday 21st April 2019. The question and instructions for this assignment will be released on 19th March 2019. The essay will be worth 40% of the total course mark. A brief researching and writing skills workshop will be made available on Moodle to provide further help to students on how to approach this essay. Students will be provided with opportunities for self-assessment throughout the writing process. Penalties for late submission will be in accordance with policies stipulated in the School of Psychology Student Guide. Essays submitted after 11:59pm Sunday 5th May will not receive a mark.

Assessment 4: There will be a 2-hour examination held on campus [i.e. NOT on Moodle] during the University examination period (time and location TBA). The examination will include 100 multiple choice questions covering all lecture material and textbook readings. Student should NOT organise travel during this period until the final examination schedule has been released and the date of the exam is known. The final exam will be worth 40% of the total course mark.

UNSW grading system: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades>

UNSW assessment policy: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment>

5.2 Assessment criteria and standards

Further details and marking criteria for each assessment will be provided to students closer to the assessment release date (see 4.1: UNSW Assessment Design Procedure).

5.3 Submission of assessment tasks

Essay: In accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy the essay must be submitted online via Turnitin. No paper or emailed copies will be accepted.

Late penalties: deduction of marks for late submissions will be in accordance with School policy (see: [Psychology Student Guide](#)).

Special Consideration: Students who are unable to complete an assessment task by the assigned due date can apply for special consideration. Special consideration applications must be submitted to Student Central within 3 working days of the assessment due date along with a physical copy of the supporting documentation. Students who have experienced significant illness or misadventure during the assessment period may be eligible. Only circumstances deemed to be outside of the student's control are eligible for special consideration (see - <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>). In the case of take-home assessment tasks, misadventure must occur for at least 3 consecutive days or 5 non-consecutive days, during the assessment period. If approved, students may be given an extended due date to complete take-home assessments, or an alternative assessment may be set (See School of Psychology Student Guide for more information). Students who have submitted applications must check their student email daily to address any correspondence that may have been sent. Failure to do this may result in subsequent rejection of the application.

Alternative assessments: will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure.

Supplementary examinations: will be made available for students with approved special consideration application and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

5.4. Feedback on assessment

Feedback on all pieces of assessment in this course will be provided in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment	When	Who	Where	How
Topic revision quizzes	Immediate	Rogers	Online	Moodle
Mid-session exam	16/03/2019	Rogers	Online	Moodle
Essay	06/05/2019	Rogers	Online	Turnitin
Final exam	TBA	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

The APA (6th edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the library or online. This resource is used by assessment markers and should be the only resource used by students to ensure they adopt this style appropriately:

[APA 6th edition.](#)

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage.¹ At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and **plagiarism** can be located at:

- The *Current Students* site <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>, and
- The *ELISE* training site <http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/presenting>

The *Conduct and Integrity Unit* provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>.

7. Readings and resources

Textbook	Durand V. M., Barlow, D.H., & Hofmann, S.G. (2018). <i>Essentials of Abnormal Psychology. 8th edition</i> . Cengage Learning. Available from UNSW bookshop.
Course information	Available on Moodle
Required readings	School of Psychology Student Guide .
Recommended internet sites	UNSW Library UNSW Learning Centre ELISE Turnitin Student Code of Conduct Policy concerning academic honesty Email policy UNSW Anti-racism policy statement UNSW Equity and Diversity policy statement UNSW Equal opportunity in education policy statement

¹ International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.

8. Administrative matters

The [School of Psychology Student Guide](#) contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements
- Assignment submissions and returns
- Assessments
- Special consideration
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Disability Support Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide.

9. Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Disability Support Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability-services>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/index.html>