

PSY 415 Abnormal Psychology
Spring 2010

GENERAL:

Instructor: Brian R. Johnson, Ph.D.

Classroom: 5-105

Class website: <http://www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/PSY415/PSY415.html>

Office Hours: Office Hours: MWF: 9:20 - 10:20 TT: 2:20 - 2:50

Office: 24E-1211A Office Phone 909-869-2281 (If you are calling during my office hours and I do not answer, I have probably left the office for a moment. Try again in a few minutes. **Do not leave a message on campus voice mail.** If you need to leave a message, call the off campus number listed below and leave the message with my assistant or on the answering machine. The greeting message for my off campus office also gives information for contacting me through my answering service if you have an *real urgent* need to speak to me.)

Off Campus Phone: 909-399-0556

E-Mail Address: brjohnson@csupomona.edu

FAX: 909-860-6908

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The causes, description, and the treatment of the extremes of human behavior. Emphasis is on an integrated analysis from a psycho-social view point. 4 lecture discussions. Prerequisite: PSY202 or PSY202.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To increase your understanding of:

- A. The criteria for defining abnormal behavior and the controversy over what is *abnormal* in abnormal psychology
- B. Important psychological theories related to issues and psychological conditions defined as abnormal.
- C. The mental conditions and behaviors classified as “abnormal,” their evident etiology and treatment options.

An awareness of the signs and symptoms of mental conditions will be gained from the successful completion of the class; however the course will not qualify you to diagnosis yourself, friends, families, supervisors, etc.

TEXTS:

Sue, Sue, Sue: *Understanding Abnormal Behavior*, Ninth Edition

EXAMS: Two **Mid-Terms** and a **Final Exam** will be given (**April 19, May 12, and June 9**) that will consist of multiple choice, matching, sentence completions, and brief essay questions. Each **exam will be worth 100 points**. The exams will cover the assigned reading, lecture materials, and class activities. . ***Unless you and the instructor, prior to the exam, have made arrangements to take a test on a different date or you can document reasonable cause for failing to sit for a test, there will be no make up opportunities!***

QUIZZES: During the quarter there will be six, open note quizzes. You will receive 5 points for each quiz you take for a potential total of 30 points. Quizzes will normally be given at the end of class. You will be asked to briefly answer a question addressing a topic lectured on that day. Since quizzes will be scheduled randomly it is important that you attend all classes. If you miss a class at which a quiz was given, you will only be allowed to do a make up if you document reasonable cause for not being in class on the day of the quiz.

PAPER: There is one paper, due **Wednesday, May 26 at the beginning of class**. In the paper you are to select a disorder or category of mental conditions (i.e., Anxiety Disorders, Thought Disorders, Mood Disorder, etc.) as defined by the DSM-III and write a summary of current research (anything published since January 2009) that addresses the diagnosis, etiology and/or treatment of the disorder you have selected.. Focus on the use of professional journal articles. Look for controversies and the strengths and weaknesses you see in the research. This paper must be typed, double spaced and five (5) pages (plus or minus 1) not including title and reference pages. Use the *Publication Manual of American Psychological Association* as a style guide. For information on citing electronic references and answers to other frequently asked questions about APA Style, see <http://www.apastyle.org/learn/faqs/index.aspx?imw=Y>

The paper is worth 100 points and will be graded on a demonstrated understanding of the research you choose to explore and your ability to critique that research.. This is a 400 level class, and the paper is expected to reflect an appropriate level of grammatical and compositional mastery. The grade for this paper can be affected negatively by poor writing craftsmanship.

Turing in the term paper after the due date and time (May 26) will result in a 25% penalty; a late paper MUST be faxed or e-mailed to me by midnight June 9 to be graded.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: The lectures will expand upon the reading material and provide other important information not covered in the reading. **Participation will have an impact on your final grade.** In this class there is no such thing as a dumb question. The Roman statesman Cicero wrote that “I am not afraid to admit that I am ignorant of what I do not know.” And he was a respected philosopher and Senator! **40 participation points are possible.** If you attend all class meeting but do not participate (i.e., do not raise questions about or make comments concerning the materials presented in class, or offer a point of view concerning personality theory), the maximum number of points you will receive is 10. This is a senior course, and it would be appropriate to have each student assigned to do a formal presentation. This will not be required, so I will be attentive to and making notes of students’ participation during the lectures and when students are sharing with the class what they discussed in group discussions. Remember, it is not the quantity but the quality of the participation that will be considered. This is an academic class, not group therapy. While sharing on how a subject presented applies to you can enrich the class process, you need not share any more than you feel comfortable disclosing in class. **PRIVACY** is to be respected by both the instructor and fellow students.

NAME PLATE: I want to know you by name. Since there may be up to fifty people in the class, I need you to create a personal name plate to put on your desk so I will get to know who you are.

I have had students use head bands in the past but that didn't go over too well. So, please write your name on a piece of paper and put it on the front of your desk until I get to know you by name. Be creative but also legible with lettering big enough that I can see it across the room (if you sit in the back). And if I mispronounce your name, correct me.

COURSE WEBSITE (www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/psy321.htm): The website contains a number of resources and messages from the instructor to the class concerning announcements, corrections, and any changes in the schedule, reading assignments, etc. From the website you can also download Adobe Acrobat PDF copies of the overheads that are used in the lectures. (You will need to have Adobe Acrobat 4.0 to download these and other documents available on the website. Information is provided for downloading Acrobat if the program is not already on your computer.) I attempt to put the overheads up no later than the night before class, but sometimes (but not often) that proves impossible. I recommend that you download these so you can have these in class on the days of the lectures.

FURLOUGH DAYS: Apr 6 (Tues), Apr 30 (Fri), May 28 (Fri), June 10 (Thurs), June (Fri), and June 14 (Mon). I will not be on campus nor respond to e-mails on these days.

EXTRA CREDIT: : If you participate in a Psychology and Sociology Department sponsored experiment, you can earn 5 extra points. This extra credit will only be given if you sign up for an experiment using the Sona system. One Sona credit will give you five class points. To earn this credit, you must do this by going on line (<http://csupomona.sona-systems.com>) to sign up for an experiment. You must be registered in the program to participate. If you are not already, go to the web site and click the "New Participant Request an Account" link to register. To sign up for a study or experiment, click on the "Sign up for experiments" link. When you sign up for an experiment, you must identify that you want the credit applied to this course. **After the experiment, you must also assign the credit to this course on the Sona web site. If you fail to assign a credit to the class, extra credit points will not be given. The department's report of student participation in experiments (and that report's summary of students' assignment of credits to classes) will be the sole basis for determining earned extra credit.**

GRADING: To receive a passing grade for the course you must complete all requirements for this class (three (3) exams and the papers). If you fail to do so and have not received approval for an incomplete grade contract, you will receive a grade of "F." Assuming that you do complete all requirements, grades will be based on the following scale:

470-437	A	389-376	B-	328-315	D+
436-423	A-	375-362	C+	314-296	D
422-409	B+	361-343	C	295-282	D-
408-390	B	342-329	C-	<282	F

Grades will be posted on the class web site after the final exam

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: The school's policy will be enforced in this class. The policy reads in part, "All forms of academic dishonesty at Cal Poly are a violation of University policy and will be considered a serious offense. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: [Plagiarism, Cheating During Exams, Use of Unauthorized Study Aids, and Falsifying any University Documents]." See the University Catalog for more details. Remember, plagiarism is passing off another's work as your own. **Students often don't realize that they have committed plagiarism when they fail to (1) denote with quotation marks or some other notation the cited material or (2) do not identify the source of an idea they are summarizing in their own words.**