

**PSYC 225 – The Psychology of Abnormal Behavior**  
**Spring 2006**  
**Monday 2:00-4:50pm, Room: BE-6**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Fred Rose  
**Office:** W-15  
**Office Hours:** M 1-2pm  
Tu 830-930am  
W 830-930am, 2-4pm  
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**Required Text:** Durand, V. M., & Barlow, D. H. (2006). Essentials of Abnormal Psychology, 4th Ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Brown, T. A. & Barlow, D. H. (2001). Casebook in Abnormal Psychology, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth

**Web Resources:** The text publisher (Wadsworth) offers an online resource center with practice tests and links to relevant sites for each chapter. Go to: [http://www.wadsworth.com/psychology\\_d/](http://www.wadsworth.com/psychology_d/) and follow the links to the Durand and Barlow Student Companion Book site.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To provide an overview of clinical psychology and major psychological problems and disorders across biological, psychological, and sociocultural processes.
2. To familiarize students with the multiple causes of psychopathology as viewed from a number of different theoretical perspectives.
3. To ground knowledge of psychopathology in current research.
4. To discuss intervention and prevention strategies for psychological disorders.

People's experience with and conceptions of psychopathology and abnormal behavior are quite varied. They are often wrought with a mixture of confusion, mythology, and even fear. It is my hope that this course will help to correct any misconceptions, expand your understanding of normal and abnormal behavior, and increase your appreciation for the science of psychology in general.

**Assigned Readings:** All students are expected to have read the assigned readings before the class in which they are to be discussed.

## GRADING

**Exams:** There will be 2 multiple-choice midterm exams consisting of 50 questions each (worth 100 points total) and one final examination with 100 questions (50 from the final unit and 50 comprehensive; worth 200 points total). The questions will be taken from the text, lectures, class activities, and videos. The midterm exams will each count 25% toward your grade while the final will count for 50% of the grade.

Exams will take place on the days listed in this syllabus. If you cannot be in class on the exam dates, you should take this course another semester. **Make up exams will be given ONLY in unusual and unavoidable circumstances such as medical illness requiring bed rest or the death of an immediate family member. There will be no exceptions. It is your responsibility to contact me in advance whenever possible if you are forced to miss an exam.** Written verification of these circumstances is required and is your responsibility. I reserve the right to determine what constitutes an acceptable excuse. As a general rule of thumb, transportation problems, childcare problems, ski trips, and hangovers are not acceptable excuses.

**Writing Assignment:** All students are to turn in a single paper covering an issue relevant to Clinical Psychology and/or abnormal behavior. Although the exact topic covered is up to you, it should be approved by me in advance to help ensure that it is neither too broad nor too narrow. You will need to get approval before the 4<sup>th</sup> class meeting (see schedule below). Thus, you should begin thinking about a topic now by perusing the text and reviewing recent articles in scientific journals. This paper should be 5-10 pages in length, double spaced, and is to include a minimum of 5 references from relevant journals. NOTE: This is to be a scientifically based paper and reference material should be of a similar nature. Public web pages, because the information is not typically peer reviewed, does not count as an acceptable reference. Get to the library!!! (CSUSM and UCSD will be better sources than Palomar.) The paper is worth 100 points, or 20% of your grade.

So, there are a **total of 500 points** available, not including extra credit for research participation, and your course grade will be assigned according to the following criteria:

90%	= 450-500 points	= A
80%	= 400-449 points	= B
70%	= 350-399 points	= C
60%	= 300-349 points	= D
	Below 300 points	= F

**Active Learning/ Critical Thinking:** I emphasize active learning and critical thinking throughout this course. Questions and participation in discussions are invited – they make the class that much more interesting. Again, I expect that you will have already read the material to be covered that day so that the class can focus on solidifying/clarifying important concepts.

**Attendance:** You are expected to be in class on time for each scheduled session and lectures will include videos and non-textbook material that you will be responsible for. If you must miss a

class, you should make an effort to obtain notes from a classmate. Class notes will be posted on the course website.

- Course Policies:**
1. Be on time.
  2. Turn off your cell phones, pagers, etc.
  3. If you miss a class, make arrangements to obtain notes from a classmate
  4. Cheating and plagiarizing are very serious ethical offenses in college, in psychology, and in society. If caught doing so in this class, the *least* that will happen is that you will receive an F on that assignment. I may report your actions. Believe me, it isn't worth it!
  5. I will not drop anyone – that is your responsibility.

**Course Topics:** Topics will be covered approximately in the order listed below. I will make every attempt to cover them on the days listed, though it is my experience that some topics stimulate a great deal of discussion and others only stimulate a lot (get it? They all should stimulate some discussion!). Therefore, I thank you for some flexibility so that we may accommodate class interest and improve the experience all around.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PREPARATION</b>
Jan 23	Introduction; What is Abnormal? Biopsychosocial approach	Chapter 1, 2 Rosenhan paper
Jan 30	Biopsychosocial approach	Chapter 2
Feb 6	Assessment, Diagnosis, and Research	Chapter 3
Feb 13	Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders <b>Paper Topic Approval Due Date</b>	Chapter 5 Casebook Chs. 6 & 7
Feb 20	NO CLASS – PRESIDENT’S DAY	
<b>Feb 27</b>	<b>EXAM 1 50 Chapters 1-3, 5; Casebook, extra readings</b> Lecture: Anxiety disorders	Chapter 4 Casebook Ch. 1, 2, 4, 5
Mar 6	Mood disorders	Chapter 6 Casebook Ch 8, 9
Mar 13	Schizophrenia and Psychoses	Chapter 12 Casebook Ch 15
Mar 20	Spring Break!!!	
Mar 27	Sexuality and Gender Identity Disorders	Chapter 9

<b>Apr 3</b>	<b>EXAM 2: Chapters 4, 6, 9, &amp; 12</b> Casebook Ch., 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 12, & 15	
Apr 10	Substance Related Disorders	Chapter 10 Casebook Ch. 13
Apr 17	Personality Disorders	Chapter 11 Casebook Ch. 14
Apr 24	Physical and Health Psychology <b>First draft of paper due if you want feedback</b>	Chapter 7
May 1	Developmental and Cognitive Disorders	Chapter 13
May 8	Legal and Ethical Issues <b>Drop dead, no excuses, term paper due!</b>	Chapter 14
<b>Tuesday, May 15</b> <b>3:00-6:00 pm</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM: 50% from Ch. 10, 11, 13, 14; 50% comprehensive</b>	