

# PSYC 235 - Abnormal Psychology Read Me First

## Term Dates and Exam

Fall Term: Sept 14 – Dec 4, 2015

Winter Term: Jan 4 – Apr 1, 2016

Examination Period: Apr 7 – 23, 2016

## Course Description

The experimental approach to the understanding, description and modification of abnormal behaviour is emphasized in the analysis of disorders of cognition (e.g., learning, memory and thinking), disturbances of affect (e.g., anxiety and depression), and problem behaviours (e.g., addictions, sexual disorders and psychopathy).

## Course Introduction

This course aims to provide you with the underlying knowledge base and opportunity for critical thinking about abnormal psychology necessary for students planning on going into helping professions such as clinical psychology, counselling, and social work. The emphasis throughout the course will be on the contributions of empirical research to the classification, etiology and treatment of the behavioural disorders examined. Other than the introductory chapters, generally each chapter deals with a major diagnostic category, describing the symptoms that distinguish each disorder from others. Each chapter will describe the incidence and natural history of the disorder and etiological theories as well as evaluate treatment approaches.

**\*\*Note:** Although this is an online course, keep in mind that it cannot be completed entirely at your own pace. You will be required keep up with the course material via online participation (e.g., quizzes, forum discussions, and tutorials) within certain time frames.

## Learning Outcomes

The specific course objectives are:

1. To understand the DSM-V—the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders—its language and categories, why it is so important to diagnosis, assessment and treatment of mental disorders, as well as its drawbacks.
2. To identify the major mental disorders throughout the lifespan and begin to differentiate between the disorders using client symptoms.
3. To appreciate the role of basic and clinical research in understanding mental disorders and their treatment.
4. To apply various psychological theories to the conceptualization of individuals with various mental disorders.
5. To understand treatments and therapies for mental disorders and begin to evaluate their effectiveness.
6. To be acquainted with a range of issues, controversies, and thinking regarding human abnormality.

## Contacting the Teaching Team

Contact details for the teaching team are as follows:

### Course Instructor

Layla Hall (layla.hall@queensu.ca)

### TAs

Emma Dargie (5eed@queensu.ca)

Dan Asadolahi (d.asadolahi@queensu.ca)

If you have general course questions, please post them in the course questions forum (if one student has a question, then chances are that several others will have the same query as well!). We will then respond to those questions in the forum itself so that everyone can see the relevant answers. However, if you have a question of a personal nature, please email your instructor directly via the email address indicated above. As a rule, we will endeavour to respond to students within 24 hours.

As a rule, your Instructor will be dealing with all questions posted in the Course News forum, any personal queries that students have (sent via email), as well as marking and moderating assignments & discussion forum activities. Your TA's will be responsible for participating in discussion forums as well as marking assignments and discussion activities.

## Key Dates

Sept 1	Fall tuition due
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<b>Sept 14</b>	Fall Term classes begin
<b>Sept 25</b>	Last day to add courses Last day to drop courses without financial penalty
<b>Nov 6</b>	Last day to drop courses without academic penalty
<b>Dec 4</b>	Fall Term classes end
<b>Jan 4, 2016</b>	Winter Term classes begin
<b>Jan 10</b>	Winter tuition due
<b>Jan 15</b>	Last day to add Winter courses Last day to drop Part B of Fall-Winter courses without financial penalty
<b>Feb 26</b>	Last day to change exam centre location Last day to drop Part B of Fall-Winter courses without academic penalty Last day to submit accommodations to CDS
<b>Apr 1</b>	Winter Term classes end
<b>Apr 7 – 23, 2016</b>	Examinations

## Suggested Time Commitment

To complete the readings, assignments, and course activities, students can expect to spend on average, about **10 - 12** hours per week on the course.

## Students Travelling Overseas

For students who will be out of Canada for the duration of the term, please note that we have had instances in the past where certain Web sites that are required to complete the online courses, including Moodle, have been blocked intermittently in some countries (e.g. China). If the course you enroll in requires the completion of online quizzes or exams, this may pose an impediment to you successfully completing the course. We do not make accommodations based on the lack of reliable Internet access. It is your responsibility to make sure that you will have adequate high speed Internet coverage for the entirety of the term.

## Required Materials

Available from the Campus Bookstore.

- Barlow, D.H., Durand, V. M., & Stewart, A. H. (2015) *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach*, 4th Canadian Edition. Toronto: Nelson.

The text is available in hard copy and electronic formats; it has some great resources that you may access, including quizzes and videos, to help you learn important concepts. Additional articles and/or videos etc will be available electronically via the Moodle course each week and should be read/viewed in conjunction with the assigned text readings. Please note that copies of 'Chapters' from the core text will not be made available electronically via Moodle.

## Evaluation

Students will be evaluated through quizzes, projects and discussion activities. Students are advised to read the Academic Integrity guidelines prior to submitting or completing any assessments.

Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	10%
Assignment 3	10%
Online Participation	15%
Online Midterm	20%
Proctored Final Exam	35%

**\*\*In keeping with the Psychology Department's policy concerning online courses, you must write and pass the final exam in order to pass the course.**

All assignments & learning activities will be graded by the teaching team, using detailed marking rubrics in line with established marking practice. All assessments in Moodle log the student name and directly enter grades into the gradebook. Students will be required to sign in using their first and last name for any assessment that is completed outside of Moodle therefore eliminating any chance that grades will be attributed to the wrong student.

Please refer to the following sections for further information:

- Assessment Overview (information relating to assessments)
- Course Timeline (for due dates, list of Required Readings etc. Please note that all times are in Kingston local time).
- Academic Integrity (for general guidelines & information)

### Feedback

Where possible, we will endeavour to provide feedback to students within the following timeframes:

Assessment	Feedback received...
Self-assessment Quizzes	Immediately upon completion (results only)
Discussion Forums	During & post discussion forum (as appropriate)
Assignments	Where possible within 2 weeks; minimum within 1½ weeks prior to next assignment due date
Midterm (online)	Where possible, within 2 weeks
Proctored Final Exam	Where possible, within 2 weeks

Students who submit assignments according to schedule may expect to have them returned with at least one and a half weeks before the next assignment is due. If your assignment has not been returned within this period, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor/teaching assistant assigned to you. We expect that you will use the feedback provided to improve your next assignment and therefore our marking will become more stringent.

### Late Policy

Although this is an online course, you are expected to submit your assignments by the stipulated deadline. Indeed, it is in both your interest and that of the instructor that you do so. It is a frequent and unfortunate occurrence that students who allow themselves to fall behind in their coursework later find that they are unable to catch up again before the course ends. In addition to this, instructors and graders commonly set aside a block of time to grade all of the essays for a particular assignment together, because this allows them to do the marking in a consistent & efficient manner. You should be aware that when you hand in something late, you are taking away time that the instructor or grader has scheduled to do other work.

Please make sure that you consider time zones when submitting your assignments on Moodle. We use Eastern Standard Time. If you will be late in submitting an assignment, contact the instructor prior to the due date. It is unacceptable to submit the majority of your assignments at the end of the course. There are penalties for late assignments.

Late assignments will automatically receive a 5% deduction from the final mark given to that assignment. Each additional day that the assignment is late will result in an additional deduction of 2.5%. Note: Weekend days (but not holiday days) will be counted when calculating these mark penalties.

Papers more than two weeks late will not be accepted. If you are late due to a medical or health problem, you must provide the instructor with appropriate documentation before we will waive the penalties. Please inform the instructor and marker of this before, rather than after, the assignment due date.

Students who submit assignments according to schedule may expect to have them returned with at least one and a half weeks before the next assignment is due. If your assignment has not been returned within this period, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor/teaching assistant assigned to you. We expect that you will use the feedback provided to improve your next assignment and therefore our marking will become more stringent.

#### **Submitting Assignments Early**

In certain circumstances, some students may wish to submit assignments early. Please refer to the Assessment Overview section to see which assignments are possible to do this with.

## **Grading Method**

All components of this course will receive numerical percentage marks. The final grade you receive for the course will be derived by converting your numerical course average to a letter grade according to Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale:

#### **Queen's Official Grade Conversion Scale**

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Numerical Course Average (Range)</b>
A+	90-100
A	85-89
A-	80-84
B+	77-79
B	73-76
B-	70-72
C+	67-69
C	63-66
C-	60-62
D+	57-59
D	53-56
D-	50-52
F	49 and below

## Exams

Once the exam schedule has been finalized the exam date will be posted on your SOLUS account. Students living in the Kingston area will write their final exam on Queen's campus. Students writing off campus will receive an email to their Queen's email account with full details of date/time/location of their exam. Please note: off campus exams will be held on the same day as Kingston exams, but the **start time** may vary slightly due to the requirements of the off-campus exam centre.

When you registered for the course, you indicated the exam centre location. If you do not remember the exam location you chose, or if you wish to change your exam location, please email: [cds@queensu.ca](mailto:cds@queensu.ca) or call 613-533-3322. The deadline for changing your exam centre can be found at [http://www.queensu.ca/artsci\\_online/e-learning/completing-your-course](http://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/e-learning/completing-your-course). You must request the change prior to this deadline or you will be subject to a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00 per exam.

All special needs students should contact CDS, immediately following registration to inform them of any special accommodations which may be required for proctored exams. **CDS must be notified of any accommodations by the last date to change your exam centre location.**

For further information regarding exams, see: [http://www.queensu.ca/artsci\\_online/e-learning/completing-your-course](http://www.queensu.ca/artsci_online/e-learning/completing-your-course)

**\*\*In keeping with the Psychology Department's policy concerning online courses, you must write and pass the final exam in order to pass the course.**

### Arts and Science Calculator Policy (If Applicable)

Calculators acceptable for use during quizzes, tests and examinations are intended to support the basic calculating functions required by most Arts and Science courses. For this purpose, the use of the **Casio 991** series calculator is permitted and is the **only approved calculator for Arts and Science students**. This inexpensive calculator sells for around \$25 at the Queen's Campus Bookstore, Staples and other popular suppliers of school and office supplies.

## Accessibility/Accommodation

Queen's University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities.

If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Queen's Student Accessibility Services (QSAS) and register as early as possible. For more information, including important deadlines, please visit the QSAS website at: <http://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/accessibility-services/>

## Resources Available to Help You

The **Library** is here to help you make the most of your time at Queen's. It offers many great services to enhance your learning while at Queen's.

- <http://library.queensu.ca>

### Writing Services

- <http://sass.queensu.ca/writingcentre/>

**Student Wellness Services** supports the personal, academic and social development of students at Queen's University by providing a range of programmes and services appropriate to their needs, and by participating in associated activities.

- <http://www.queensu.ca/studentwellness/>

**Career Services** offers students, faculty, employers and alumni various services including workshops.

- <https://careers.sso.queensu.ca/home.htm>

## Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is constituted by the five core fundamental values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility (see [www.academicintegrity.org](http://www.academicintegrity.org)).

These values are central to the building, nurturing and sustaining of an academic community in which all members of the community will thrive. Adherence to the values expressed through academic integrity forms a foundation for the "freedom of inquiry and exchange of ideas" essential to the intellectual life of the University.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the regulations concerning academic integrity and for ensuring that their assignments conform to the principles of academic integrity. Information on academic integrity is available in the Arts and Science Calendar (see Academic Regulation 1), on the Arts and Science website (see <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/academic-calendars/regulations/academic-regulations/regulation-1>), and from the instructor of this course. For current policy updates visit: <http://www.queensu.ca/artsci/about/academic-integrity>

Departures from academic integrity include plagiarism, use of unauthorized materials, facilitation, forgery and falsification, and are antithetical to the development of an academic community at Queen's. Given the seriousness of these matters, actions which contravene the regulation on academic integrity carry sanctions that can range from a warning or the loss of grades on an assignment to the failure of a course to a requirement to withdraw from the university.

## Moodle Announcements and News Forum

The instructor will use the Announcements forum to post news to the class. Copies of the announcements are also sent to your Queen's email account.

## Moodle Question and Comment Forum

You are encouraged to use these forums to post questions of general interest to the class. The instructor, TA (if any), and other students in the class can reply to the posts in this forum. Copies of the forum posts are also sent to your Queen's email account.

## Timeline and Calendar

The link to the Course Timeline is located in the top right corner of the table on the course homepage and shows the dates for all of the assessments used in this course as well as provides links to other important course information. Please check the Timeline each time you enter the course.

The calendar located in the top right corner of the course Moodle homepage shows important course dates, such as assignment due dates and quiz due dates. Please check the calendar frequently.

If there are discrepancies between dates in the course Moodle site, the Timeline will be considered accurate.

## Computer Requirements

### Microsoft Windows Client

Vista/Windows 7/Windows 8  
Intel Core 2 Duo processor  
2GB RAM  
Soundcard with speakers and microphone or preferably a headset  
Webcam

### Mac Client

OS X 10.8 or higher  
Intel i5 processor  
2 GB RAM  
Internal, USB or external iSight microphone or preferably a headset  
Webcam

### Browser

Firefox version 40 or higher (recommended)  
Internet Explorer version 8 or higher

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Safari version 7 or higher (browser plug-in supported on 64-bit Intel processors only)

### Java

Version 1.8 or higher (32-bit or 64-bit)

### Internet Connection

High speed access: ADSL, Cable or better

### Media Player

Flash 11 or higher

### Adobe Reader

Version 11 or above

## Queen's Email

The university communicates with students by Queen's email. Please check your email regularly to ensure you do not miss out on important information.

## Email and Moodle Help - Monday To Friday

Contact CDS: [cds@queensu.ca](mailto:cds@queensu.ca) or phone 613-533-3322

OR

Submit your problem to ITS: <https://www.queensu.ca/its/forms/itsc/helpform/> or phone 613-533-6666.