PSYC 4312
Advanced Abnormal Psychology
1:30pm-2:50pm; Monday/Wednesday
Psychology Room 308

Professor:
Theodore V. Cooper, Ph.D.
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Phone: 747-6270
Office: 201-A Psychology Building
Hours: Monday / Wednesday 10:00am-11:00am ; also by appointment.

Teaching Assistant:
Name: Cynthia Pedregon
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Phone: 747-8660
Office: Psychology 203B
Hours: Thursday 2:00pm-3:30pm

Required Readings:


*** Also selected assigned readings.

Course Description:
This class deals with human behavior, particularly psychopathological behavior. Given that all students have taken Abnormal Psychology prior to this class, current foci will be more depth oriented than breadth oriented. Multiple psychological disorders will be addressed in brief, and three disorders will be covered in more detail: Bipolar disorder, Schizophrenia, and Antisocial Personality Disorder. Common concepts addressed within each disorder will include: etiology, manifestation, diagnosis, and treatment. Goals of the course include increased awareness of multiple issues related to abnormal behavior and mental illness, as well as the facilitation of open, honest, and critical thinking and discussion about this sensitive topic. You will be required to know and understand material presented in lectures and readings. Some of the material in the readings will not be covered in lecture, and some of the material in lectures will not be covered in the readings. Please be aware that careful study of course materials will be essential for you to do well in this class. Personal experience with the subject matter will not suffice.
Important Note:
Due to the nature of the course, abnormal behavior will be discussed with candor and some subjects may make you feel uncomfortable. Your continued enrollment in this course indicates that you are aware of the nature of the material and that you consent to its presentation. Continued enrollment in the course also indicates that you will be respectful of others and maintain a mature manner at all times. If, at any time, you are uncomfortable with certain subjects or with the way they are addressed, please inform the professor, either in person, by e-mail, or by putting a note in his mailbox in the psychology office (anonymous notes are fine).

Please also recognize that sharing any issues related to harm of self, harm of others, and/or child/elder abuse and neglect are subject to mandatory reporting to the proper authority by Dr. Cooper and his T.A. This applies to written assignments, class discussion, and one on one discussions with Dr. Cooper and/or the T.A. during office hours.

Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student or possessing unauthorized materials during a test. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person’s as one’s own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

Attendance:
Attendance will not be taken given that this course is an advanced topics class; however, recognize that much of the lecture is not covered in the text, and failure to attend class will likely result in poor achievement on exams and papers.

Exams:
Two exams will be given. Each will consist of multiple-choice questions taken from the readings and lectures. The exams are not cumulative. Makeup exams will not be given unless a student is engaged in university-related activities during the normal exam time and has followed the appropriate procedure for notifying the professor of the impending absence (see the Undergraduate Catalog).

Students will also be required to complete one paper. The topic of the paper will be related to mood v. psychotic disorders and will require students to critically think about the topics and integrate course material, lecture, and readings. More specific information will be handed out to students several weeks prior to the assignment’s due date.

Graduate Students
For graduate students taking this course, one additional paper will be required. This paper will be a comprehensive examination of one of the disorders covered in class. The graduate student should select a disorder, perform a thorough literature review, and write an APA style paper addressing the following: a) the diagnostic criteria for the disorder; b) the optimal assessment measures and techniques for diagnosing the disorder; and c) the empirically based interventions for treating the disorder. This assignment is in addition to the two exams and other topic paper. The grading scale will be the same for graduate students; however, each exam will count for 25% of the grade, and each paper will also count for 25% of the grade.

Grading:
The course grade will be based upon the average of the two exams and one paper. If you already know you will not be able to take the final on the date it is scheduled, you need to talk to the professor about dropping the class. Final letter grades may be assigned on a curve, but ranges will be no more conservative than 90% = A, 80% = B, 70% = C, 60% = D, and < 60% = F.

Important Dates (reading assignments may vary):

08/27  Review syllabus and course introduction
       Abnormal Behavior

08/29  Diagnosis


09/05  Ethics

09/10  Multicultural Issues

       Anxiety Disorders
       Overview

09/12  Anxiety Disorders
       PTSD Etiology
       PTSD Treatment


09/17  Substance Abuse Disorders
       Overview
       Etiology

09/19  Substance Abuse Disorders
Treatment

09/24  Mood Disorders
       Overview

09/26  Mood Disorders
       Depression Etiology

10/01  Mood Disorders
       Depression Treatment


10/03  Mood Disorders
       Bipolar Disorder
       Etiology


10/08  Mood Disorders
       Bipolar Disorder
       Treatment


10/10  Mood Disorders
       Bipolar Disorder
       Treatment Cotinued

10/15  Mood Disorders
       Bipolar Disorder
       Manifestation


10/17  Mood Disorders
       Bipolar Disorder
       Manifestation / Case Discussions
       Paper Topic Presented
10/22  EXAM I

10/24  Tobacco Conference
  No class

10/29  Grant Proposal Review Panel
  No Class

10/31  Psychotic Disorders
  Overview

11/05  Psychotic Disorders
  Schizophrenia
  Etiology


  Psychotic Disorders
  Schizophrenia
  Etiology Continued

11/07  Psychotic Disorders
  Schizophrenia
  Treatment


11/12  Psychotic Disorders
  Schizophrenia
  Manifestation

11/14  Psychotic Disorders
    Schizophrenia
    Manifestation / Case Discussions

11/19  Personality Disorders
    Overview

***Paper Due during class

11/21  Personality Disorders
    Borderline Personality Disorder
    Etiology
    Treatment


11/26  Personality Disorders
    Antisocial Personality Disorder
    Etiology


11/28  Personality Disorders
    Antisocial Personality Disorder
    Treatment


12/03  Personality Disorders
    Antisocial Personality Disorder
    Manifestation


12/05  Personality Disorders
    Antisocial Personality Disorder
    Manifestation / Case Discussions
    Review for FINAL EXAM
12/12  FINAL EXAM: 4:00pm-6:45pm
(Be sure to confirm on exam schedule).