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PSYX 340.02: Abnormal Psychology

Cameo Borntrager

University of Montana - Missoula, cameo.borntrager@umontana.edu

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Syllabus - Psychology 340 – Fall 2013 Abnormal Psychology

Meeting Location and Times: LA 11
TR 2:10-3:30p

Final Exam: TBA

Instructor: Cameo Borntrager Phone: 406.243.5191
Email: cameo.borntrager@umontana.edu Office: Skaggs Building 362
Office Hours: Mondays 2-3:30pm, or by appointment

Teaching Philosophy:

As the science of psychology evolves, I feel it is important to foster critical thinking among my students – this is a skill that will continue to benefit you throughout your career. I do not view my students as empty vessels to be filled with knowledge; rather, I view you as active participants in your own academic successes, including overcoming obstacles and problem-solving challenges along your professional development. This also means that I am biased toward students who work hard at taking an active role in their own learning. I will facilitate your learning to the best of my ability, including through class material, discussions, office hours, readings, and via **email** (please check it!) I also attempt to provide a respectful, open-minded environment in which you can enjoy being a part – please play an active role in this!

Accommodation of Students with Disabilities: In accordance with the University of Montana’s mission to provide equal educational opportunities for all students, I am willing to provide necessary accommodations for students with disabilities. If you require any accommodations, please make them known me, and I will work with the office of Disability Services in adapting this course.

Academic Misconduct: You are expected to adhere to the University’s student conduct code with regard to academic integrity. Academic misconduct in this course will result in an academic penalty commensurate with the offense as well as possible disciplinary action by the university.

Incompletes: Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing “incomplete” grades after one year has passed since the “I” was granted. If you earn an incomplete, it is in your best interest to complete the work or retake the class well before the one year mark, however.

Credit/No Credit: For students taking this course CR/NCR, a CR is a grade of C or above. A NCR is a grade of C- or below.

Course Description:	Psyc 340 is an overview of the major theories, diagnostic categories, and treatment approaches of behavior disorders. Psyc 100 is a prerequisite.
Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To gain a better understanding of, and appreciation for, variations in human behavior - To understand the historical development of classification systems for behavior disorders - To develop a basic understanding of our current diagnostic system and to think critically about its strengths and limitations including the newest diagnostic system – DSM-V - To understand the major classifications of mental disorders and to have a basic working knowledge of different diagnoses - To understand how the basic treatment approaches address the criterion behaviors of each particular disorder - To explore current controversies in the field of abnormal psychology

Grading/Evaluation: The grading scale for this course is based on a 10-point system:

- 99 – 93.5 = A
- 93.4 – 90 = A-
- 89 – 86.5 = B+
- 86.4 – 83.5 = B
- 83.4 – 80 = B-
- 79 – 76.5 = C+
- 76.4 – 73.5 = C
- 73.4 – 70 = C-
- 69 – 66.5 = D+
- 66.4 – 63.5 = D
- 63.4 – 60 = D-
- <60 = F

Grading/Evaluation (continued): Your grade in this course will be computed from **four equally-weighted** exams. All exams will be administered during the first 60 minutes of class. No exams will be given before the scheduled date, and there will be no make-up exams except in the event of an *emergency* (with a note documenting the emergency) or *required university-sanctioned activity*. You grades will be distributed to you via ‘codenames’—will discuss more in class.

The exams will be primarily composed of multiple choice questions, but there will also be a few short answer questions for each exam. The final exam will focus primarily on material from the last few classes, but all topics covered during the course are “fair game” on the final.
Bring a clean *Psychology* NCS form and #2 pencil to each exam.

Two extra credit assignments will be made available in class. Each extra credit assignment is worth a total of four points. The first extra credit is due via email or in class on 10/17/13 and the second on 12/05/13 (last day of class). The first extra credit is conducting a literature search on PsycInfo and the second is choosing to participate in a study in the psychology department. Information will be provided.

Required Materials: Halgin & Whitbourne (2013). *Abnormal Psychology: Clinical Perspectives on Psychological Disorders* (7th ed.). Boston: McGraw Hill.

Supplemental Materials: The website for this course is on Moodle. Here you will find a copy of this syllabus, any materials for extra readings, and a discussion board for posing/answering questions about the class. I will also post (on the discussion board) suggestions for optional readings if you are interested in further information about a particular topic.

A few more things...

1. I am taking part in the Pedagogy Project with the University of Montana. The Pedagogy Project is focused on expanding and improving upon one's teaching strategies through a structured, qualitative data collection process. What this means for my students: at some point during the semester you will be asked to take part in a 'small group analysis.' This is similar to a group discussion, which will be performed by another university faculty member, and will be focused on your class experiences. At least one class may also be observed by a faculty member who is also taking part in the Pedagogy Project. You will be provided updates as the Pedagogy Project progresses!
2. I reserve the right to make any necessary changes or accommodations to this syllabus throughout the semester. You will be notified during class of any changes. However, if you miss class it is your responsibility for gaining any information regarding changes.
3. If any relevant and/or important information arises between classes I will attempt to contact the entire class through the University of Montana email, so please be aware.
4. I expect that you will remain attentive and respectful throughout class. This includes turning off all cell phones, not speaking when others are speaking, and maintaining respect for everyone in the class at all times. **This also includes staying OFF social networking while in class!**
5. Please feel free to email or call me about any questions, comments, or concerns you are having about the course.

This schedule is a dream...when reality sets in we will make adjustments as needed. All changes will be announced in class, so attendance is in your best interest!

Date	Topic and Associated Reading
08/27/13	Introductions Syllabus Review
08/29/13	Begin Ch 1: Overview of Abnormal Behavior
09/03/13	Ch 1 cont'd
09/05/13	Community of Practice Conference Call http://tadnet.adobeconnect.com/partnership/ Conference Number: 1-877-512-6886 Participant Code: 2365393812
09/10/13-	NO CLASS 09/10/13: <i>Dr. Borntrager leading a training out of town</i>
09/12/13	GUEST LECTURER 09/12/13: Dr. Bryn Cochran will begin Ch 2: Classification & Treatment Plans
09/17/13-	Ch 2 cont'd
09/19/13	Ch 3: Assessment
09/24/13-	Ch 4: Theoretical Perspectives (and some history)
09/26/13*	The Nation's Health article (09/26/13)
10/01/13-	Exam 1 (10/01/13)
10/03/13	Ch 5: Anxiety Disorders
10/08/13-	Ch 6: Somatoform Disorders, Psychological Factors Affecting Medical Conditions, & Dissociative Disorders
10/10/13	
10/15/13-	Ch 7: Sexual Disorders
10/17/13	EXTRA CREDIT #1 DUE (10/17/13)
10/22/13-	Ch 8: Mood Disorders
10/24/13	
10/29/13-	Exam 2 (10/29/13)
10/31/13	Ch 9: Schizophrenia and Psychosis Spectrum Disorders
11/05/13-	Ch 10: Personality Disorders
11/07/13	
11/12/13-	Ch 13: Substance-Related Disorders
11/14/13	
11/19/13	Ch 14: Eating Disorders & Impulse Control Disorders
11/21/13	NO CLASS: <i>Dr. Borntrager out of town for the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies annual conference</i>
11/26/13	Exam 3
11/28/13	HOLIDAY
12/03/13	Ch 14: cont'd
12/05/13	Ch 14: cont'd & Ethical & DSM-5 issues EXTRA CREDIT #2 DUE
12/11/13-	FINAL EXAM WEEK
12/13/13	

*Additional readings

**Extra Credit (1st option)
DUE THURSDAY 10/17/13**

- Conduct a search on a topic of your choice (but related to abnormal psychology, of course) in PsycINFO. After conducting this search, turn in answers to the following questions:
 1. What are the search terms that you used, and how many articles were retrieved for your search?
 2. Select one article (preferably a journal article, which is indicated by the “publication type” field and is typically labeled “peer-reviewed journals”) and access the full text of the article. Print out the first page of the article to indicate that you were able to access the article and turn it in with your assignment.
 3. Read this article and write a brief (1 paragraph) summary of the article you chose in lay language. DO NOT copy any part of the abstract; this, of course, would constitute plagiarism.
 4. List three different search terms (or combinations of search terms) that you might use if you were to research this topic further

Extra Credit (2nd option)

DUE THURSDAY 12/05/13

- **Research Participation**

By choosing to participate in a study here in the Psychology Department, you may receive 4 points of Extra Credit. E-mail or visit my office hours and we'll get you in touch with the right person! Be sure to do this early in the semester as schedules for research participation may vary depending on the number of slots needed/available.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. What the heck is PsycINFO?

PsycInfo is an online tool for searching articles, book chapters, etc. in the field of psychology.

2. How do I access PsycINFO?

You must be online on campus, or have your browser configured to work with a proxy server so that you can access campus resources off-campus. Go to <http://www.lib.umt.edu/>, select “Databases A-Z,” then select “P,” then “PsycINFO.” You may have to log in with your NetID.

3. What if my search turns up too many articles?

Part of this assignment is figuring out how to do a “good” search in PsycINFO. You may narrow your search by adding other constraints, such as the publication type or year, or by adding another keyword to your search. For example, “substance use” would yield thousands of articles, but adding the keyword “bipolar disorder” would narrow this down considerably.

4. What if I can't access the article I want to read online?

Although many articles are available online, some require going to a print copy of the article (e.g., actually FINDING a journal in the library, then OPENING it, and then perhaps PHOTOCOPYING the article so that you can read it. You can do it!). We don't have every journal in our library, so if there's one you want but can't get here, then select another article. If you decide to get really fancy, you could order your article of interest through Interlibrary Loan.

5. What is the airspeed velocity of an unladen swallow?

The answer to this question is beyond the scope of this course.