American University of Beirut  
Department of Psychology  
Advanced Psychopathology  
PSYC 350  
Fall 2013

Professor:  
Tima Al-Jamil, Ph.D.  
Email: FA25@aub.edu.lb  
Office: Jesup Hall Rm. 101  
Office hours: TR 10-11am, or by appointment

Course place and Time:  
Jesp Hall 107A  
Wednesday 12:00-2:30pm

Course description:  
The main objective of this course is to deepen your understanding in the area of adult psychopathology by reviewing concepts, theories, controversies and empirical findings. As with all psychopathology courses, the subject matter is wide ranging and diverse, so while we will not be able to cover all the adult psychological disorders, we will be reviewing papers that have been carefully selected to provide you with knowledge of classic research, up to date theories and contemporary issues in the field, covering most of the disorders. The course will emphasize descriptive psychopathology looking at issues of etiology, classification, and larger social and cultural factors, and less on treatment.

Weekly based seminars will focus on an examination of the psychological disorder(s) assigned for that week. Through class discussions of the readings, you will develop an attitude of critical thinking that includes open mindedness, intellectual engagement, skepticism, tolerance for ambiguity and socio-cultural considerations.

The DSM V is on the market with all of its current controversies. We will be reading from a new textbook that incorporates the DSM V. Five copies of the DSM V will arrive at the library soon, so you will have to share access to the book. Reviewing the DSM V throughout the course may prove helpful, as we will be discussing the changes that have taken place since the DSM IV TR. You may want to consider purchasing the DSM V yourself, although you will have to order it from abroad.

Class attendance: Attendance is mandatory, students are expected to attend all classes. According to FAS guidelines, if a student accumulates more than 1/5 absences of the total class sessions he/she will be asked to drop the course. Please note that arriving late to class is considered a disruption to the class process, so please do not do it.

I understand that unforeseen circumstances may arise, such as accidents, illnesses, family emergencies, etc., which will cause a student to miss a class. You must contact me by email if such an incident occurs. In addition, missed classes must be compensated with a reflection paper three pages in length. That paper will require that you integrate the major findings of the readings that you missed. Your reflection
paper should demonstrate a meaningful understanding of your readings and a critical reflection of the findings.

**Academic Dishonesty**  I will not tolerate cheating, plagiarism, presenting work you did not do, or violating rules of proper academic conduct. Such academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to strict AUB recommendations. If you find yourself having some difficulty with an assignment, talk to me about it.

**Course Participation**
There is a list of required readings that will be made available to you each week by email by my graduate assistant. It is imperative that you carefully read the required materials assigned to you before coming to class. The course will be interactive and its success is dependent upon your preparation, involvement and discussion. **Each week, one student will be responsible for leading class discussion.** That student will **not** be responsible for summarizing the material for the class, he or she will only be providing well-composed discussion questions about the readings to stimulate reactions and critical thought. The entire class will be continuously assessed for level of class participation, critical thinking and command of the reading material.

**Required Textbook**

**Recommended Books (Optional)**

**Course Assignments**
For this course, you will be expected to lead one class discussion (described above), complete one term paper and prepare one group oral presentation.

**Term Paper**
The term paper will require that you research one of the four topics assigned to you. Your research topic will involve a major controversy in psychopathology and clinical process. You will be asked to do three things: 1) thoroughly review the background literature around this controversy, 2) discuss clinical implications of your findings, and 3) suggest future directions in research. On the last day of class, you will hand in a ten to twelve page paper, double spaced, 12 font, 1”margins, with no limit to the number of references you use. Most of your references will be empirical studies from peer-reviewed journals, however additional references in the form of books, reviews,
analyses and critiques will also prove beneficial. The four topics include: 1) The Bipolar Spectrum Debate 2) Anxiety and Depression: One underlying disorder? 3) Treatment Considerations for Personality Disorder: A closer look at Borderline Personality 4) Culture and the Prognosis of Schizophrenia.

**Oral Presentation**
Four oral presentations will take place on the last two days of class. Each group of three students will present one of the four debated topics in psychopathology assigned to you. You will be expected to write separate and independent term papers while collaborating on the oral presentation using Powerpoint.

**Grade Scheme**
Term Paper: 40%
Group Oral Presentation: 30%
Discussion Leading: 20%
Class Participation: 10%

**Course Schedule**

Week 1 – Sept 4 – Course Introduction

Week 2 – Sept 11 – Conceptions of Psychopathology
Readings: Textbook: Craighead et al. (2013) Chapter 1

Week 3 – Sept 18 – Anxiety Disorders – OCD and GAD
Readings: Craighead et al. (2013) Chapter 3, 4

*Supplementary Readings:*

**Week 4 – Sept 25 – Anxiety Disorders – Panic Disorder and PTSD**
**Readings:** Craighead et al. (2013) Chapter 6, 7

**Supplementary Readings:**

**Week 5 – Oct 2 – Major Depressive Disorder, Chronicity and Suicide**
**Readings:** Craighead et al. (2013) Chapter 8, 9

**Supplementary Readings:**
Week 6 – Oct 9 Bipolar Disorder
Readings: Craighead et al. (2013) Chapter 10

Supplementary Readings:

Week 7 – Oct 23 – Nov 6 – Schizophrenia
Readings: Craighead et al. (2013) Chapter 11

Supplementary Readings:

Week 8 – Oct 30 – Eating Disorders – Anorexia and Bulimia Nervosa
Readings: Craighead et al. (2013) Chapter 12, 13

**Supplementary Readings:**

**Week 9 – Nov 6 – Introduction to Personality disorders**
**Readings:** Craighead et al. (2013) Chapter 14

**Week 10 – Nov 13 – Narcissistic Personality and Borderline Personality Disorder**
**Readings:**
Supplementary Readings


Week 11 – Nov 20 Substance Related Disorders
Readings: Craighead et al. (2013) Chapter 15

Week 12 – Nov 27 – Oral Presentations

Week 13 – Dec 4 – Oral Presentations / *Term papers due*