

## PSYC 4700-001: Topics in Abnormal Behaviour

Wed and Fri, 9:30 am to 12:00 pm  
Room 3M50, Manitoba Hall

Professor: Michael Ellery, Ph.D., C.Psych.  
Office: 608 Broadway

Email: m.ellery@uwinnipeg.ca  
Office Hours: email for appointment

### Course Goals

The course catalogue entry for PSYC 4700 reads as:

This is an advanced level course in abnormal psychology. The focus of the course is on recent research related to theories and mechanisms of abnormal behaviour. Topics include factors related to the development, maintenance, and treatment of abnormal behaviour in children and adults.

My primary goals for this course are to **acquaint students with the DSM 5 criteria used to identify psychological disorders, understand the prevalence of incidence of psychological disorders in our communities, and to describe factors related to their development, maintenance and treatment.** This will include reviewing and presenting recent research on psychopathology.

### Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- state diagnostic criteria associated with common psychological disorders
- recognize the associated features of common psychological disorders
- report the prevalence rates of common psychological disorders
- identify biological and psychosocial factors that contribute to the development and maintenance of common psychological disorders, and explain how these factors interact to produce psychopathology
- describe biological and psychosocial treatments for common psychological disorders and associate treatments that have empirical support with the diagnoses for which they are effective
- recognize and identify obstacles to current best practices in diagnostic assessment and treatment

To achieve these objectives, each week students will read, respond to, and lead discussions on the features of DSM 5 disorders, practice structured clinical interviewing, and write a midterm and final exam.

### Prerequisites for this Course

This seminar course is open to psychology students in the honours program who have successfully completed PSYC 2102: Introduction to Research Methods. PSYC 2102 is required because the course draws heavily on current psychological research. **Without PSYC 2102, students are underprepared to identify and use scientifically rigorous sources when presenting.**

### Required Text

The required text for this course is:

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, fifth edition* (DSM-5™). Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing.

The DSM 5 may be accessed electronically through the university library.

## Seminar Schedule

The schedule is a guide only. Depending on time and interest, the topics or timetable may be adjusted.

The first day of class is May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Last class will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Make-up class(es) will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup>, if necessary. Evaluation period is June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023. If I anticipate any conflicts or changes, I will let you know as much in advance as possible.

**Each week, each student will be responsible for delivering a seven minute presentation on a particular topic associated with the disorder they have been assigned.** The student will present on a different aspect of the same disorder each week. The disorders will be assigned randomly from a list of disorders curated by the instructor. Student preferences will be considered and accommodated, if possible. The topics for each week's seminar are listed below.

Date	Topics	Comments
May 3	Assignment of disorders and course overview Review of the development of DSM 5	Led by Michael
May 5	Description of diagnostic criteria	Compare DSM IV to DSM 5
May 10	Description of associated features	Compare DSM IV to DSM 5
May 12	Prevalence and incidence	Review recent research; include Canadian data
May 17	Biological features I: Neurochemistry & neurophysiology	Review recent research
May 19	Biological features II: Genetics	Review recent research
May 24	Midterm Test Biological treatments (pharmacotherapy, psychosurgery, etc.)	Exam for first 60 mins Shortened presentations
May 26	Psychosocial features (cognition, childhood influences, trauma, personality, etc.)	Review recent research
May 31	Psychological treatments I	Provide overview of, and review recent evidence for, the most empirically-supported treatment
Jun 2	Psychological treatments II	Provide overview of, and review recent evidence for, one or more other treatment approach(es)
Jun 7	Catch up on presentations that could not be completed during previous classes	Seven minutes per presentation is short!
Jun 9	Structured Clinical Interview for DSM 5 Research Version (SCID-5-RV) and Personality Disorders (SCID-5-PD)	Led by Michael May include practice

<sup>a</sup> 31 May 23 is the last date to withdraw without academic penalty from this course.

Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make-up work and/or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at:

<http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>

## Grading

Your mark in this course will be calculated as follows:

The grading scheme will be: A+ at instructor's discretion, A = > 84.9, A- = 80.0-84.9, B+ = 75.0-79.9, B = 70.0-74.9, C+ = 65.0-69.9, C = 60.0-64.9, D = 50.0-59.9, F = < 50.0

Participation	11 x 1 point	= 11
Weekly Presentations	9 x 3 points	= 27
Midterm Exam	1 x 31 points	= 31
Final Exam	1 x 31 points	= 31
Total		= 100

Final grades will be reviewed by the Department Review Committee (DRC) and may be subject to change. All grades are tentative until approved, and can be adjusted by the Instructor, the DRC, or Senate before approval. Academic Dates, Regulations, and Policies from the current Academic Calendar may be accessed here <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/index.html>

### Participation (11 x 1 points each)

Participation marks will be awarded per class, according to the following rubric:

No show	= 0 points
Suit up and show up	= 1 point

Part marks may be awarded under certain circumstances (e.g., arriving late to the seminar), at the discretion of the instructor. If you expect to miss more than one seminar, you should reconsider your registration in this course. We have a lot of material to cover, and a limited amount of time.

You may notice we have 12 seminars and only 11 points. Because life happens, one missed seminar will not influence your participation mark. Everybody gets one.

### Weekly Presentations (9 x 3 points each)

Each week, students will present for approximately seven minutes. Also, each week, **students will distribute handouts (either electronically or hard copy) for the following week's discussion.**

Weekly presentations will be graded according to the following rubric:

Presentation not delivered	= 0 points
Presentation approximates what was assigned but has downgrades	= 1 point
Presentation reviews the material and facilitates learning, but has downgrades	= 2 points
Presentation reviews the material and facilitates learning without downgrades	= 3 points

These criteria are flexible in order to leave room for innovative approaches to classroom teaching and to maximize the likelihood of students' success, not to punish students for not meeting some unexpressed expectation. If the guidelines seem vague, the lack of specificity is intended to work in your favour.

### Exams (2 x 31 points each)

The exams will be short answer format. Students will respond their choice of items in each section, with the stipulation that they **cannot respond to items that ask about disorders for which they have been primarily responsible to present.**

There will be one midterm on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and a final sometime during the evaluation period in June, 2023 (likely June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023). No pieces of equipment (e.g., calculators, dictionaries, handheld devices, etc.) will be authorized for use in tests or exams. **The voluntary withdrawal (VW) date for this class is May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

## Accessibility Services

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility> to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.

## Learning Environment

All students, faculty, and staff have the right to participate, learn, and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at [www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect).

We ask that you please be respectful of the needs of classmates and instructors/professors by avoiding the use of unnecessary scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g., perfume).

## Student Counselling

The material covered in this course can sometimes prompt students to reflect upon issues in their own lives. Students who wish to discuss academic or personal concerns further are encouraged to contact the Counselling Centre, on the main floor of the Duckworth Centre. <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/student-wellness/>

Student Counselling may be contacted at [studentwellness@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:studentwellness@uwinnipeg.ca) or 204-258-3809.

## Academic Misconduct

Students should familiarize themselves with the University's policy on academic misconduct (<http://pace.uwinnipegcourses.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/publications/Academic%20Misconduct%20Policy.pdf>) as well as Section 8a of the Regulations and Policies document of the Academic Calendar (<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/regulationsandpolicies.pdf>). Consider viewing the University of Winnipeg library's video tutorial, "Avoiding Plagiarism": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvFdxRU9a8g>

Be assured that my personal limits on this issue are decidedly narrow, and that **I take academic misconduct very seriously.**

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Winnipeg Students' Association (UWSA) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at [www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy](http://www.theuwsa.ca/academic-advocacy) or call 204-786-9780.