

**American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

SBHS 217, Abnormal Psychology

1. Course learning Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the subject of abnormal psychology as defined by DSM-IV-TR. The major models of abnormal behavior – biological, psychological, and sociological – will be reviewed, current treatment and rehabilitation approaches will be considered, and cultural, legal and ethical issues will be presented. Students will be encouraged to think critically about abnormal behavior and the application of its definitions to ‘real life’ examples.

2. Resources Available to Students

Textbook: Halgin, R.P. & Whitbourne, S.K. (2003). *Abnormal psychology*. Fourth edition. NY, NY: McGraw Hill.

Books and periodicals on psychology in the university libraries.

Electronic journal titles and other Internet facilities on psychology.

3. Grading Criteria

A. *Class attendance and participation*. Students are expected to attend classes and to participate in class activities including research studies, general discussions, case studies, debates, etc. Class attendance and participation count for 15% of the final mark. Needless to say, students who do not attend classes are unlikely to present themselves with opportunities to participate. These students are at high risk for not getting any credits for this aspect of their evaluation. The instructor’s mark for student attendance and participation is final and not negotiable.

B. *Tests*. Two 50-minutes multiple-choice tests (60 questions). Each test counts 20% of the final mark.

1. Test I Chapters 1 - 4 & lecture material
2. Test II Chapters 5 - 8 & lecture material

C. *Final Examination*. A 90-minutes multiple-choice final examination. The final exam counts 30% of the final mark.

D. *Written Assignment.* This assignment counts 15% of the final mark. Each student is required to write an empirical paper on a topic in abnormal psychology. The paper should be no longer than 10 pages (double space) APA style (5th edition) article with Title, Abstract, Introduction, Method, Results, Discussion, References, and Appendix (to include scales, questionnaires, interview protocols, etc. used, printout of literature search done, raw data collected, and any other pertinent material). A copy of the APA style is available in the Library and in the SBS department. An APA style template is also available from the instructor. Students should seek approval for the specific abnormal behavior they want to focus on and the research methodology they want to use. *Late submissions will be penalized 5% per day.*

4. Schedule

Date	Reading	Topic
Week 1	Chapter 1	Definition of abnormal behavior
Week 1	1	History of abnormal psychology
Week 1	1	Research
Week 2	2	Research
Week 2	2	Classification
Week 3	2	Effects of Classification
Week 3	3	Assessment: objective
Week 3	3	Assessment: projective
Week 4	4	Theory: psychodynamic
Week 4	4	Theory: behavioral
Week 4	4	Theory: humanistic
Test I (Chapters 1 -4 and lecture material)		
Week 5	5	Anxiety disorders
Week 5	5	Anxiety disorders
Week 5	5	Anxiety disorders
Week 6	6	Psychological-Medical disorders
Week 6	6	Somatoform disorders
Week 6	6	Dissociative disorders
Week 7	7	Sexual Dysfunctions
Week 7	7	Sexual Dysfunctions
Week 7	7	Paraphilias
Week 8	8	Mood disorders
Week 58	8	Mood disorders
Week9	8	Suicide
Week 9	8	Suicide
Test II (Chapters 5-8 and lecture material)		
Week 10	9	Schizophrenia
Week 10	9	Schizophrenia
Week 10	9	Schizophrenia
Week 11	10	Personality Disorders
Week 11	10	Personality Disorders
Week 12	12	Cognitive disorders

Week 12	12	Cognitive disorders
Week 13	13	Substance related disorders
Week 13	13	Substance related disorders
Week 14	15	Ethical and Legal Issues
Week 14	15	Ethical and Legal Issues

Written Assignment Due in Class

Week 14	Review, Analysis and Synthesis
To be scheduled	FINAL EXAM (chapters 9-10, 12-13, 15 and lecture material plus 20% from previous material)

5. Course Policy

A. *Illness*. The rescheduling of exams or extensions of deadlines will be granted only for legitimate medical or compassionate reasons, provided the matter is discussed with the instructor **prior** to the due date and provided acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim is presented.

B. *Cheating and Plagiarism*. Cheating on an examination and plagiarism are considered scholastic offenses, and are subject to disciplinary actions (see AUB Policies and Procedures on Definitions of Academic Misconduct and Disciplinary Actions).