

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Division of Social Science
SOSC3900 Abnormal Psychology
Fall Semester, 2022

Lecturer	Teaching Assistant
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Lecture Time: Tue, Thu 12:00pm – 1:20pm

Venue: 6591

Course Description

Abnormal psychology is the scientific study of psychopathology and abnormal behavior. This course introduces theories, research methods, and the most updated research findings in the field of abnormal psychology. Students will be introduced to various types of psychological disorders, such as mood disorders, schizophrenia, personality disorders, somatoform disorders, sex-related disorders, etc. They will also learn about the diagnosis, causes, maintenance, and treatment of major psychological disorders from an integrative perspective.

Prerequisite

SOSC1960 Discovering Mind and Behavior or SOSC1980 Psychology of Personal Growth

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to:

1. demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of selected theories and concepts that are of importance and interest in abnormal psychology
2. understand how clinical psychologists classify and diagnose various types of psychological disorders
3. evaluate the development and treatment of psychological disorders from an integrative perspective
4. apply the theories and concepts to daily lives and real cases of psychological disorders
5. analyze, synthesize, and integrate key ideas within the field in a research project they design.

Required Textbook

Kearney, C., & Trull, T. (2018). *Abnormal psychology and life: A dimensional approach* (3rd ed.). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

Suggested Reading

American Psychiatric Association (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing.

Assessment Scheme	Weighting	ILOs
Quizzes	40%	#1, #2
Group Project		
Oral Presentation and Q&A	20%	
Factsheet	10%	#1, #2, #3, #4
Film Critique	30%	#1, #2, #3

1. Quizzes (40%)

- Two quizzes will be administered to test your understanding of course materials. Quizzes will include multiple-choice and/or short questions. They are non-cumulative. Quiz 1 counts for 15% and Quiz 2 for 25%. Both quizzes cover all materials in lectures and required readings (the relevant chapters will appear on the last page of the lecture handouts).
- Supplementary readings are also listed in the lecture note but they will NOT be included in the quizzes. These readings are useful for a deeper understanding in the course contents.
- Quiz 1 is scheduled on **Oct 6** and covers topics from **Week 1 to 3**. Quiz 2 is scheduled on **Nov 29** and covers topics from **Week 4 onwards**.
- Arrive on time for the quizzes as no additional time will be given for students arriving late.
- No make-up quizzes will be given to students who are absent from the examination unless students can provide validated medical reasons. You should notify the teaching team (through email) about your absence by attaching your official medical certificate **within 24 hours of the original exam date** if you wish to arrange for a make-up exam. All make-up quizzes will ONLY be in the form of essay questions.

2. Group Project (30%)

- **Tasks:**

(1) Case Analysis – Oral Presentation and Q&A Session (20%)

You are required to work in groups of 5-7 people to complete a group project. Your task is to investigate ONE specific psychological disorder (The disorder must be different from the ones listed in the teaching schedule). In the presentation, you have to

- Describe the diagnostic criteria of the selected disorder
- Provide a case vignette (a celebrity or someone you know in person) of the disorder
- Identify the etiology of the disorder for the case vignette
- Suggest possible treatment approaches for the case vignette

(2) Factsheet – Treatment (10%)

Each group has to submit a factsheet describing the current treatment(s) for that selected disorder. Select one specific treatment and evaluate its effectiveness and limitations.

- Groups will be formed during class time on Sept 20. You may find your groupmates in class and submit the group name list after class. For those who fail to form groups or absent on Sept 20, we will assign a group for you.
- Each group should discuss with me about your presentation in the class consultation session.

3. Film Critique (30%)

- Psychological disorders are often portrayed in films. The objective of this paper is to review and critique a film from a psychological perspective. Select a film and analyze the film based on your knowledge about psychological disorders within 900 words.
- This is NOT a summary of the film, be critical and reflective. Provide your insights about the issues related to the psychological disorder(s) discussed in the film.

Academic Integrity

You should observe the University's policies regarding academic integrity (<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/resource-library/regulations-student-conduct-and-academic-integrity>). Academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating would result in a reduction of scores or even a failing grade in the course. We will investigate every suspected case of plagiarism and report the confirmed case to Division of Social Science for further review or action. Make sure you understand academic honesty.

Course Communication Platform

All lecture materials and announcements will be posted on CANVAS. Be sure to check CANVAS frequently for any updated news.

Some Other Notes

- **Interaction in class** – I believe interactions (both verbal and non-verbal) between the lecturer and the students (and among students) are one of the key ingredients to an optimal learning experience. Your active participations in class discussion or activities will not only enhance your learning, but also motivate the teaching team to do better! Stay behind the class and share with me your thoughts about the course contents.
- **Lecture slides** – Lecture slides will be posted to CANVAS before each class, but the contents will be a bit different from the displayed slides as I hope to encourage you to take your own notes. Note-taking facilitates your reflection and assimilation of the lecture contents.
- **Penalties** – Score deduction applies to any assignments over the word limit. Detailed can be found in the assignment guidelines.
- **Late submission** – For any group assignment, the group leader will do the submission. Submissions received less than 5 hours after the deadline will not be penalized. No submissions will be accepted after 5pm HKT on the due date.
- **Communication** – Please expect that your emails will be responded to during weekdays 10am to 6pm HKT.
- **Your feedback** – Your opinions about the course are very valuable to help me improve the course. Feel free to drop by to talk to me. A course evaluation will also be held at the end of the course.

Teaching Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Required Readings
1	Sept 1	Introduction	---
1	Sept 6 Sept 8	Abnormal Psychology and Life	Ch. 1
2	Sept 13 Sept 15	Perspectives on Abnormal Psychology	Ch. 2
3	Sept 20 Sept 22	Diagnosis and Study of Abnormal Disorders	Ch. 3 & 4
4	Sept 27 Sept 29	Anxiety Disorders	Ch. 5
5	<i>Oct 4</i>	<i>Chung Yeung Festival</i>	
	Oct 6	Quiz 1 (Week 1 to 3)	
6	Oct 11 Oct 13	Obsessive-Compulsive and related Disorders Trauma and Stressor-related Disorders	Ch. 5
7	Oct 18 Oct 20	Depressive and Bipolar Disorders	Ch. 7
8	Oct 25 Oct 27	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders	Ch. 12
9	<i>Nov 1</i> <i>Nov 3</i>	<i>Group Project Consultation</i>	
10	Nov 8 Nov 10	Eating Disorders	Ch. 8
11	Nov 15 Nov 17	Sex-related Disorders	Ch. 11
12	<i>Nov 22</i> <i>Nov 24</i>	<i>Group Project Presentation</i>	
13	Nov 29	Quiz 2 (Week 4 onwards)	

Important Dates

Date	Task
Sept 20	Submission of Finalized Group List
Oct 6	Quiz 1
Nov 1 & 3	Group Project Consultation
Nov 21	Group Project PPT & Factsheet
Nov 22 & 24	Group Project Presentation
Nov 26	Peer Evaluation
Nov 29	Quiz 2
Dec 5	Film Critique