



King Saud University
Department of Psychology

Course Title: Psychopathology (PSY 555)- **Credits:** 3 - **Academic Year:** 1434/1435 H, **Semester:** 2nd .
Instructor: Dr. Ahmad Al-Shayea – aalshayea@ksu.edu.sa – Dept. of Psychology, Office: AA 185.

Course Description

The main purpose of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of major mental disorders such as psychotic, anxiety, mood, personality, somatoform, dissociative, eating, and sleeping disorders. This will be accomplished within the framework of the latest editions of diagnostic and classification manuals (e.g., DSM-IV & ICD-10). The course will also explore various paradigms on psychopathology at historical, social, cultural, psychological, and biological levels of analysis. Treatment of these various disorders will also be discussed.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student should:

1. Be familiar with the concept of psychological abnormality, and be aware of the methodological/theoretical dilemmas surrounding defining it.
2. Be familiar with and able to discuss several different theoretical perspectives in the general field of psychopathology.
3. Be familiar with and able to discuss the DSM-IV multi-axial classification of psychological disorders and the criteria for diagnosing these disorders.
4. Be familiar with the assessment tools commonly used in the field of psychopathology.

Evaluation:

1. One Midterm exam (30 mark): Tuesday, 15/6/1435 (15/4/2014).
2. Two Oral presentations (7.5 marks each – 15 marks in total). Each student is expected to prepare and give two 20-minute talk during the lecture, outlining a topic relevant to the course. This may be followed by questions and comments. Times are to be agreed with the course instructor.
3. Two Critique papers (7.5 marks each – 15 marks in total) – Each student is expected to submit TWO written critical/descriptive summary (Critique) of a published article. Critiques should be written/prepared in a scholarly format. Papers are to be agreed with the course instructor. Deadlines TBC.
4. Final Exam (40%) - Additional information about the final exam will be given in due time.

Course Topics:

1. Psychopathology: Defining, history and related professions (mental health professions).
2. Current Approaches to Psychopathology: Genetic, Neuroscience, Behavioural, Cognitive-behavioural. The integrative paradigm.
3. Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis.
4. Mood disorders.
5. Anxiety disorders.
6. Obsessive-compulsive and trauma-related disorders.
7. Dissociative and somatic disorders.
8. Schizophrenia.
9. Eating disorders.
10. Disorders of childhood.
11. Personality disorders.

Required Textbooks/resources:

1. Kring, A. M., Johnson, S. L., Davison, G. C., & Neale, J. M. (2013). *Abnormal psychology*. Singapore, Pte: John Wiley & Sons.
2. American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition. (DSM-IV-TR)*. Washington: American Psychiatric Association.
3. Materials/handouts provided by the course instructor during lectures.
4. Lectures PowerPoint slides (these outline the textbook chapters, and thus constitute useful learning materials for revising).

Supplemental References/Further Readings:

1. Hersen, M., Turner, S., & Beidel, D. (2007). *Adult Psychopathology and Diagnosis (5thEd.)*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley & Sons.
2. Craighead, W. E., Miklowitz, D. J., & Craighead, L. W. (Eds.). (2008). *Psychopathology: History, diagnosis, and empirical foundations*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.
3. Spitzer, R. L., Gibbon, M., Skodol, A. E., Williams, J. B. W., & First, M. B. (2002). *DSM-IV-TR casebook*. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press.

NB: Please feel free to ask me should you wish to be provided with literature looking at particular area in details and/or in-depth.