

## PSYC 4700-001: Topics in Abnormal Behaviour

WF, 9:30 am to 12:00 pm  
Room 3M50, Manitoba Hall

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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-TR criteria used to identify psychological disorders, understand the prevalence and 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 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-TR disorders, 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, use, and critique scientifically rigorous sources when presenting.**

### Required Text

The required text for this course is:

American Psychiatric Association. (2022). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, fifth edition - text revision* (DSM-5-TR™). Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing.

The DSM-5-TR may be accessed electronically through the university library at this link:

<https://libguides.uwinnipeg.ca/az.php?q=dsm>

## 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Last class will be held on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Make-up class will be held on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, if necessary. Evaluation period is June 18<sup>th</sup> to June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If I anticipate any conflicts or changes, I will let you know as much in advance as possible.

Note that the University of Winnipeg is closed on the following dates:

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for Victoria Day

Except where otherwise indicated, **every week, five students will deliver presentations up to 25 minutes each, on a particular topic associated with the disorder they have been assigned.** The disorders will be assigned randomly from a selected 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 8	Assignment of disorders and course overview Review of the development of DSM-5-TR	Led by Michael
May 10	Description of diagnostic criteria	From DSM-5-TR; Differential diagnosis
May 15	Description of associated features	From DSM-5-TR
May 17	Prevalence and incidence	Review recent research; include Canadian data
May 22	Biological features I: Neurochemistry & neurophysiology	Review recent research
May 24	Biological features II: Genetics	Review recent research
May 29	Midterm Test Biological treatments (pharmacotherapy, psychosurgery, etc.)	Exam for first 60 mins Shortened presentations
May 31	Psychosocial features (cognition, childhood influences, trauma, personality, etc.)	Review recent research
Jun 5 <sup>a</sup>	Psychological treatments I	Provide overview of, and review recent evidence for, the most empirically-supported treatment
Jun 7	Psychological treatments II	Provide overview of, and review recent evidence for, one or more other supported treatment approach(es)
Jun 12	Catch up on presentations that could not be completed during previous classes	Catch up day
Jun 14	Critiques of DSM-5-TR, medicalization of mental health; future directions in clinical psychology	Led by Michael

<sup>a</sup> 5 Jun 24 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	3 x 7 points	= 21
Midterm Exam	1 x 34 points	= 34
Final Exam	1 x 34 points	= 34
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)

Because this is a seminar course, attendance and active participation are essential. 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 (3 x 7 points each)

Each week, five students will present for approximately 25 minutes each. **Students will email electronic versions of their presentations, at least one day in advance, so that they may be posted to Nexus.**

Weekly presentations will be graded according to the following rubric:

Presentation not delivered	= 0 points
Presentation delivered, but with little evidence of engagement or understanding	= 1 point
Presentation approximates what was assigned but has substantial downgrades	= 3 points
Presentation reviews the material and facilitates learning, but has downgrades	= 5 points
Presentation reviews the material and facilitates learning without downgrades	= 7 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 34 points each)

**Exam items are drawn from the presentations made by the students and the instructor.** The exams will be short answer format.

There will be one midterm on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and a final sometime during the evaluation period in June, 2024. 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 June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

## 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.

## Research Ethics

Students conducting research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, including a family member, must obtain research ethics approval before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities done in class as a learning exercise. For submission requirements and deadlines, see <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/ethics/human-ethics.html>

## Privacy

Students are reminded of their rights in relation to the collecting of personal data by the University: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/admissions-privacy-notice.html>. Privacy notices related to the use of Zoom for remote teaching may be found here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-privacy-notice.html>. Privacy notices related to testing and proctoring may be found here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/privacy/zoom-test-and-exam-proctoring.html>

## Copyright and Intellectual Property

Course materials are the property of the instructor who developed them. Examples include, but are not limited to: course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, presentation slides, etc., irrespective of format. Students who upload these materials to file sharing sites, or in any other way share these materials without prior permission of the instructor, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor before photographing, creating an audio or video recording, or taking screenshots of slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board. Students who violate an instructor's intellectual property rights could face serious consequences, including possible legal sanction. [https://copyright.uwinnipeg.ca/docs/copyright\\_policy\\_2017.pdf](https://copyright.uwinnipeg.ca/docs/copyright_policy_2017.pdf)

Similarly, students who upload essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (e.g., filesharing sites that provide essays for use by others who subsequently submit them to instructors as their own work) are guilty of Academic Misconduct. Students who submit assignments that have been generated by another person or by artificial intelligence (AI) as their own work are guilty of Academic Misconduct.

## Academic Misconduct

Students are responsible for familiarizing 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>

The foundational principles of clinical psychology are science and ethics. Be assured that my personal and professional limits on misconduct are decidedly narrow, and that **I take academic misconduct very seriously**. If you find yourself engaging in academic misconduct, you should not pursue clinical psychology as a profession.

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.