



**UNSW**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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# Science

Faculty of Science  
School of Psychology

## GENS9003/PSYC1023 Abnormal Psychology

Semester 1, 2015

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1. Information about the Course			
FACULTY	Science		
SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENT	Psychology		
COURSE CODE	GENS9003 / PSYC1023		
COURSE NAME	Abnormal Psychology		
SEMESTER	Semester 2	YEAR	2015
UNITS OF CREDIT	6	LEVEL OF COURSE	GENERAL / 1
ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE, PREREQUISITES OR CO-REQUISITES	None		
SUMMARY OF THE COURSE	This course will provide a contemporary view of issues associated with human mental disorders and psychopathology; it will introduce and discuss the notion of abnormality in behaviour, diagnostic practice, stigma, prognosis and treatment in human mental disorders. There will be discussion of what is known of the nature and aetiology of major mental disorders such as schizophrenia and depression, psychological and biological theories that attempt to account for these disorders, as well as their prevalence, treatment and prognosis. The course is taught entirely online using the e-learning Moodle site [ <a href="https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle">https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle</a> ]. The final exam will be conducted during the official exam period (date and location TBA) and will be done on the Kensington campus (i.e. not on Moodle).		

2. Staff Contact Details				
<b>COURSE COORDINATOR</b>				
Name	Phone	Email	Office	Contact Time & Availability
Helena Pacitti	Email only	<a href="mailto:h.pacitti@student.unsw.edu.au">h.pacitti@student.unsw.edu.au</a>	N/A	Mon-Fri (Email to arrange meeting) Preferred contact via email
<b>LECTURERS</b>				
Name	Phone	Email	Office	Contact Time & Availability
Dr. Joshua Broderick Marios Panayi	N/A	N/A	N/A	All questions regarding the course content should be directed to Helena Pacitti.

3. Course Timetable				
Component	Class Number	Day	Time	Location
Lecture	1176	Mon (made available)	09:00	Online; Moodle
<i>NB. Course timetables are subject to change without notice. Students are advised to check regularly for updates on the Moodle course site.</i>				

4. Aims of the Course
<p>The course is an introduction to the study of maladaptive behaviour and mental disorders. The aims of the course are to provide you with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This course will provide a contemporary view of issues associated with human mental disorders and psychopathology.</li> <li>2. It will introduce and discuss the notion of abnormality in behaviour, diagnostic practice, stigma, prognosis and treatment in human mental disorders.</li> <li>3. There will be discussion of what is known of the nature and aetiology of major mental disorders such as eating disorders, child psychopathology, anxiety disorders, depression, and others.</li> <li>4. Psychological and biological theories that attempt to account for these disorders.</li> </ol>

## 5. Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. You will be able to demonstrate knowledge of general issues relating to the classification and causation of mental disorders and key related concepts (e.g. nature vs. nurture).
2. You will learn the characteristics of the basic scientific method and how it is applied in psychological research contexts – particularly with regard to mental health and be able to demonstrate that knowledge.
3. You will be able to demonstrate the major features of the specific disorders covered within the course, and be able to outline some of the major theorised causal and maintaining features of them.
4. You will be able to demonstrate knowledge of some of the medical and psychological treatments for the specific disorders discussed.
5. You will be able to demonstrate the skills of critical thinking, conceptual analysis, and written and visual expression.

## 6. Graduate Attributes

School of Psychology Graduate Attributes*	Level of Focus 0 = No focus 1 = Minimal 2 = Minor 3 = Major	Activities/Assessment
1. Core knowledge and understanding	3	Participation in online lectures and prescribed chapter readings. These activities are designed to enhance your understanding of abnormal psychology – including understanding the key characteristics of specific mental disorders, scientifically driven theoretical explanations for these mental disorders, and evidence based treatments.
2. Research methods in psychology	1	Specific discussions outlining the process of scientific enquiry in general and more specifically with relation to psychology and abnormal psychology. Ongoing delivery of case examples of scientific research in the field of abnormal psychology throughout lectures and in the textbook.
3. Critical thinking skills	2	The selected assessments for this course will allow you to employ your critical thinking skills to a choice of topics relating to the science of abnormal psychology. You will also be encouraged to think critically about scientific issues during online lectures; using the online chat forum; and in forum discussions.
4. Values, research and professional ethics	1	There will be scope for discussion within lectures and textbook material of the ethical issues surrounding the study and treatment of mental disorders – with a focused consideration of individual, societal and cross cultural contexts. You will be asked to consider the stigma associated with mental disorders; and to consider solutions at an individual and societal level to overcoming such prejudice.
5. Communication skills	3	Participating in the online discussion forum. Production of online source content. Your ability to effectively communicate your ideas will also be specifically assessed in a long answer or essay format assignment.

\* The *Graduate Attributes of the Australian Undergraduate Psychology Program* was produced as part of the Carrick Associate Fellowship project, “Sustainable and evidence-based learning and teaching approaches to the undergraduate psychology curriculum”, and “Designing a diverse and future-oriented vision for undergraduate psychology in Australia”, a Discipline-based Initiative funded by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (see Appendix II), and supported by the Australian Psychological Society, and the University of New South Wales (School of Psychology; Learning and Teaching @UNSW).

<b>6. Learning and application of psychology</b>	2	You will be required to exhibit a considered application of several of the key concepts and theoretical models within the context of psychology and more specifically abnormal psychology when completing assessments.
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### 7. Rationale for the Inclusion of Content and Teaching Approach

- All teaching strategies are designed to educate students on the learning outcomes and graduate attributes outlined in the above sections (4, 5, and 6)
- The lecture material is intended to provide you with the majority of information required to gain an in depth knowledge of abnormal psychology – not only of specific disorders, but also of the scientific processes utilised in the study of them
- The prescribed textbook also provides a source of important learning information relevant to abnormal psychology. The textbook content is required reading for this course and seeks to supplement the lecture material.
- The assignment content will provide you with an opportunity to consolidate your learning of course material and to demonstrate independent research and analytical skills
- The examination (quizzes) will provide you with an opportunity to test your understanding of course material

### 8. Teaching Strategies

The course is taught entirely online using the e-learning Moodle site [<https://student.unsw.edu.au/moodle>]. The final exam will be conducted during the official exam period (date and location TBA) and will be done on the Kensington campus (i.e. not on Moodle).

There will be an online mid-semester examination and a long answer or essay format assignment which is to be submitted online.

No external examinations are permitted – unless otherwise agreed with the course co-ordinator.

## 9. Course Schedule

### Online Lectures

**\*\*\*Note all lectures will be delivered online\*\*\***

**\*\*\*There are approximately 2-4 modules for each lecture topic running for approximately 10-30 minutes each.\*\*\***

\*Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of questions in the final exam from this topic

Week Starting	<u>Online Delivery</u>	<u>Textbook Chapter Reading</u>
1	02/03/2015 1. <b>Course Introduction</b> 2. History of Abnormal Psychology	1
2	09/03/2015 3. Definitions of Abnormal Behaviour 4. DSM and Classification	2 & 3
3	16/03/2015 5. The Scientific Method 6. Technology and Abnormal Psychology Research	4
4	23/03/2015 7. Emotion <b>(6)*</b> 8. Fear, Anxiety and Conditioning <b>(6)</b>	2
5	30/03/2015 9. Anxiety Disorders (I) <b>(9)</b> 10. Anxiety Disorders (II) <b>(9)</b>	5
** Mid-semester break**		
6	13/04/2015 11. Mood Disorders <b>(10)</b>	7
7	20/04/2015 12. Schizophrenia <b>(10)</b>	13
8	27/04/2015 13. Personality Disorders <b>(12)</b>	12
9	04/05/2015 14. Drug Addiction <b>(12)</b>	11
10	11/05/2015 15. Child Psychopathology <b>(8)</b>	14
11	18/05/2015 16. Sleep Disorders <b>(6)</b> 17. Cognitive Disorders <b>(6)</b>	8 & 15
12	25/05/2015 18. Eating Disorders <b>(6)</b> 19. New Directions in Treatment <b>(6)</b>	8
13	01/06/2015 20. <b>Course Summary and Exam Information</b>	

## 10. Assessment

Assessment Task	Weight	Learning Outcomes Assessed	Graduate Attributes Assessed	Date of		Feedback		
				Release	Submission	Who	When	How
Mid-Session Exam	15%	1-5	1-4,6	26/03/2015 9am	30/03/2015; Midnight		Immediate	(Moodle)
Assignment	35%	1-5	1-6	13/04/2015	25/05/2015; 5 p.m.	Pacitti	19/06/2015	(Moodle)
Final Exam	50%	1-5	1-4,6	Exam Period TBA				

### 1. Assignment – 35%

- A written assignment will be required for submission in Week 12 (Monday 25/05/2015; 5 p.m.). You will be required to produce a researched written piece to be submitted online. The question and instructions for this assignment will be released on 13/04/2015.

### 2. Mid-session exam – 15%

- On the Thursday of Week 4 (26/03/2015; 9 a.m.), a 20 question multiple-choice test will be made available online (via Moodle) for approximately one week (the exam will be available until Monday 30/03/2015; Midnight). Students will be able to sit the examination once. The exam will last 15 mins allowing for 45s per question. Details about the delivery of the online quiz will be made available to students via *Moodle* and email. Please ensure that you check both of these sources often (i.e. daily or at least bi-weekly). The material assessed in this exam will cover all material presented in weeks 1, 2, 3, & 4, including textbook material.

- Note that this mid-session exam will allow you to assess your progress in the course prior to the semester 2 cut-off date to drop the course without financial liability (Tuesday, 31/03/2015) and without academic penalty (Sunday, 26/04/2015). For more information regarding these dates check MyUNSW.

### 3. Final exam – 50%

- There will be a 2-hour examination held during the University examination period.

- The examination will include a large number of multiple choice questions covering lecture material from Weeks 1-13. See section “9. Course Schedule” for the distribution of questions from each topic.

**- No student should organise travel during this period until the final examination schedule has been released and the date of the exam is known.**

- Although this course is delivered online, it is a university requirement that enrolled students be within the country whilst completing coursework and examinations.

11. Expected Resources for Students	
<b>TEXTBOOKS</b>	<b>Required Reading:</b> Barlow, D.H., & Durand V. M. (2015). <i>Abnormal psychology: An integrative approach. 7th edition.</i> Thomson Learning. -Available from the UNSW bookshop in 2 formats: eBook and physical text
<b>COURSE MANUAL</b>	Available at course website
<b>REQUIRED READINGS</b>	Available from university bookshop and library (both general and high volume use sections)
<b>RECOMMENDED INTERNET SITES</b>	You should be aware of policies regarding your behaviour at the university. Familiarize yourself with the following: <a href="#">Student Code of Conduct</a> <a href="#">Policy concerning academic honesty</a> <a href="#">Email policy</a> <a href="#">UNSW Anti-racism policy statement</a> <a href="#">UNSW Equity and Diversity policy statement</a> <a href="#">UNSW Equal opportunity in education policy statement</a>

12. Course Evaluation & Development
Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered using various means including UNSW's Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

13. Plagiarism & Academic Integrity
<p><b>What is plagiarism?</b></p> <p>Plagiarism is presenting someone else's thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.</p> <p>UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Copying:</b> using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.</li> <li>• <b>Inappropriate paraphrasing:</b> changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit. It also applies to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without referencing and a student's own analysis to bring the material together.</li> <li>• <b>Collusion:</b> working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.</li> <li>• <b>Duplication:</b> submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.</li> </ul> <p><b>Where can I find out more information?</b></p> <p>In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism. The first place you can look is the section about referencing and plagiarism in each Course Guide, as this will also include information specific to the discipline the course is from. There are also other sources of assistance at UNSW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How can the Learning Centre help me?</b> The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: <a href="http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism">www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism</a>. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.</li> <li>• <b>How can Elise help me?</b></li> </ul>

ELISE (Enabling Library & Information Skills for Everyone) is an online tutorial to help you understand how to find and use information for your assignments or research. It will help you to search databases, identify good quality information and write assignments. It will also help you understand plagiarism and how to avoid it. All undergraduate students have to review the ELISE tutorial in their first semester and complete the quiz, but any student can review it to improve their knowledge:

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

- **What is Turnitin?**

Turnitin is a checking database which reviews your work and compares it to an international collection of books, journals, Internet pages and other student's assignments. The database checks referencing and whether you have copied something from another student, resource, or off the Internet. Sometimes students submit their work into Turnitin when they hand it in, but academics can also use it to check a student's work when they are marking it. You can find out more about Turnitin here: <http://telt.unsw.edu.au/turnitin>.

### **What if plagiarism is found in my work?**

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student's work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in a honours thesis) even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here

[www.unsw.edu.au/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf](http://www.unsw.edu.au/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf)

### **Examples of plagiarism**

#### **Using the internet appropriately**

A first year student handed in an assignment where she had copied from a website. Her lecturer realised she didn't understand you have to reference websites in the same way you reference books and journal articles. The lecturer explained how to reference and sent her to a workshop at the Learning Centre to help her improve her skills.

#### **Working together on a math assignment**

A group of Mathematics students worked together on an assignment when they had been told this was not allowed. All questions where the students had worked together were given zero, and this led to some student failing the assessment.

#### **No referencing in an assessment**

A third year student submitted a major assessment that included material from a journal article published in Canada. When his essay was submitted into Turnitin, it let the academic know that the student didn't reference the material. The student was given zero for the essay, and because it was worth 50 per cent he failed the course.

#### **Copying design work**

A final year design student used images of someone else's designs in her work and he said the designs were his own. The matter was formally investigated by his Faculty and he was found to have committed academic misconduct and failed the course.

### **Further information and assistance**

If you would like further information or assistance with avoiding plagiarism, you can contact the Learning Centre. The Learning Centre at The University of New South Wales has two locations:

#### **UNSW Learning Centre**

Lower Ground Floor, North Wing, Chancellery Building



(C22 Kensington Campus – near Student Central)

[www.lc.unsw.edu.au](http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au)

**Phone:** 9385 2060

**Email:** [learningcentre@unsw.edu.au](mailto:learningcentre@unsw.edu.au)

**Opening Hours:**

Monday to Thursday: 9am - 5pm and

Friday: 9am - 2.30pm

**COFA Campus Learning Centre**

**Email:** [cofalearningcentre@unsw.edu.au](mailto:cofalearningcentre@unsw.edu.au)

**Phone:** 9385 0739

#### 14. Administrative Matters

The *School of Psychology Student Guide*, available on [http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/sites/all/files/page\\_file\\_attachment/2015%20S1%20Psychology%20Student%20Guide%20-%2020150217.pdf](http://www.psy.unsw.edu.au/sites/all/files/page_file_attachment/2015%20S1%20Psychology%20Student%20Guide%20-%2020150217.pdf) contains School policies and procedures relevant for all students enrolled in undergraduate or Masters psychology courses, such as:

- Attendance requirements;
- Assignment submissions and returns;
- Assessments;
- Special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- Student Code of Conduct;
- Student complaints and grievances;
- Student Equity and Disability Unit; and
- Occupational Health & Safety.

Students should familiarise themselves with the information contained in this *Guide*.