



Course Outline

PSYC1023

Abnormal Psychology

School of Psychology

Faculty of Science

T1, 2023

1. Staff

Position	Name	Email	Consultation times and locations	Contact Details
Course Convenor	Dr Natalie Rogers	n.rogers@unsw.edu.au	Email to arrange a consult time	Email

2. Course information

Units of credit: 6
Pre-requisite(s): None
Teaching times and locations: [PSYC1023 Timetable](#)

2.1 Course summary

This course provides a contemporary overview of human mental disorders. It will address questions such as How is “abnormal” defined? What causes mental illnesses and how are they treated? Each week students will explore a different mental disorder (e.g., depression, anxiety, bipolar disorders, OCD, substance use disorder) and discuss the symptoms, causes and treatments. Students will also learn about the scientific models that link factors as well as breakthroughs in scientific understanding and treatment of mental disorders.

This course is appropriate for students with and without a background in science and is taught entirely online through Moodle.

N.B. This course is not a treatment program for mental health disorders and should not be viewed as a substitute for professional intervention.

2.2 Course aims

This course aims to provide students with a contemporary view of psychological and biological models explaining human psychopathology. It provides an overview and discussion of the notion of “abnormality”, diagnostic practice, stigma, aetiology, prognosis and treatment in relation to depression, anxiety, bipolar, obsessive-compulsive disorder and substance-use disorder.

The course aims to build a strong foundation in psychological and scientific literacy; skills like understanding the scientific method, psychology as a science, history of psychopathology as a discipline, as well as academic writing skills, critical thinking and analysis. These transferable skills will be beneficial to students who plan to continue in psychology, academically or professionally, as well as those students whose academic and professional focus lies elsewhere.

2.3 Course learning outcomes (CLO)

At the successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Comprehend and apply knowledge of major concepts of abnormal psychology with regard to: risk factors, classification, aetiology and treatments of common mental disorders.
2. Comprehend and apply knowledge of the scientific method in order to understand how these principles are applied in abnormal psychology research and clinical settings.
3. Apply critical thinking skills in order to intellectually engage with literature, differentiate quality empirical evidence from speculation, develop an argument and critique those of others.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical context, ethical principles and values in the area of abnormal psychology.
5. Analyse and critique theory and research in the discipline of psychology and communicate these in a written format.

2.4 Relationship between course and program learning outcomes and assessments

CLO	Program Learning Outcomes						Assessment
	1. Knowledge	2. Research Methods	3. Critical Thinking Skills	4. Values and Ethics	5. Communication, Interpersonal and Teamwork	6. Application	
1.	Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities					Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities	Quizzes, exams, written assignment
2.		Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities				Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities	Quizzes, exams, written assignment
3.	Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities	Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities	Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities				Quizzes, exams, written assignment
4				Lectures, readings, revision quizzes, forums, online activities			Quizzes, exams, written assignment
5					Workshops, forums, self-assessment of written assignment writing		Written assignment

3. Strategies and approaches to learning

3.1 Learning and teaching activities

The lecture content of this course is presented entirely online via the Moodle [<https://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au/login/index.php>] eLearning website. The lectures will be delivered in video format (captioned, transcripts available). Students should watch the lectures and write separate notes to maximise their understanding and retention of the material. A Reading and Study Companion will be made available each week to help students deepen their understanding and integrate the information that they have gained from the various course activities.

The weekly resources will be made available each Monday and will be left online for the duration of the course. This staggered release format is designed to encourage distributed practice (i.e., not “cramming”). The lecture material, prescribed textbook readings and online activities will provide students with the information required to gain a sound introduction to abnormal psychology – not only of specific disorders, but also of the scientific processes utilised in the study of them.

The textbook readings are examinable. Although the lectures, textbook and online activities will cover the same broad topics, and there may be some overlap in content, students should expect to learn different information from each of the different resources.

Formative topic revision quizzes are available on a weekly basis to provide an opportunity for students to evaluate their understanding of course material. Timely completion of all the weekly learning materials will assist students in gaining a proper understanding of each topic.

The Course Content Discussion Forum provides students with an opportunity to question and clarify the lecture and textbook material. Students are strongly encouraged to engage with this forum by posting questions or comments, and reading, answering, and replying to other student's posts to help build a sense of community, enhance understanding of the content, critical thinking, and written communication skills.

The essay writing chapters in the custom eTextbook will provide students with an important introduction to the essay assessment and an opportunity for students to develop their research and writing skills. This source and other course materials will help students learn how to find relevant academic literature (using databases), understand and summarise that information, and then clearly communicate these ideas in an essay format. The custom eTextbook will also introduce students to the APA referencing system.

The essay will give students an opportunity to consolidate their learning of course material and to demonstrate independent research and analytical skills. The mid-term test and final examinations will provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of examinable course material.

3.2 Expectations of students

It is expected that students are aware of UNSW Assessment and Plagiarism Policies, have read through and understand the contents of the School of Psychology Student Guide and understand how to apply for special consideration if they are unable to complete an assignment or exam due to illness or misadventure.

Updates and announcements will be made on the 'Announcements' forum on the Moodle page and/or by email. It is the student's responsibility to check Moodle and their student emails regularly to keep up to date.

The Moodle forums should be the first line of contact with the Course Coordinator (personal matters or matters related to equity provisions can, of course, be sent by email in the first instance). Due to the online nature of the course, under no circumstances are specific exam questions/answers to be discussed on the forums. If you do not receive a reply to your forum post or email within a few days (and your question has not been answered elsewhere e.g. forums, course outline etc), please send a polite follow up to the course coordinator. The Moodle messaging system should not be used to contact the coordinator as these messages have too often been sent to spam.

Although this is an online course, it is expected that students dedicate the same amount of time each week to studying for this course as they would for an on-campus course. "Independent, self-directed practice" is a UNSW Graduate Attribute and an important aspect of online study. Timely completion of online activities is an essential part of independent, self-directed learning. In accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure, students are required to watch the lectures in the week in which they are set and to complete the assigned readings for that week. In accordance with UNSW and School of Psychology policy, failure to meet these expectations may result in rejection of: special consideration applications, written assignment extension requests, supplementary exam/assessment requests, fee remission etc.

Given that the course content and some assessable components are delivered online, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that they have access to a computer with a stable internet connection and a browser capable of handling the features of the Moodle eLearning website and any of its content. To help students establish whether or not their computer/internet access is suitable for the online exam/s, a test quiz is available. This quiz will not contribute to final marks and will be able to be completed multiple times in order to test computer/internet connection prior to assessment submission/exams.

The final exam for this course will take place online during the official final examinations period. Further details will be released closer to the exam date.

Students registered with Equitable Learning Services must contact the course co-ordinator in Week 1 if they intend to request any special arrangements for later in the course, or if any special arrangements need to be made regarding access to the course material. If registration occurs during the term, then letters of support must be emailed to the course coordinator as soon as they are made available.

4. Course schedule and structure

The expected engagement for all UNSW 6UOC courses is 150 hours per term. This course involves approximately 10 hours of lectures and approximately 20 hours of readings. The remaining 120 hours should be spent on group discussions, revision, written assessments and exam preparation.

Week	Lectures	Online modules	Readings
Week 1 13/02/2023	Introduction to Psychopathology Lecture 1: What is “abnormal”? Lecture 2: DSM classification and assessment Lecture 3: The who’s who of mental health	Revision quiz	Chapter 1 (custom pg 2 - 7); Chapter 2 (custom pg 33 – 44; 47 - 54) Appendix (custom pg 81 – 98) – N.B. Appendix is not examinable 26 pages; approx. 2.5 hrs
Week 2 20/02/2023	History of Psychopathology: The good, the bad and the ugly Lecture 1: Early approaches to studying the mind Lecture 2: The 20 th Century and beyond Lecture 3: The scientific method Lecture 4: From research to treatment	Group Discussion Point: Conditioning in everyday life Revision quiz	Chapter 1 (custom pg 7 - 25) Chapter 2 (custom pg 44 – 46; 55 - 66) 34 pages; approx. 3.5 hrs
Week 3 27/02/2023	DNA to Society: Biological, psychological and social aspects Lecture 1: Genetics Lecture 2: Neuroscience Lecture 3: Emotions, learning and cognition Lecture 4: The individual and society	Revision quiz	Chapter 2 (custom pg 67 – 74) Chapter 3 (custom pg 100 – 120; 125 - 133) 34 pages; approx. 3.5 hrs

Week 4 06/03/2023	Written assignment week! Lecture 1: Understanding Plagiarism Lecture 2: Paraphrasing and Summarizing (YouTube video) Lecture 3: Secondary Citation (YouTube video)		Chapters 4 – 9 N.B. This week’s lecture content is not examinable, but it will help you to research and write your written assignment.
Week 5 13/03/2023	Depressive Disorders Lecture 1: What is depression? Lecture 2: Models of depression Lecture 3: Treating depression	Revision quiz Friday: Mid Term Exam	Chapter 3 (custom pg 122 – 123) Chapter 10 (depressive disorder sections) NB Suicide content (custom pg 326 – 322) is not examinable Approx. 2.5 hrs
Week 6 20/03/2023	Flex Week		
Week 7 27/03/2023	Bipolar Disorders Lecture 1: What is bipolar? Lecture 2: Models of bipolar Lecture 3: Treating bipolar		Chapter 10 (bipolar disorder sections) Approx. 2 hrs NB Suicide content (custom pg 326 – 322) is not examinable

Week 8 03/04/2023	Anxiety disorders Lecture 1: What are anxiety disorders? Lecture 2: Models of specific phobias Lecture 3: Treating anxiety	Easter Sunday: Written assignment Due Revision quiz	Chapter 3 (custom pg 123 – 124) Chapter 11 (custom pg 340 – 346; 357 - 362) 14 pages; approx. 1.5 hrs
Week 9 10/04/2023	Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder Lecture 1: What is OCD? Lecture 2: Models of OCD Lecture 3: Treating OCD	Revision quiz	Chapter 11 (custom pg 375 – 380; 384 - 385) 8 pages; approx. 1 hr
Week 10 17/04/2023	Substance use and abuse Lecture 1: Substances and substance abuse Lecture 2: What causes substance abuse? Lecture 3: Treating substance abuse	Revision quiz	Chapter 12 (custom pg 396 – 427; 430) 33 pages; approx. 3.5 hrs
Study period 22/04/2023 – 27/- 4/2023		Revision/Exam preparation	
Exam period 28/04/2023 – 11/05/2023		Revision/Exam preparation	

5. Assessment

5.1 Assessment tasks

All assessments in this course have been designed and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment task	Length	Weight	Mark	Due date
Assessment 1: Revision quizzes	Varied	0% (formative)	N/A	N/A
Assessment 2: Mid Term Test	20 MCQ	20%	/20	9am – 11:59pm 17/03/2023
Assessment 3: Written assignment	1000 words	40%	/40	11:59pm 09/04/2023
Assessment 4: Final exam	80 MCQ	40%	/80	Exam period

Assessment 2: The mid-term test is worth 20% of the total course mark and contains 20 multiple-choice questions (MCQs). It will be made available online via Moodle from 9am – 11:59pm Friday 17th March 2023. Students will be able to take the test once. The test will last 15 mins, allowing for 45s per question. The test is not to be attempted “open book”. The restrictive time limit is designed to minimise any temptation to consult any reference material. The time limit will provide ample opportunity for students to read and answer all the questions. The test will assess all material presented in Weeks 1-3 and Week 5 including textbook readings for those weeks.

Assessment 3: A written assignment will be required for submission via Turnitin 11:59pm Sunday 9th April 2023. Note that this is Easter Sunday, so you are welcome to submit your assignment before this due date. The question and instructions for this assignment will be released in Week 4. The written assignment will be worth 40% of the total course mark. As well as the textbook sections on essay writing, additional resources will be made available to provide further help to students on how to approach this written assignment. Penalties for late submission will be in accordance with policies stipulated in the School of Psychology Student Guide (5% per day, or part thereof, including weekends). Written assignments submitted after the marking deadline will not receive a mark or feedback.

Assessment 4: The final exam will be held online (Inspera). It is worth 40% of the total course mark and is not to be attempted “open book”. The examination will include 80 multiple choice questions covering all lecture material and textbook readings (except Week 4 content, which is not examinable). The exam timetable is determined entirely by a centralised UNSW team. The Course Coordinator does not have access to exam timetable information prior to the release of the timetable.

UNSW grading system: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/grades>

UNSW assessment policy: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/assessment>

5.2 Assessment criteria and standards

Further details and marking criteria for each assessment will be provided to students closer to the assessment release date (see 4.1: UNSW Assessment Design Procedure).

5.3 Submission of assessment tasks

Written assignment: In accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy the written assignment must be submitted online via Turnitin. No paper or emailed copies will be accepted.

Late penalties: deduction of marks for late submissions will be in accordance with School policy (see: [Psychology Student Guide](#)).

Special Consideration: Students who are unable to complete an assessment task by the assigned due date can apply for special consideration. Students should also note that UNSW has a Fit to Sit/Submit rule for all assessments. If a student wishes to submit an application for special consideration for an exam or assessment, the application must be submitted prior to the start of the exam or before an assessment is submitted. If a student sits the exam/submits an assignment, they are declaring themselves well enough to do so and are unable to subsequently apply for special consideration. If a student becomes ill on the day of the exam, they must provide evidence dated within 24 hours of the exam, with their application.

Special consideration applications must be submitted to the online portal along with Third Party supporting documentation. Students who have experienced significant illness or misadventure during the assessment period may be eligible. Only circumstances deemed to be outside of the student's control are eligible for special consideration. Except in unusual circumstances, the duration of circumstances impacting academic work must be more than 3 consecutive days, or a total of 5 days within the teaching period. If the special consideration application is approved, students may be given an extended due date, or an alternative assessment/supplementary examination may be set. For more information see <https://student.unsw.edu.au/special-consideration>.

Alternative assessments: will be subject to approval and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Implementation Procedure.

Supplementary examinations: will be made available for students with approved special consideration application and implemented in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

5.4. Feedback on assessment

Feedback on all pieces of assessment in this course will be provided in accordance with UNSW Assessment Policy.

Assessment	When	Who	Where	How
Topic revision quizzes	Immediate	Rogers	Online	Moodle
Mid-Term Test	18/03/2023	N/A	Online	Moodle
Written assignment	24/04/2023	Rogers	Online	Turnitin
Final exam	TBA	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

The APA (7th edition) referencing style is to be adopted in this course. Students should consult the publication manual itself (rather than third party interpretations of it) in order to properly adhere to APA style conventions. Students do not need to purchase a copy of the manual, it is available in the library or online.

Referencing is a way of acknowledging the sources of information that you use to research your assignments. You need to provide a reference whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

Further information about referencing styles can be located at <https://student.unsw.edu.au/referencing>

Academic integrity is fundamental to success at university. Academic integrity can be defined as a commitment to six fundamental values in academic pursuits: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, responsibility and courage.¹ At UNSW, this means that your work must be your own, and others' ideas should be appropriately acknowledged. If you don't follow these rules, plagiarism may be detected in your work.

Further information about academic integrity and **plagiarism** can be located at:

- The *Current Students* site <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism>, and
- The *ELISE* training site <http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise>

The *Conduct and Integrity Unit* provides further resources to assist you to understand your conduct obligations as a student: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/conduct>.

¹ International Center for Academic Integrity, 'The Fundamental Values of Academic Integrity', T. Fishman (ed), Clemson University, 2013.

7. Readings and resources

Textbook	<p>Custom eTextbook (preferred option): Gouldthorp, Bernstein, Roy, Cranney, Pooley. (2020). <i>PSYC1023: Abnormal Psychology</i>. 1st edition. Cengage Learning AUS.</p> <p>To purchase from the UNSW Bookshop click here: https://unswbookshop.vitalsource.com/products/-v9780170289535</p> <p>To purchase from Cengage click here (use the code WOW10 at the checkout to get a 10% discount): https://au.cengage.com/c/isbn/9780170453677/?filterBy=Student&utm_source=pdf&utm_medium=pdf&utm_campaign=automated_pdf_sem_1_23</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Durand V. M., Barlow, D.H., & Hofmann, S.G. (2018). <i>Essentials of Abnormal Psychology</i>. 8th edition. Cengage Learning.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Barlow, D. H., Durand, V. M., & Hofmann, S. G. (2018). <i>Abnormal psychology: An integrative approach</i>. 8th edition. Cengage Learning.</p> <p>N.B. The custom textbook contains only the examinable chapters plus a detailed guide for writing psychology assignments.</p>
Course information	Available on Moodle
Required readings	School of Psychology Student Guide .
Recommended internet sites	UNSW Library UNSW Learning Centre ELISE Turnitin Student Code of Conduct Policy concerning academic honesty Email policy UNSW Anti-racism policy statement UNSW Equity and Diversity policy statement UNSW Equal opportunity in education policy statement

8. Administrative matters

The [School of Psychology Student Guide](#) 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
- Student code of conduct
- Student complaints and grievances
- Disability Support Services
- Health and safety

It is expected that students familiarise themselves with the information contained in this guide.

9. Additional support for students

- The Current Students Gateway: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Disability Support Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability-services>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/index.html>