PSYCH 2AP3 – Abnormal Psychology: Fundamentals and Major Disorders

Winter 2021

Instructor: Dr. Nicholas Bock, Ph.D.
Department of Psychology, Neuroscience, and Behaviour/ Psychology Building 304
bockn@mcmaster.ca (please include “PSYCH 2AP3” in the subject of any email you send)

Lectures: Three one-hour lectures a week Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 9:30AM - 10:20AM (HSC_1A1)

Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30-12:30 in the Psychology Building, Room 403 or by appointment

Teaching Assistants: TBD

Course Website:
Information about the course, including full lecture notes, will be available on McMaster’s Avenue to Learn system. The course will appear as PSYCH 2AP3: Abnormal Psychology: Fundamentals and Major Disorders under the “My Courses” section.

Course Description:
This course will explore unusual patterns of behavior, emotion and thought, especially the clinical context of how they relate to major psychiatric disorders. Students will learn how major psychiatric disorders such as generalized anxiety disorder, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia are defined and diagnosed, and of common symptoms shared between disorders including sleep disturbances and psychosis. They will further learn of the hypothesized causes of mental disorders, including the interaction of genetics and environment, and potential underlying neurobiological deficits. Finally, they will learn of the most common current treatment approaches for mental illness.

Intended Learning Outcomes:
1. Understand how some patterns of behaviour, emotion, and thought are maladaptive
2. Understand broadly how mental disorders are diagnosed using criteria such as those found in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)
3. Understand how the occurrence of mental illness in a population is defined (e.g. how many Canadians currently suffer from depression)
4. Understand how cultural, social and interpersonal factors can affect mental health
5. Learn of the features of several mental disorders including anxiety, somatic symptom, dissociative, mood and schizophrenia spectrum disorders
6. Review factors that may underlie mental illness including genetics, environment, and neurobiology
7. Understand the ever-changing methods to treat mental illness using pharmacology, therapy, and other approaches such as exercise and diet, electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and deep brain stimulation

Text:
The recommended textbook for this course is:
Students will only be tested on material found in the notes, but are encouraged to turn to other sources including the textbook if they feel they need an expanded explanation of concepts.

**iClickers:**

Classroom response systems will be used in lectures. Students should purchase an iClicker at the Campus Bookstore (McMaster’s main bookstore). iClicker questions will serve as real-time feedback for students and the Instructor.

Throughout the course, we will use the iClicker system to generate data for use in computer labs. All such data will remain confidential and will be anonymized (i.e. not linked to your MacID). Data collected will solely be used for instructional purposes, and will not be distributed or reproduced. You are not required to answer any questions that make you feel uncomfortable.

**Evaluation:**

Students will write three 50 minute-long term tests during scheduled lecture times (SAS students can arrange to write their tests outside these times).

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<td>Term Test 1</td>
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<td>Term Test 2</td>
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**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION**

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online
learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

**COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT**

*Some courses may* use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

**CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](http://www.mcmaster.ca/studentconduct) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services (SAS)](http://www.mcmaster.ca/studentconduct) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](http://www.mcmaster.ca/studentconduct) policy.

**REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK**

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.