Purpose:

Psychopathology is central to clinical science and affects the lives of millions of people and their families. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with contemporary research on psychopathology. We will study psychopathology from conceptual and empirical perspectives. Issues in the development of psychopathology will be addressed, but the focus of the course is on adult psychopathology. Applications in assessment and interventions also will be addressed to some degree, but these issues are more fully addressed in other courses.

The first half of the course will focus on conceptual approaches to psychopathology. We will begin with an historical overview of the field, tracing ancient conceptualizations of psychopathology that continue to influence current conceptual models. Nosologic models of psychopathology including DSM will be evaluated, followed by a consideration of etiological models. Sociocultural contexts of psychopathology will then be studied, including culture and socioeconomic status. There will also be an overview of psychological treatment of disorders.

The second half of the course will focus on selected disorders within the conceptual contexts considered in the first half of the course. Three internalizing disorders will be considered: major depression, anxiety disorders, and schizophrenia. We will also study two externalizing disorders: antisocial personality disorder and substance abuse. Case material will be presented on each disorder. These disorders have been selected to illustrate general issues in the study of psychopathology. Coverage of other disorders may occur in student presentations.

Blackboard:

Please check Blackboard regularly for announcements. The course syllabus and readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Textbook:


The textbook is intended to provide a framework for the course.
Readings:

Required readings for each week of the course are listed below. These readings have been selected to provide an overview of the topics. Each topic is very broad and these readings cover a few key issues from a vast literature. All readings are available electronically from Blackboard or the Knight Library.

Weekly Discussion Questions:

Class sessions will open with an overview lecture followed by discussion of conceptual and empirical issues. The overview lecture will not completely overlap with the readings, but will offer an opportunity to consider major issues. The textbook and readings are intended as a springboard for discussion, so it is critical to prepare for class by completing the reading assignments. Although you may have more background and interest in some topics than others, you should be open to learn about all topics in the course.

Students will provide four questions, one from the textbook and one from each of the readings, before each class period for possible discussion. Each week each student, other than those making a class presentation, will be responsible to lead a 8 to 10-minute class discussion on a question that I will assign. Because your weekly discussion questions will help determine the focus of the class discussion, it behooves you to provide good questions! These questions should be e-mailed to me (gnhall@uoregon.edu) by 5pm on the Monday before class. However, during the first week of class, the questions should be e-mailed by noon on Tuesday, September 27. I will select questions to be assigned from your questions and post them to Blackboard. You should be prepared to discuss all questions that I select, in addition to the one that I assign to you. Submitted weekly discussion questions are worth 20% of your course grade.

Term Paper:

Everyone is expected to select a topic of interest within the broad subject matter of adult psychopathology and to write a review paper. The model for the paper is that typified by Psychological Bulletin, Annual Review of Clinical Psychology, or Clinical Psychology Review articles. The paper should be organized around an issue of psychopathological relevance, such as conceptualization of psychopathology or a particular disorder. The review should cover current theories, current empirical research, and recommendations for future theory or research or both. “Current” generally means within the past six years. The focus should be on nosology, etiology, sociocultural contexts of psychopathology, and treatment.

I will approach the term paper as analogous to a manuscript submission to a journal. Manuscripts are submitted to journals and those of high quality are allowed to be resubmitted. Two drafts of the term paper will be required. An advanced draft is due at 5pm on November 7 and is worth 50% of your course grade. The final draft of the term
paper is due at 5pm on December 8 and is worth 20% of your course grade. The heavier weighting of the advanced draft mirrors the journal submission process; the bulk of the work on a manuscript goes into the initial submission. Please e-mail the advanced draft and final drafts to me at gnhall@uoregon.edu

Class Presentation:

Each student will be required to make a class presentation of 15-20 minutes on their term paper topic. I will determine when presentations will be made, based on the class topic for the week. The class presentation is worth 10% of your course grade.

Grading:

- Discussion questions (weekly) = 20%
- Advanced draft of term paper (11/8/10) = 50%
- Class presentation = 10%
- Final draft of term paper (12/7/10) = 20%
Course Overview

September 28  Conceptualization and History
Maddux & Winstead  Chapter 1


October 5  Nosology
Maddux & Winstead  Chapter 5


October 12  Etiology
Maddux & Winstead  Chapter 4


October 19  Sociocultural Contexts

Maddux & Winstead  Chapter 2


October 26  Treatment

Maddux & Winstead  Chapter 7


November 2  Major Depressive Disorder

Maddux & Winstead  Chapter 9


November 7    Advanced draft of term paper Due at 5pm

November 9    Anxiety Disorders

Maddux & Winstead  Chapter 8


November 16    Schizophrenia

Maddux & Winstead  Chapter 10


November 23    Personality Disorders

Maddux & Winstead  Chapter 11


