PSYCHOLOGY 851: CORE COURSE IN PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Spring, 2002

Professor: Dr. Lauren B. Alloy

Room: 416 Weiss Hall

Office: 762 Weiss Hall

Time: Th 10:30 - 1:30

Phone: 1-7326 (Voice Mail)

Office Hour: Th 1:30 - 2:30 or by appt.

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Course Description: The course will review concepts, theory, and research in psychopathology. Psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, interpersonal, sociocultural, genetic and biological/neuroscience aspects of psychopathology will be covered. The course will emphasize descriptive psychopathology (e.g., phenomenology, epidemiology, course of disorder) and issues of etiology, rather than treatment, although some work on treatment will also be discussed. The major goals of the course are knowledge of the nature of various mental disorders and what is known about their causes and risk factors, an appreciation of important issues in psychopathology, and development of the ability to think clearly and critically about these issues.

Topics: The topics to be covered are on the attached list.

Prerequisite: Permission of instructor.

Teaching Method: The course is designed as a combination lecture and seminar format. Some of class time will be devoted to informal lecture (with questions and comments welcome), some to seminar discussion, and some to debate on specific controversial issues. At least the first hour of each class will be for lecture and at least the last hour of each class will be for seminar-type discussion. Each student will serve as discussion leader twice, with some classes having 2 students serving as joint discussion leaders. Some class meetings will also feature a debate between 2 students on a controversial issue relevant to that week's topic. Each student will participate in one debate during the semester. Following some initial debate time for the 2 debators, other students in the class can jump into the debate. The 2 students participating in the debate will do some extra reading for that week's debate topic.

In addition, half of the students in the class will write 2 thought-provoking discussion questions based on the readings in preparation for each class meeting (the other half of the students will take turns reading and outlining one extra article every other class meeting - see Readings below). The two halves of the class will take turns writing discussion questions every other week or reading and outlining an extra article every other week. The discussion questions should integrate across various readings for each week (or even across weeks). Students writing discussion questions for the week should hand in a copy of their 2 questions to Lauren Alloy's doorbox (Rm. 762) and to the student who is scheduled to be discussion leader by Wednesday mornings (10:30 AM) before each class meeting.

Evaluation: There will be a midterm and final exam. Both exams will be take home essay exams. The essay questions will be handed out at least one week before the exam is due. You will have a week to write short (no more than 5-6 typed pages for each essay) answers to 2-3 essay questions covering the course content. The essay exams are open book, but to be done alone. Put your name on the back of the last page of your exam, so the exams can be graded blind to your identity.

Final grades will be based on the midterm and final essay exams (each 35%) and your contributions to discussions, including your class participation, your written discussion questions, and your role as a debator and discussion leader (30%). The rationale for these methods of evaluation will be explained in class.

Readings: The readings on the attached reading list are divided into those required for everyone, those to be read and outlined (for sharing with the rest of the class) by the 2 student debaters, and those to be read and outlined by one student and then shared with the rest of the class. The idea behind the readings to be
outlined is to keep the reading load down for all students. It is a good idea to get as much of the assigned reading done as possible before each class meeting for three reasons: (1) you will get more out of the lectures and the course if you have read the assigned material; (2) you will be a better participant in class discussion; and (3) you will not be stuck trying to madly read everything at the last minute during the week when you are trying to think about and write your answers to the essay exam questions.

**Syllabus for Psychopathology**

**January 24**  
Concept of Psychopathology; Important Issues in Psychopathology  
Lecturer: Dr. Lauren Alloy  
Discussion Leader: Lauren Alloy

**January 31**  
Anxiety Disorders: Panic Disorder, Agoraphobia, and Specific Phobia  
Lecturer: Dr. Lauren Alloy  
Discussion Leader:  
Debate Issue: Panic Disorder: Biological False Alarm or Catastrophic Interpretation of Threat?

**February 7**  
Anxiety Disorders: Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)  
Lecturer: Dr. Lauren Alloy  
Discussion Leader:  
Debate Issue: PTSD: Universal Response to Severe Trauma or Idiosyncratic Response to Stress?

**February 14**  
Anxiety Disorders: Social Anxiety Disorder and Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)  
Lecturer: Dr. Cynthia Turk  
Discussion Leader:

**February 21**  
Dissociative Disorders: Amnesia, Fugue, Dissociative Identity Disorder (DID), and Depersonalization  
Lecturer: Dr. Lauren Alloy  
Discussion Leader:  
Debate Issue: Recovered Memory of Child Abuse: True or False Memory?

**February 28**  
Somatoform Disorders: Hypochondriasis, Somatization Disorder, Conversion Disorder, and Body Dysmorphic Disorder  
Lecturer: Dr. Lauren Alloy  
Discussion Leader:

**March 7**  
Personality Disorders: Overview and Psychopathy/Antisocial Personality Disorder  
Lecturer: Dr. Lauren Alloy  
Discussion Leader:

**March 14**  
**SPRING BREAK**

**March 21**  
Personality Disorders: Borderline Personality Disorder  
Lecturer: Dr. Reed Goldstein  
Discussion Leader:

**March 28**  
Mood Disorders: Phenomenology, Dimensions, Subtypes, Epidemiology, Course, Comorbidity, Suicide
Lecturer: Dr. Lauren Alloy
Discussion Leader:
Debate Issue: Emergence of Sex Differences in Depression: Biological, Cognitive, or Social?

April 4 Mood Disorders: Bipolar Disorder, Seasonal Affective Disorder
Biological Perspective
Lecturer: Dr. Lauren Alloy
Discussion Leader:

April 11 Mood Disorders: Unipolar Depression
Psychodynamic, Interpersonal, and Cognitive/Personality Perspectives
Lecturer: Dr. Lauren Alloy
Discussion Leader:
Debate Issue: Rejection of the Depressed: Inadvertent Poor Communication Skills or Active Self-Verification?

April 18 Schizophrenia: Phenomenology, Dimensions, Subtypes, Epidemiology, Course, Genetics, Diathesis-Stress Model: Biological, Cognitive, and Family Perspectives
Lecturer: Dr. Lauren Alloy
Discussion Leader:

April 25 Substance Use Disorders
Lecturer: Dr. Thomas Gould
Discussion Leader:
Note: Class will meet from 11:30 - 1:30 this day.

May 2 Eating Disorders
Lecturer: Dr. Denise Sloan
Discussion Leader:

Critical Due Dates
March 18: Midterm Exam Due
May 10: Final Exam Due

Reading List for Psychopathology
Readings with a * provide a more basic overview of the disorders for the week and would be helpful to read first.

January 24 - Recommended


January 31 - Required


Debate Readings (To be outlined and shared by the debaters)


To be Outlined and Shared


February 7 - Required


Debate Readings (To be outlined and shared by the debaters)


To be Outlined and Shared


February 14 - Required


To be Outlined and Shared


February 21 - Required


Debate Readings (To be outlined and shared by the debators)


To be Outlined and Shared


February 28 - Required


To be Outlined and Shared


March 7 - Required


To be Outlined and Shared


March 21 - Required


**To be Outlined and Shared**


March 28 - Required


**Debate Readings (To be outlined and shared by the debators)**


To be Outlined and Shared


April 4 - Required


To be Outlined and Shared


**April 11 - Required**


**Debate Readings** (To be outlined and shared by the debaters)


**To be Outlined and Shared**


April 18 - Required


To be Outlined and Shared


April 25 - Required


To be Outlined and Shared


May 2 - Required


