

**PSY 415 Abnormal Psychology**  
Spring 2018

**GENERAL:**

Instructor: Brian R. Johnson, Ph.D.

Classrooms: 5-103

**Class website:** <http://www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/PSY415/PSY415.html>

Office Hours: MWF: 8:00-9:00

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** [An **advanced** overview of] the causes, description, and the treatment of the extremes of human behavior. Emphasis is on an integrated analysis from a psycho-social view point. 4 lecture discussions. Prerequisite: PSY202 or PSY202.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To increase your understanding of:

- A. The criteria for defining abnormal behavior and the controversy over what is *abnormal* in abnormal psychology
- B. Important psychological theories related to issues and psychological conditions defined as abnormal.
- C. The mental conditions and behaviors classified as “abnormal,” their evident etiology, premorbid factors influencing onset/prognosis, and treatment options.

An awareness of the signs and symptoms of mental conditions will be gained from the successful completion of the class; however the course will not qualify you to diagnosis yourself, friends, families, supervisors, ex's, etc.

**TEXTS:**

Sue, Sue, Sue: *Understanding Abnormal Behavior*, Tenth Edition (Note: There is such a significant change between the Tenth and Ninth Editions that requires students to use the Tenth)

**EXAMS:** Two **Mid-Terms** and a **Final Exam** will be given: **April 11, May 7, and June 6** (9:10AM-10:25AM). The exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, sentence completions, and brief essay questions. Each **exam will be worth 100 points**. The exams will cover the assigned reading, lecture materials, and class activities. Students with special needs such as arrangement to take exams at the DRC must advise me at the beginning of the quarter so that I can accommodate you. *Unless you and the instructor, prior to the exam, have made arrangements to take a test on a different date or you can document reasonable cause for failing to sit for a test, there will be no make up opportunities!*

All notes, printouts, flash cards and electronic devises must be stowed during the exam. **Wrist**

**watches** and other time pieces must also be taken off and stowed—The introduction of smartwatches that allow the wearer to view information including lecture overheads and notes, necessitates this. I will enlarge on the classroom overhead the Windows time piece from the Taskbar so you can see how much time you have left during the exam. If you have a valuable timepiece, please leave it home.

**QUIZZES:** During the quarter there will be six, open note quizzes. You will receive 5 points for each quiz you take for a potential total of 30 points. Quizzes will normally be given at the end of class. You will be asked to briefly answer a question addressing a topic lectured on that day. Since quizzes will be scheduled randomly it is important that you attend all classes. If you miss a class at which a quiz was given, you will only be allowed to do a make up if you document reasonable cause for not being in class on the day of the quiz.

**PAPER:** There is one paper, due **May 25 at the beginning of class**. In the paper you are to select a disorder (Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Dissociative Identity Disorder, Schizoaffective Disorder, etc.) or a category of mental conditions (i.e., Anxiety Disorders, Thought Disorders, Mood Disorder, etc.) as defined by the DSM-IV or DSM-5. Write a summary of a current research focus using **at least** two professional journal articles (anything published since January 2011) that addresses the diagnosis, risk factors, etiology, **or** treatment of the disorder(s) you have selected. Attach copies of the articles' abstracts to your paper. You can cite the DSM-IV or DSM-5 when describing the condition but **DO NOT SUMMARIZE WHAT IS IN THE SUE TEXTBOOK** concerning the issue that you are addressing! That must be based on the professional articles you read. Address the controversies and the strengths and weaknesses you see in this research. Address contradictory conclusions of the papers' authors and take a side, elaborating on why you agree (or disagree) with this opinion. **More detailed instructions are on the course website. Review these!**

This paper must be typed, double spaced and five (5) pages (plus or minus 1) not including title and reference pages. Use the ***Publication Manual of American Psychological Association*** as a style guide. For information on citing electronic references and answers to other frequently asked questions about APA Style, see:

[https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/documents/APA%20Style%20Guide%202024\\_Sept\\_%202014\\_8%20pages.pdf](https://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/documents/APA%20Style%20Guide%202024_Sept_%202014_8%20pages.pdf)

The paper is worth 100 points and will be graded on a demonstrated understanding of the research you choose to explore and your ability to critique that research.. This is a 400 level class, and the paper is expected to reflect an appropriate level of grammatical and compositional mastery. The grade for this paper can be affected negatively by poor writing craftsmanship.

**Turning in the term paper after the due date and time will result in a 25% penalty; a late paper MUST be e-mailed by midnight, June 6 to be graded.**

**CLASS ATTENDANCE:** 25 points can be earned for attending class (excluding the mid terms and final exam). A sign-in sheet will be circulated at the beginning of class. These points are not only given for being in the classroom, but, presumably, for being attentive and taking notes, not

merely occupying a chair.

**It is a form of academic dishonesty and a violation of University policy to have another student sign in for you when you are not in class.** If I give a quiz on a certain day and you have not turned in a quiz but the attendance sheet has you signed in, I will not give you credit for attendance that day and will subtract an additional attendance point. If you will be leaving before class ends, advise me at the start of class that you will not loss these points.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION:** The lectures will expand upon the reading material and provide other important information not covered in the reading. **Participation will have an impact on your final grade.** In this class there is no such thing as a dumb question. The Roman statesman Cicero wrote that “I am not afraid to admit that I am ignorant of what I do not know.” And he was a respected philosopher and Senator! **30 participation points are possible.** This is a senior course, and it would be appropriate to have each student assigned to do a formal presentation. This will not be required, so I will be attentive to and making notes of students’ participation during the lectures and when students are sharing with the class what they discussed in group discussions. Remember, it is not the quantity but the quality of the participation that will be considered. This is an academic class, not group therapy. While sharing on how a subject presented applies to you can enrich the class process, you need not share any more than you feel comfortable disclosing in class. **PRIVACY** is to be respected by both the instructor and fellow students. Although the course can provide information that is relevant and interesting for your own life, it is not meant as a substitute for personal psychological services. If you are interested in receiving psychological assistance, please contact Cal Poly Pomona's Counseling and Psychological Services (909-869-3220). Services are free to students.

**NAME PLATE:** I want to know you by name. Since there may be up to fifty people in the class, I need you to create a personal name plate to put on your desk so I will get to know who you are. I have had students use head bands in the past but that didn’t go over too well. So, please write your name on a piece of paper and put it on the front of your desk until I get to know you by name. Be creative but also legible with lettering big enough that I can see it across the room (if you sit in the back). And if I mispronounce your name, correct me.

**COURSE WEBSITE ([www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/PSY415/PSY415-Home-Page.html](http://www.gettingunstuck.com/cpu/PSY415/PSY415-Home-Page.html)):** The website contains a number of resources and messages from the instructor to the class concerning announcements, corrections, and any changes in the schedule, reading assignments, etc. From the website you can also download Adobe Acrobat PDF copies of the overheads that are used in the lectures. (You will need to have Adobe Acrobat 4.0 to download these and other documents available on the website. Information is provided for downloading Acrobat if the program is not already on your computer.) I attempt to put the overheads up no later than the night before class, but sometimes (but not often) that proves impossible. I recommend that you download these so you can have these in class on the days of the lectures.

**RECORDING LECTURES:** The audio recording of any lecture(s) is only permitted with the

instructor's permission. No video recording is permitted.

**TEXT MESSAGING, ETC. DURING CLASS:** Unless you have the prior permission of the instructor, electronic devices in the classroom are to be used only for class related activities like viewing course overheads, taking notes, looking at relevant web sites, etc. Texting during lectures, social networking, etc. can distract the instructor and other students beside yourself. Turn off your cell phone or put it on vibrate. If you are expecting an important call or text, advise the instructor before the start of class. If it is noticed that you are disregarding this rule, points will be subtract from your participation score (which if you have not participated could give you a negative point total!)

**LIMITS OF FACULTY/STUDENT CONFIDENTIALITY:** Please note that there are two executive orders from the CSU's Office of the Chancellor that limit what information faculty members are able to keep confidential. These are Executive Order 1096 (which relates to the reporting of campus sexual assaults) and Executive Order 1083 (which relates to mandatory reporting of child abuse). These orders made CSU faculty members "mandatory reporters," which means that once a faculty member has been apprised of such an incident, he or she is required to report it to the university's on campus Title IX officer, regardless if the student wants this information reported or not. It may very well be that you would like the information reported but you do not know whom to approach, in which case our mandatory reporting requirements will be desirable to you. However, if you just wanted to talk about an incident but do not want it reported, neither you nor I have a choice in this matter. Once such information is divulged, I must report it. Executive Order 1096 does not apply to counselors at Student Counseling Services located in the Bronco Bookstore Building (66-116)—Executive Order 1083, regarding child abuse, does.

**EXTRA CREDIT:** : If you participate in a Psychology and Sociology Department sponsored experiment, you can earn 5 extra points. This extra credit will only be given if you sign up for an experiment using the Sona system. One Sona credit will give you five class points. To earn this credit, you must do this by going on line (<http://cpp.sona-systems.com> ) to sign up for an experiment. You must be registered in the program to participate. If you are not already, go to the web site and click the "New Participant Request an Account" link to register. To sign up for a study or experiment, click on the "Sign up for experiments" link. When you sign up for an experiment, you must identify that you want the credit applied to this course. **After the experiment, you must also assign the credit to this course on the Sona web site. If you fail to assign a credit to the class, extra credit points will not be given. The department's report of student participation in experiments (and that report's summary of students' assignment of credits to classes) will be the sole basis for determining earned extra credit.**

**GRADING:** To receive a passing grade for the course you must complete all requirements for this class (three (3) exams and the papers). If you fail to do so and have not received approval for an incomplete grade contract, you will receive a grade of "F." Assuming that you do complete all requirements, grades will be based on the following scale:

485-451	A	402-388	B-	339-325	D+
450-437	A-	387-373	C+	324-306	D
436-422	B+	372-354	C	305-291	D-
421-403	B	353-340	C-	<291	F

Grades will be posted on Blackboard during the course of the quarter. The grades listed on Blackboard are unofficial because the program does not always list students in the same order as the official registration list from the Registrar's Office. This can result in some student's grades being mixed up on Blackboard. I attempt to catch these discrepancies but there is always a chance that one or more discrepancies can slip through.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** The school's policy will be enforced in this class, and violations are subject to being reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs. The policy reads in part, "All forms of academic dishonesty at Cal Poly are a violation of University policy and will be considered a serious offense. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: [Plagiarism, Cheating During Exams, Use of Unauthorized Study Aids, and Falsifying any University Documents including Attendance Lists]." See the University Catalog for more details. Remember, plagiarism is passing off another's work as your own. **Students often don't realize that they have committed plagiarism when they fail to (1) denote with quotation marks or some other notation the cited material or (2) do not identify the source of an idea they are summarizing in their own words.**

Finally, a class works best and is most enjoyable for both the students and the instructor when all have the opportunity to actively engage and participate fully in the learning process. This is a large class and we must be respectful of the purpose for which we are here. Disruptive behavior (and that includes talking with classmates about none course related matters) during class will not be tolerated. Disruptive behavior that does not cease after one has been warned may be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs.

**SCHEDULE:** The class schedule with reading assignments is listed on a separate document which you can access from the course website.