Goals of the course
This class will familiarize you with current concepts and research on adult psychopathology. Typically, we will cover diagnosis and classification, epidemiology, course, and the genetic, neurobiological, and psychosocial factors implicated in the etiology, pathogenesis, and maintenance of the disorder. Sociodemographic and cultural factors are important contextual considerations in psychopathology that are discussed throughout the course. Our discussion of treatment will be minimal.

Readings
The required readings, listed below, consist of several papers per week. The readings provide greater depth on selected topics of particular importance, and to illustrate several approaches in current psychopathology research. Please read each assigned article. Focus on the main questions, findings, and implications, and don’t worry if you can’t grasp the technical details. It’s 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 lectures, (2) you will be a better participant in discussions, and (3) you will not be in a frenzy trying to read everything at the last minute at the end of the semester for a possible final exam.

Journal articles will be available from electronic resources or for photocopy. You will be given instructions on how to access electronic resources. For each disorder, I would like you to read relevant sections from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, fourth edition-text revision (DSM-IV-TR). It will not be listed below, but this should be done for each of the anxiety, mood, substance, and sexual disorders discussed in class. You are required to purchase it. Here is the reference:


If you are interested in keeping abreast of current developments in psychopathology, the following journals are generally recognized as leaders in the field: *Journal of Abnormal Psychology, Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, Behaviour Research and Therapy*, and *Clinical Psychology Review*. There are also specialty journals (e.g., *Journal of Anxiety Disorders, Journal of Affective Disorders*).

Optional readings will not be on the final exam. However, these readings may be discussed in class, as they shed light on innovative theories and findings for specific domains related to psychopathology.

Grades
PARTICIPATION. Class participation--20% of grade. You are expected to come to class having read the assigned material and prepared to make comments, raise questions, and offer opinions on the comments and questions of others. Quantity is less important than quality.

1. Each week you will create 1 thought-provoking discussion question based on the readings in preparation for meeting. Discussion questions can integrate across various readings for each week (or even across weeks). Email them before class.
2. I reserve the right to employ unannounced evaluations or brief position papers in which you summarize and react to the readings for a particular topic.

THOUGHT PAPERS. Thought papers account for 30% of your course grade. You will write a 1-2 page “thought paper” based on the readings for that week. Thought papers can involve an interesting question
or issue, proposing a study, or making an observation based on the readings. Summaries of readings are unacceptable. Papers are due by 3pm on Saturday by email. Late papers will not be accepted. Errors in grammar and spelling will be penalized. You have to write 6 papers for the semester.

TERM PAPER. 40% of grade. The paper should be an integrative review of the literature on a specialized topic, follows APA publication guidelines, and be approximately 30 (typed, double-spaced) pages (of text). Must be submitted before May 10th. You must obtain topic approval by the end of February (write 1-2 paragraphs about the topic and submit it). You will have to read, synthesize, and critically examine references beyond those required in this course. For examples of review articles, read Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice and Clinical Psychology Review. Here are 2 important articles:


As an alternative to a literature review, you can work with your research advisor to write-up a NIH F-31 predoctoral fellowship application. More information can be obtained from me, prior students who submitted, and the NIH website- http://grants.nih.gov/training/nrsa.htm

PRESENTATION. 10% of your grade. Each student will give a 20-minute presentation to the class on any specialized topic related to this course. It makes most sense to focus on term paper topics. During finals week, 3-4 classes are devoted to presentations.

Additional Course Policies

Students with Special Concerns
If you are a student with a disability and need academic accommodations please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Statement of Academic Integrity
The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation

Official Communications via GMU E-mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their mason e-mail account, and are required to activate that account and check it regularly.

Last day to add: January 29
Last day to drop: February 22

Tentative Schedule of Class Topics and Readings

Note that this is a tentative syllabus. Changes will be announced in class.

1 (January 22): Introduction to Defining Disorder and Administrative Information

2 (January 24): Classification, Disorder, and Using and Critiquing DSM-IV


Optional Readings:


3 (January 29): Cultural and Sociodemographic Considerations


4 (January 31): Anxiety I: Overview and Panic Disorder


5 (February 5): Anxiety II: Generalized Anxiety Disorder

******* Paper Topics Must Be Decided and Approved!*******


**6 (February 7): Anxiety III: Social Anxiety Disorder**


**7 (February 12): Anxiety IV: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder**


**8 (February 14): Anxiety V: Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder**


research and therapy, 48, 949-954.

9 (February 19): Anxiety VI: Specific Phobia


10 (February 21): Unipolar Mood Disorders I


11 (February 26): Unipolar Mood Disorders II


12 (February 28): Unipolar Mood Disorders III


13 (March 5): Bipolar Disorder I


14 (March 7): Bipolar Disorder II

**SPRING BREAK FROM MARCH 11-17: ENJOY!!**

**16 (March 19): Substance Use Disorders I**


**17 (March 21): Substance Use Disorders II**


**18 (March 26): Personality Disorders I**


**19 (March 28): Personality Disorders II**


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Optional Readings:


20 (April 2): Sexual Issues and Disorders


21 (April 4): Somatoform Disorders


22 (April 9): Dissociative Disorders


Optional Readings:

23 (April 11): Eating Disorders


*Optional Readings:*


24 (April 16): Catch up as needed

25 (April 18): Schizophrenia I


24 (April 23): Schizophrenia II


25 (April 25): Externalizing Disorders- Adult


25 (April 30): Presentations
25 (May 2): Presentations

******* Paper is Due on May 10th *******