

**THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE OUTLINE (2022/2023, SEMESTER II)

1. Basic Course Information

Course Code	PSYC7309
Course Title	Abnormal Psychology
Course Credits	6
Lecture Time & Venue	Tuesday 3:30pm-6:20pm; Venue: CPD-3.04

2. Course Instructor / Course Co-ordinator

Name	Office	E-mail	Consultation Hour
Dr. Frances JIN, PhD, Clinical Psychology (Instructor)	6.61, JCT	frances.jin@hku.hk	By appointment
Mr. Justin AU (Tutor and Course Co-ordinator)	6.19, JCT	justyno@hku.hk	By appointment http://justyno.setmore.com

3. Course Description

This course introduces the modern concepts of psychopathology and clinical sciences. It covers topics on the foundations of psychopathology, core features, conceptualization, and treatment models of major mental health issues. Relevance in everyday life, cultural issues and controversies will form part of the discussion.

4. Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students are expected to demonstrate knowledge of the basic concepts and models of psychopathology. Students will be able to critically evaluate scientific evidence on major forms of psychopathology and the theories behind interventions. Course assignments are also designed for students to think deeper about the conceptualization of psychological problems and apply acquired knowledge about evidence-based models. Students will also be encouraged to reflect on their own assumptions and biases regarding mental health issues.

5. Course Contents and Topics

Week	Date	Textbook chapter	Content
1	17/1	Ch. 1	Introduction to Psychopathology (Dr. Jin)
2	24/1	--	<i>Lunar New Year – No class</i>
3	31/1	Chs. 2 & 4	Psychopathology Research (Dr. Jin)
4	7/2	Ch. 7	Depressive Disorders (Dr. Jin)
5	14/2	Ch. 7	Depressive Disorders and Bipolar Disorders (Dr. Jin)
6	21/2	Ch. 5	<i>Mid-term test</i> Anxiety Disorders part I (Dr. Jin)
7	28/2	Ch. 5	Anxiety Disorders part II (Dr. Jin)
8	7/3	--	Reading Week – No Class
9	14/3	--	<i>Group Presentations (session I)</i>
10	21/3	--	<i>Group Presentations (session II)</i>
11	28/3	Ch. 13	Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders (Dr. Jin)
12	4/4	Ch. 14 (ASD)	Autism Spectrum Disorder (Dr. Shum)
13	11/4	Ch. 8	Eating Disorders (Dr. Chan)
14	18/4	Ch. 15	Neurocognitive Disorders (Prof. Lee)
15	25/4	Ch. 11	Substance Related Disorders (Dr. Jin)
16	2/5	--	<i>End of term test</i> Round table discussion

6. Assessment Methods and Weighting

Assessment methods	Weighting in final course grade (%)
In-class group presentations	25
Public education article	35
Mid-term test	15
End of term test	25
Total	100

In-class group presentations (25%)

Each group will be responsible for **one** in-class presentation (topics will be provided at the beginning of the semester) and each presentation should last for no longer than 20 minutes. The purpose of the group presentation is to facilitate the application of knowledge learned in the course and expand on other mental health issues not covered directly in the lectures.

Public education article (35%):

Each student will turn in a written document designed for public education. The student chooses one topic covered by the lecture (but not by the group presentations). The assignment will be submitted via Moodle. The document should include the following two parts: (a) the plan of the information to be included in the article, organized into sections, and the rationale behind your plan; and (b) the actual article. The word limit of this assignment is strictly 2500 words, 1000 words for section (a) and 1500 words for section (b). **The deadline for submission is 11:59 pm on May the 12th 2023.** Late submission will have 1% deducted for every 24 hours.

Mid-term test (15%)

Mid-term test will take the format of multiple-choice questions. The time is 1 hr at the beginning of that day's class time. It will cover the required textbook chapters and/or required research papers if apply, as well as materials covered in the lecture.

End of term test (25%)

End of term test will take the format of both multiple-choice questions and short answer questions. The time is 2 hr starting at the beginning of that day's class time. It will cover the required textbook chapters and required research papers if apply, as well as materials covered in the lecture. The end of term test is cumulative, with a higher weight on the materials covered after the mid-term test.

7. Required/Recommended Readings & Online Materials

- Textbook: Barlow, Durand, and Hofmann. (2017). Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach (8th Ed.).
- Selected journal articles and additional readings for specific topics will be recommended for further understanding of specific topics.

8. Feedback Policy

Please note that the course includes an in-class discussion (about 1 hr) during which students are encouraged to ask questions and actively engage in the discussion. In addition, weekly consultation hours are set up for individual meetings by appointment. Students are welcome to set up appointments with the teaching team shall you require individual progress check.

9. **Important Notes**

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any student who engages in any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, interfering with grading, falsification and fabrication of data in any academic exercise etc.) will receive a grade of F on the component(s) of assessment concerned or in this course and will be reported to the Department/Faculty Office/University Disciplinary Committee for further disciplinary action. There will be no exceptions. If you are not sure what constitutes the academic offense of plagiarism, checkout the webpage at <https://tl.hku.hk/plagiarism/>. Department of Psychology has formulated departmental policies/guidelines on student misconduct. Visit the website at <https://psychology.hku.hk/useful-information-to-current-students/> for more information.

Plagiarism

A softcopy is required for all written assignments. The softcopy will be checked for plagiarism against a database of articles, books, webpages, and essays submitted by students at HKU and other universities. No credit will be given for an assignment that contains plagiarized materials. Further penalties will also be applied. These penalties include a zero mark for participation in course tutorials and a zero mark for the course. Plagiarism will also be reported to Department/Faculty Office/University Disciplinary Committee for consideration of possible disciplinary action.

Student Etiquette

Your cooperation is necessary in maintaining a productive environment for everyone's learning. By taking this course, you agree to abide by these classroom expectations:

- Be punctual in lectures and tutorials so that the teaching/learning process will not be disrupted.
- If you have a question or a comment, share it with the whole class or within your group in designated discussion times.
- Keep your electronic devices on silent mode.

Academic difficulties

Some students may regularly experience academic difficulty because of trouble managing time effectively, an inability to adequately prepare for exams, or anxiety associated with test-taking. Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) offers programs to enhance study effectiveness and stress management. Students experiencing difficulties due to sensory or physical handicaps should notify the instructor; an attempt will be made to accommodate the special learning needs. Students in this situation are also encouraged to contact CEDARS for supportive services.

Make-up exam policy

If you were too sick to write a test, and you have a valid medical certificate stating explicitly that you are unable to write the test on the date, you may be given the opportunity to write a make-up test in a format that may differ from the test taken by the class **within 1 week** after the supposed date of the test.