

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**Psychology U352: Childhood Mental Illness**  
**Fall 2004**

**Meetings:** Tuesdays and Fridays 11:45am-1:25pm  
312 Ell Hall

**Instructor:** Erick A. Medina  
434 Nightingale Hall  
(617) 373-7874  
[e.medina@neu.edu](mailto:e.medina@neu.edu)

**Office hours:** Mondays & Thursdays 10:30-11:30am  
and by appointment

**Course Description:** This course provides an overview of childhood mental illness from the standpoint of contemporary clinical psychology. It focuses on mental illnesses that are first diagnosed in childhood, such as autism, phobias, conduct disorders, and attention deficit disorder. Childhood depression, suicide, and disorders of eating and sleeping are also covered, as well as the legal and ethical issues involved when treating children.

This course is based on the assumption that learning is neither a passive nor unilateral process on the part of students but an active, dynamic encounter between students, instructors, and the material. To this end, students are encouraged to participate as fully as possible.

To ensure that a minimum of learning takes place, I have found it useful to assign four quizzes, a midterm, and a final examination. Quizzes are administered at the beginning of class, take a maximum of fifteen minutes, and consist of ten multiple-choice questions. The midterm and final examinations each consist of fifty multiple-choice questions.

Please note that, from the standpoint of this instructor at least, there are no inappropriate questions. In addition, all feedback on the course will be taken seriously, regardless of its eventual implementation.

**Grading:** Attendance and participation, the quizzes, the midterm, and the final examination will each count for 25% of the final grade. *There are no make-ups for quizzes;* instead, you may drop your lowest quiz grade.

There will also be *no make-ups for the midterm or the final*, except in case of serious illness, death in the family, or other documented, similarly extenuating emergency. Prior engagements (such as parties, weddings, and travel plans) and oversleeping are not considered emergencies.

Students are responsible for all material covered and all information given out in class, regardless of attendance. Students are also responsible for contacting the instructor regarding any missed classes or assignments.

**Requirements:** Regular attendance, thorough reading of required material prior to class discussion, and timely completion of assignments. Students are responsible for all material covered in class regardless of attendance, and are also responsible for contacting the instructor regarding any missed classes or assignments.

I also ask that students turn off or silence all cell phones, pagers, and electronic signaling devices prior to class, and refrain from conversing with one another during the lecture.

**Text:** Dumas, Jean E., and Nilsen, Wendy J. (2003). *Abnormal Child and Adolescent Psychology*. Allyn and Bacon.

## Schedule of Classes

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
September 10	The Concept of Childhood	
September 14	What is (not) Abnormal? The History & Culture of Clinical Psychology	Chapter 1
September 17	Theoretical Perspectives	Chapter 2
September 21	Research Methods	Chapter 2
September 24	Assessment	online; <b>Quiz 1</b>
September 28	Assessment	online
October 1	Child Development	online
October 5	Child Development	online
October 8	Mental Retardation	Chapter 3; <b>Quiz 2</b>
October 12	Mental Retardation	Chapter 3
October 15	Autism	Chapter 4
October 19	Pervasive Developmental Disorders	Chapter 4
October 22	<b>Midterm Examination</b>	
October 26	Cognitive Disorders	online
October 29	Childhood-Onset Schizophrenia	Chapter 5
November 2	Learning Disorders	Chapter 6
November 5	ADHD	Chapter 7
November 9	Oppositional-Defiant and Conduct Disorder	Chapter 8; <b>Quiz 3</b>
November 12	Mood Disorders	Chapter 9
November 16	Mood Disorders	Chapter 9
November 19	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 10
November 23	Eating Disorders	Chapter 11; <b>Quiz 4</b>
November 26	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving</i>	
November 30	Health-Related Disorders	Chapter 13
December 3	Child Abuse and Neglect	Chapter 12
December 7	Legal and Ethical Considerations	online
December 9	Summary & Conclusions	

Readings marked **online** are available through the class website on Blackboard.

The **final examination** will be on **Monday, December 13** from **1-3pm** (location to be announced).

There will be **no class** on **November 26**.