

**NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**Psychology U406: Abnormal Psychology**  
**Spring 2006**

**Meetings:** Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 10:30-11:35am  
320 Shillman

**Office hours:** Mondays and Thursdays 1:30-2:30pm  
and by appointment

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

**Course Description:** This course is an introduction to the study of abnormal human behavior. In order to provide as rich a learning experience as possible, students will be invited to participate as fully as possible. This is to ensure not only that you, the student, get the most for your investment, but that your classmates get the benefit of your individual experience, perspective, and participation as well. It also provides an opportunity for you to considerably shape your learning. This course is based on the assumption that learning is neither a passive nor one-way process on the part of students but an active, dynamic encounter between students, instructors, and the material.

Due to the subject matter, emotional reactions of various intensities are likely to arise to the readings, lecture, or class discussion. The best way to provide feedback on how the class is affecting you is classroom discussion. E-mail, office hours, individual or group discussion with instructor, and discussion with a trusted advisor or faculty member are also fine, so long as some effort is made to inform the instructor of any problems and/or concerns.

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, and the final is cumulative.

Please note that there are no inappropriate questions and that all feedback on the course will be taken seriously, regardless of its implementation.

**Grading:** The quizzes, the midterm, and the final examination will each count for 30% of the final grade, with attendance and participation making up the final 10%. *There are no make-ups for quizzes.* Instead, the lowest quiz grade is automatically dropped. In addition, students may make up their next lowest quiz grade by writing a 3-4 page, double-spaced paper on any topic having to do with the class, lecture, or text. This paper is to be submitted by e-mail no later than the last day of class.

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.

**Requirements:** Regular attendance, thorough reading of required material before class discussion, and timely completion of assignments. Students are responsible for all material covered in class *and all information disseminated therein* regardless of attendance, and are responsible for contacting the instructor regarding any missed classes or assignments. Updates to the class schedule and some homework assignments will also be posted to the class page on Blackboard.

Students are also required to participate either in departmental research or in a related alternate activity. Please see the attached sheet for more information.

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

**Text:** Davison, Gerald C., & Neale, John, M. (2003). *Abnormal Psychology*. Ninth Edition. New York: Wiley.

## Schedule of Classes

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
January 9	Introduction: What is Abnormal?	Chapter 1
January 11	Introduction: What is Abnormal?	Chapter 1
January 12	Perspectives on Psychopathology	Chapter 2
January 16	<i>No Class: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</i>	
January 18	Perspectives on Psychopathology	Chapter 2
January 19	Classification	Chapter 3; <b>Quiz 1</b>
January 23	Diagnosis	Chapter 3
January 25	Assessment: Instruments	Chapter 4
January 26	Assessment: Issues	Chapter 4
January 30	Research	Chapter 5
February 1	Research	Chapter 5
February 2	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 6; <b>Quiz 2</b>
February 6	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 6
February 8	Somatiform Disorders	Chapter 7
February 9	Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 7
February 13	Health Psychology	Chapter 8
February 15	Health Psychology	Chapter 8
February 16	<b>Midterm Examination</b>	
February 20	<i>No Class: Presidents' Day</i>	
February 22	Eating Disorders	Chapter 9
February 23	Eating Disorders	Chapter 9
February 27	Mood Disorders	Chapter 10
March 1	Mood Disorders	Chapter 10
March 2	Schizophrenia	Chapter 11
March 6-9	<i>No Class: Spring Break</i>	
March 13	Other Psychotic Disorders	Chapter 11
March 15	Substance-Related Disorders	Chapter 12; <b>Quiz 3</b>
March 16	Substance-Related Disorders	Chapter 12
March 20	Personality Disorders	Chapter 13
March 22	Personality Disorders	Chapter 13
March 23	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders	Chapter 14
March 27	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders	Chapter 14
March 29	Childhood Disorders	Chapter 15
March 30	Childhood Disorders	Chapter 15
April 3	Disorders of Aging	Chapter 16; <b>Quiz 4</b>
April 5	Disorders of Aging	Chapter 16
April 6	Psychotherapy	Chapter 17
April 10	Psychotherapy	Chapter 17
April 12	Legal and Ethical Issues	Chapter 18
April 13	Legal and Ethical Issues	Chapter 18
April 17	<i>No Class: Patriots' Day</i>	
April 19	Conclusion	

This schedule is tentative; any changes will be announced in class. The **final examination** will be on **Friday, April 28** from **1-3pm** (location to be announced).