Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

Class code

CAMS-UA 9101 – 001

Instructor Details

Dr Raphael Chan
raphael.chan@nyu.edu
Consultation by Appointment
Please allow at least 24 hours for your instructor to respond to your emails.

Class Details

Fall 2017

Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

Thursday 9:00am – 12:00pm
7 September to 14 December
Room 302
NYU Sydney Academic Centre

Prerequisites

PSYCH-UA 9001 Introduction to Psychology

Class Description

While psychopathology courses are commonplace among undergraduate psychology curricula, courses focusing on child and adolescent psychopathology are relatively rare. More novel still is the opportunity to receive instruction in child and adolescent psychopathology from practicing child and adolescent psychiatrists and psychologists. Through seminars and discussions, this course will focus on disease etiology, epidemiology, phenomenology, nosology, and diagnosis. It engages students in a critical review of common child and adolescent psychopathology and challenges social and cultural assumptions of what constitutes "normal" versus "pathological" behaviour, cognition, and emotion. Subject to the number of students enrolled, there may also be an opportunity to observe the evaluation of a child or adolescent patient by a psychiatrist in a clinic.

Desired Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be able to:
• Understand the concepts of psychiatric diagnosis and nosology relevant to child and adolescent psychopathology
• Describe the general process of clinical evaluation of mental disorders in children and adolescents, and present relevant clinical data in a systematic format
• Discuss the etiology, epidemiology, and phenomenology of common mental disorders affecting children and adolescents
• Critically review the common child and adolescent psychopathology and challenge social and cultural assumptions of what is normal or pathological

Grades will be based upon a written mid-term examination (20%), an in-class oral presentation (25%), a response paper (25%), and a written final examination (30%).

Mid-term Examination (20%): Students will complete a 60-minute mid-term examination. It will be composed of multiple choice, matching, and/or short answer questions based upon the material covered in class and in the readings from Week 1 to Week 5. The examination will be held at 9:00am at the beginning of class in Week 6.

In-Class Oral Presentation (25%): Each student will be allocated a different topic in Week 1 and will do a 15-minute oral presentation during one of the subsequent classes. The use of printed presentation handouts and audiovisual aids such as PowerPoint slides is encouraged. More details about the presentations, a list of presentation dates and topics, and grading criteria will be provided in Week 1.

Response Paper (25%): Students will choose from one of five novels and write a brief (4–5 double-spaced, typed pages) report in defense or opposition of the suggested diagnosis of the main character (as listed below). Students should describe their clinical observations and then support them by referencing DSM-5 criteria. You may choose from the following novels:

1. *It’s Kind of a Funny Story* (Ned Vizzini) – Major Depressive Disorder?
2. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* (Mark Haddon) – Autism Spectrum Disorder?
3. *Less Than Zero* (Bret Easton Ellis) – Substance Use Disorder?
4. *Ordinary People* (Judith Guest) – Posttraumatic Stress Disorder?
5. *The Butcher Boy* (Patrick McCabe) – Schizophrenia?

The response paper should summarise cogently the struggle of the main character in one paragraph only. The remainder of the paper should focus on the diagnosis. Does s/he meet criteria for the diagnosis we have suggested on the syllabus? Support your assertion with symptoms described in the novel and clarify further if indicated. For example, if you think the character suffers from Autistic Spectrum Disorder, determine the level of impairment (e.g., Level 1, 2 or 3); or if you believe that the character is depressed but does not meet criteria for Major Depressive Disorder but rather Persistent Depressive Disorder, explain the reasoning. You can reference the novel, the textbooks, and articles, in addition to incorporating direct quotes, if you wish to further substantiate your point. The paper will allow you to practice your diagnostic skills as you observe how mental illness is portrayed in popular literature. The response paper is due by 9:00am, Week 15 (at the beginning of class).
Final Examination (30%): Students will complete a 100-minute final examination. It will be composed of multiple choice, matching, and/or short answer questions based upon the material covered in class and in the readings from Week 8 to Week 15. The exam will take place on Tuesday 19 December 2:00 – 4:00pm.

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component will result in failure of the class.

For this course your total numerical score, calculated from the components listed above, is converted to a letter grade without rounding.

Extra Credit: Site policy does not allow grading of work outside of the assignments included in the syllabus. The final grade will only be calculated from the assessment components listed here and no other work, whether additional or substituted, is permitted.

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Excellent performance showing a thorough knowledge and understanding of the topics of the course; all work includes clear, logical explanations, insight, and original thought and reasoning.

Grade B: Good performance with general knowledge and understanding of the topics; all work includes general analysis and coherent explanations showing some independent reasoning, reading and research.

Grade C: Satisfactory performance with some broad explanation and reasoning; the work will typically demonstrate an understanding of the course on a basic level.

Grade D: Passable performance showing a general and superficial understanding of the course’s topics; work lacks satisfactory insight, analysis or reasoned explanations.

Grade F: Unsatisfactory performance in all assessed criteria. Work is weak, unfinished or unsubmitted.

Grade Conversions

The complete range of grade conversions is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90 to 100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>86 to &lt; 90</td>
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<td>82 to &lt; 86</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>72 to &lt; 82</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>68 to &lt;72</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>64 to &lt;68</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>54 to &lt;64</td>
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<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>50 to &lt;54</td>
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Submission of Work

Assignments (excluding in-class presentations and exams) must be submitted electronically via NYU Classes. It is the student’s responsibility to confirm that the work has been successfully been uploaded. In the unlikely event that a submission to Classes fails, students must immediately submit the work to the Academic Programs Coordinator via email before the original submission deadline accompanied by an explanation of the issue. All in-class presentations and exams must be completed during the scheduled class time. An assessment component is considered completed when the student has met all the terms for that assessment component as outlined by the instructor.

An assessment component completed after the deadline without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 2 points on the 100-point scale (for the assignment) for each day the work is late. Work completed beyond five weekdays after the due date without an agreed extension receives a mark of zero, and the student is not entitled to feedback for that piece of work. Because failure to submit or fulfil any required assessment component will result in failure of the course, it is crucial for students to complete every assignment even when it will receive a mark of zero.

Plagiarism Policy

The academic standards of New York University apply to all coursework at NYU Sydney. NYU Sydney policies are in accordance with New York University’s plagiarism policy. The presentation of another person’s words, ideas, judgment, images or data as though they were your own, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are severe and are dealt with by the Director, NYU Sydney, not your instructor. Your home school will be notified and you will be dealt with according to the standards of that school. The codes of conduct and academic standards for NYU’s various schools and colleges are outlined in the respective school’s academic resources.

Attendance Policy

Study abroad at Global Academic Centres is an academically intensive and immersive experience, in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centres is mandatory, and unexcused absences will affect students’ semester grades. The class roster will be marked in the first five minutes of class and anyone who arrives after this time will be considered absent. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.
For courses that meet once a week, one unexcused absence will be penalized by a two percent deduction from the student’s final course grade. For courses that meet two or more times a week, the same penalty will apply to two unexcused absences. Repeated absences in a course may result in failure.

Faculty cannot excuse an absence. Requests for absences to be excused must be directed to the Academic Programs Coordinator. Students must provide appropriate documentation for their absence. In the case of illness, students must contact the Academic Programs Coordinator on the day of absence. They must provide medical documentation to Academic Programs Coordinator within three days of the absence in order to be medically excused. The note must include a medical judgement indicating that the student was unfit to attend class/work on the specific day or dates of the absence. Faculty will be informed of excused absences by the Academic Programs staff.

Classroom Expectations

This is a seminar subject and requires the active participation of all students. It also requires engaged discussion, including listening to and respecting other points of view. Your behaviour in class should respect your classmates’ desire to learn. It is important for you to focus your full attention on the class, for the entire class period.

• Arrive to class on time.
• Once you are in class, you are expected to stay until class ends. Leaving to make or take phone calls, to meet with classmates, or to go to an interview, is not acceptable behaviour.
• Phones, digital music players, and any other communications or sound devices are not to be used during class. That means no phone calls, no texting, no social media, no email, and no internet browsing at any time during class.
• Laptop computers and tablets are not to be used during class except in rare instances for specific class-related activity expressly approved by your instructor.
• The only material you should be reading in class is material assigned for that class. Reading anything else, such as newspapers or magazines, or doing work from another class, is not acceptable.
• Class may not be recorded in any fashion – audio, video, or otherwise – without permission in writing from the instructor.

Diversity, Inclusion and Equity

NYU is committed to building a culture that respects and embraces diversity, inclusion, and equity, believing that these values – in all their facets – are, as President Andrew Hamilton has said, “...not only important to cherish for their own sake, but because they are also vital for advancing knowledge, sparking innovation, and creating sustainable communities.” At NYU Sydney we are committed to creating a learning environment that:

• fosters intellectual inquiry, research, and artistic practices that respectfully and rigorously take account of a wide range of opinions, perspectives, and experiences; and
• promotes an inclusive community in which diversity is valued and every member feels they have a rightful place, is welcome and respected, and is supported in their endeavours.

Religious Observance
Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their professor and the Academic Programs Coordinator in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose.

Provisions to students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in a class are encouraged to contact the Moses Centre for Students with Disabilities at (212) 998-4980 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. For more information, see Study Away and Disability.

Required Texts


It is a course expectation that you have done the required reading and have prepared sufficiently to discuss them in class.

Week 1 Introduction to the Study of Child and Adolescent Psychopathology
Thursday 7 September

Required Reading:
• Shatkin:
  o Preface, A Note about Clinical Studies (pp. xiii–xviii)
  o Chapter 1: Introduction (pp. 3–25)

Recommended Reading:
Week 2  Development in Infancy, Childhood and Adolescence

Thursday 14 September

Required Reading:

Recommended Reading:

Week 3  Orientation to Psychiatric Diagnosis and Nosology

Thursday 21 September

Required Reading:
- DSM-5
  - Preface
  - Section I >Introduction
  - Section I >Use of the Manual

Recommended Reading:
- DSM-5: Appendix >Glossary of Technical Terms

Week 4  Diagnostic Clinical Evaluation & Mental Status Examination

Thursday 28 September

Required Reading:

Week 5  Autism Spectrum Disorder

Thursday 5 October
Required Reading:
- Shatkin: Chapter 8: Autism Spectrum Disorders (pp. 114–138)
- DSM-5:
  - Section II >Neurodevelopmental Disorders >Autism Spectrum Disorder >Diagnostic Criteria

Recommended Reading:
- *When Carl met George* (video) http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f1qHRisR0yk http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sK2y9J-CBTs

Week 6  Neuropsychological and Psycho-educational testing  
Thursday 12 October

Assignment:
- *Mid-term Examination (20%)*

Required Reading:
- Shatkin: Chapter 5: Learning Disorders (pp. 75–84)

FALL BREAK: 16 – 20 October (Week 7)

Week 8  Learning Disorders/Intellectual Disability  
Thursday 26 October

Required Reading:
- Shatkin: Chapter 7: Intellectual Disability (pp. 97–107)

Recommended Reading:
- Shatkin: Chapter 6: Communication Disorders (pp. 89–95)

Week 9  Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder  
Thursday 2 November
Required Reading:
- Shatkin: Chapter 3: Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (pp. 32–45)
- DSM-5:
  - Section II > Neurodevelopmental Disorders > Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder > Diagnostic Criteria

Recommended Reading:
- Shatkin: Chapter 3: Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: Treatment (pp. 45–57)

**Week 10  Externalizing Disorders**

**Thursday 9 November**

Required Reading:
- Shatkin: Chapter 4: Disruptive Behavior Disorders (pp. 58–68)
- DSM-5:
  - Section II > Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders > Oppositional Defiant Disorder > Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II > Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders > Conduct Disorder > Diagnostic Criteria

Recommended Reading:
- Shatkin: Chapter 4: Disruptive Behavior Disorders: Treatment (pp. 68–74)

**Week 11  Mood Disorders**

**Thursday 16 November**

Required Reading:
- Shatkin:
  - Chapter 10: Depression (pp. 199–210)
  - Chapter 11: Bipolar Disorder (pp. 232–245)
- DSM-5:
  - Section II > Depressive Disorders > Major Depressive Disorder > Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II > Depressive Disorders > Persistent Depressive Disorder > Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II > Bipolar and Related Disorders > Bipolar I Disorder > Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II > Bipolar and Related Disorders > Bipolar II Disorder > Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II > Depressive Disorders > Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder > Diagnostic Criteria
Recommended Reading:

Week 12  Anxiety Disorders

Thursday 23 November

Required Reading:
- Shatkin: Chapter 10: Anxiety Disorders (pp. 158–176)
- DSM-5:
  - Section II >Anxiety Disorders >Separation Anxiety Disorder >Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II >Anxiety Disorders >Specific Phobia >Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II >Anxiety Disorders >Social Anxiety Disorder >Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II >Anxiety Disorders >Panic Disorder >Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II >Anxiety Disorders >Generalized Anxiety Disorder >Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II >Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders >Posttraumatic Stress Disorder >Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II >Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders >Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder >Diagnostic Criteria

Recommended Readings:

Week 13  Substance Use Disorder

Thursday 30 November

Required Reading:
- Shatkin: Chapter 16: Substance Use Disorders (pp. 290–300)
- DSM-5:
  - Section II >Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders >Substance Use Disorders
  - Section II >Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders >Substance-Induced Disorder

Week 14  Eating Disorders

Thursday 7 December

Required Reading:
Week 15  Psychotic Disorders

Thursday 14 December

Required Reading:
- Shatkin: Chapter 15: Schizophrenia and Psychosis (pp. 265–278)
- DSM-5:
  - Section II >Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders >Key Features That Define the Psychotic Disorders
  - Section II >Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders >Schizophrenia >Diagnostic Criteria
  - Section II >Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders >Schizoaffective Disorder >Diagnostic Criteria

Assignments: Response Paper due (25%)

Final Examination (30%): Tuesday 19 December 2:00 – 4:00pm

Your Instructor

Dr. Raphael Chan (M.B.B.S., M.P.H., J.D., University of Sydney) is a psychiatrist in private practice in Sydney, Australia. He specializes in the assessment and treatment of children, adolescents and young adults. After admission to Fellowship of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists in 2002, he worked as staff specialist psychiatrist at the Northern Beaches Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in Sydney, and later as visiting psychiatrist at Bloomfield Hospital in rural New South Wales.

He teaches courses in child and adolescent mental health at the University of Sydney and NYU Sydney. He also has a keen interest in mental health law, and is a member of the Mental Health Review Tribunal.