Abnormal Psychology

Class code: V89.9035.001

Instructor Details:
Professor Kate Loewenthal
c.loewenthal@rhul.ac.uk
02088005012
07576242925

Class Details:
Fall 2011
Wed 1.30-4.30pm
Location to be confirmed

Prerequisites:
None

Class Description:
This course provides an overview of the field of abnormal psychology. The focus is on forms of psychopathology, their causes, and diagnostic and treatment issues.

The course is delivered in a traditional lecture format, supplemented by video presentations, student presentations of specific papers and book reviews, and samples of psychological tests. Student participation and group discussion are encouraged and expected. Handouts will be provided. For most classes, one student presentation of material will be invited (organised at least a week in advance).

Desired Outcomes:
1. Course participants will gain knowledge of the forms of mental disorder.
2. Course participants will develop a conceptual framework for understanding mental disorder and abnormal behavior. This includes learning about the history of the field, different explanatory models (e.g., biological, behavioral, psychodynamic, cognitive), current controversies in the field.
3. Course participants will develop understanding of diagnostic and treatment issues by analysing case material.
4. It is hoped that the course will inspire some students to engage in further study of abnormal psychology; for example, by entering a graduate school program in clinical psychology or another mental-health-related field.

Assessment Components:
1. One coursework essay (1,200 words), 30% of the final mark

2. EITHER a) A printed copy of a 15-20 minute class presentation (Note that a Turnitin receipt is not required for the printed presentation submission).

OR b) a further 1,200 word essay

30% of the final mark.
3. **Examination**: 40% of final mark.

Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Expectations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade A</strong>: Mastery of the issues and literature, and an ability to make some original contribution. Demonstration of original and independent thinking, and evidence of genuine insight, combined with a well-structured, fluent, and clear argument, backed by research evidence whenever appropriate and possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade B</strong>: Mastery of issues and literature, grasp of theory and research, but limited original contribution, evaluation and attempt to back up with evidence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade C</strong>: Unsure grasp of the issues and material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade D</strong>: Failure to grasp issues but some attempt made</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grade F</strong>: Little or no attempt made.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade conversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYU in London uses the following scale of numerical equivalents to letter grades:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A=94-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-=90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+=87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B=84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-=80-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+=77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C=74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-=70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+=67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D=65-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F=below 65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Where no specific numerical equivalent is assigned to a letter grade by the class teacher, the mid point of the range will be used in calculating the final class grade (except in the A range, where 95.5 will be used).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NYU in London aims to have grading standards and results in all its courses similar to those that prevail at Washington Square.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In addition, Stern School of Business classes adhere to the following Stern grading guidelines:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There should be no more than</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 25-35% A's - awarded for excellent work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 50-70% B's - awarded for good or very good work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• 5-15% C's or below - awarded for adequate or below work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that-it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NYUL has a strict policy about course attendance. **No unexcused absences are permitted.** While students should contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work, you should NOT approach them for excused absences.

Excused absences will usually only be considered for serious, unavoidable reasons such as personal ill-health or illness in the immediate family. Trivial or non-essential reasons for absence will not be considered.

Excused absences can only be considered if they are reported in accordance with the guidelines that follow.

Please note that you will need to ensure that no make-up classes - or required excursions - have been organised before making any travel plans for the semester.

**Absence reporting**

1. On the first day of absence you should report the details of your illness by calling free (from landline) 0800 316 0469 (option 2) or by e-mailing absences@nyu.ac.uk including: class missed, professor, class time and whether any work was due including exams.

2. Generally a doctor’s note will be required to ensure you have sought treatment for the illness. Contact the Gower Street Health Centre on 0207 636 7628 to make an appointment, or use HTH general practitioners if you cannot get an appointment expediently at Gower Street.

3. At the end of your period of absence, you will need to complete an absence form online at http://www.nyu.edu/global/london/academics/attendance_policy.htm

4. Finally you must arrange an appointment to speak to David Crout (freshmen) or Nigel Freeman (non-freshmen) on your first day back at class. You must have completed the absence form before making your appointment.

Absence requests for non-illness purposes must be discussed with the Assistant Director for Freshman Programmes (**Freshmen**) or Assistant Director for Academic Affairs (**non-freshmen**) prior to the date(s) in question – no excused absences for non-illness purposes can be applied retrospectively.

Supporting documentation relating to absences must be submitted within one week of your return to class.
3% will be deducted from the student’s final course mark for each unexcused absence. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence.

Unexcused absences from exams are not permitted and will result in failure of the exam. If you are granted an excused absence from an examination (with authorisation, as above), your lecturer will decide how you will make-up the assessment component, if at all (by make-up examination, extra coursework, viva voce (oral examination), or an increased weighting on an alternate assessment component, etc.). In the past, students have asked about early departure from the program at the end of the semester. This will not normally be allowed. Under no circumstances will we allow a student to take a final exam at any time other than it has been scheduled - neither before the other students in the class, nor afterwards. Students have been informed not to make return travel plans before the end of the exam week. Exams may not be held during your regularly scheduled class meeting. Please do not make plans during the exam period until you know the exact times of your exams.

NYUL also expects students to arrive to class promptly (both at the beginning and after any breaks) and to remain for the duration of the class. If timely attendance becomes a problem it is the prerogative of each instructor to deduct a mark or marks from the final grade of each late arrival and each early departure.

Please note that for classes involving a field trip or other external visit, transportation difficulties are never grounds for an excused absence. It is the student’s responsibility to arrive at an agreed meeting point in a punctual and timely fashion.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the policies relating to attendance.

### Late Submission of Work

1. Written work due in class must be submitted during the class time to the professor.

2. Late work should be submitted in person to the Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs in office hours (Mon – Fri, 10:30 – 17:30), who will write on the essay or other work the date and time of submission, in the presence of the student. Another member of the administrative staff can accept the work, in person, in the absence of the Administrative Assistant for Academic Affairs and will write the date and time of submission on the work, as above. Please also send an electronic copy to academics@nyu.ac.uk for submission to Turnitin.

3. Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 10 points on the 100 point scale.

4. Written work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

5. **Please note** end of semester essays must be submitted on time.

### Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism: the presentation of another piece of work or words, ideas, judgements, images or data, in whole or in part, as though they were originally created by you for the assignment, whether intentionally or unintentionally, constitutes an act of plagiarism.

Please refer to the Student Handbook for full details of the plagiarism policy.

All students must submit an electronic copy of each piece of their written work to www.turnitin.com and hand in a printed copy with the digital receipt to their professor. Late submission of work rules apply to both the paper and electronic submission and failure to submit either copy of your work will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible
However note that where you have opted to make a presentation for your second coursework (option 2a above) AND you have used Powerpoint format, you should not submit this work to Turnitin. Simply hand in the presentation printout. If you have made your presentation from notes rather than Powerpoint, then the notes must be submitted to Turnitin.

Electronic Submission
The Turnitin database will be searched for the purpose of comparison with other students’ work or with other pre-existing writing or publications, and other academic institutions may also search it.

In order for you to be able to submit your work onto the Turnitin website, you will need to set up an account:

1) Go onto the Turnitin website [http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)
2) Click ‘Create Account’ in the top right hand corner
3) Select user type of ‘student’
4) Enter your class ID & Turnitin class enrolment password (these will be e-mailed to you after the drop/add period, or contact [luke.harper@nyu.ac.uk](mailto:luke.harper@nyu.ac.uk) if you have misplaced these).
5) Follow the online instructions to create your profile.

To submit your work for class, you will then need to:

1) Log in to the Turnitin website
2) Enter your class by clicking on the class name
3) Next to the piece of work you are submitting (please confirm the due date), click on the ‘submit’ icon
4) Enter the title of your piece of work
5) Browse for the file to upload from wherever you have saved it (USB drive, etc.), please ensure your work is in Word or PDF format, and click ‘submit’
6) Click ‘yes, submit’ to confirm you have selected the correct paper (or ‘no, go back’ to retry)
7) You will then have submitted your essay onto the Turnitin website.
8) Please print your digital receipt and attach this to the hard copy of your paper before you submit it to your professor (this digital receipt appears on the web site, immediately after you submit your paper and is also sent to your e-mail address). Please also note that when a paper is submitted to Turnitin all formatting, images, graphics, graphs, charts, and drawings are removed from the paper so that the program can read it accurately. Please do not print the paper in this form to submit to your lecturers, as it is obviously pretty difficult to read! You can still access the exact file you uploaded by clicking on the ‘file’ icon in the ‘content’ column.

Please also see the Late Submission of Work policy, above.

Students must retain an electronic copy of their work for one month after their grades are posted online on Albert and must supply an electronic copy of their work if requested to do so by NYU in London. Not submitting a copy of a piece of work upon request will result in automatic failure in the assignment and possible failure in the class. NYU in London may submit in an electronic form the work of any student to a database for use in the detection of plagiarism, without further prior notification to the student.

Penalties for confirmed cases of plagiarism are set out in the Student Handbook.

Required Text(s)


**BIOGRAPHICAL AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIVE CASE MATERIAL**


Kesey, Ken. *One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest*. Picador, 1973 (or reprint).


Solomon, Andrew: *Noonday Demon*. Scribner, 2002

**DVDs** (we will watch some excerpts, and discuss these during the course, and a copy of each is available in the library):


*One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest*, (1975) Directed by Forman.

*Shine* (1997) Directed by Hicks.

*Sybil* (2007) Directed by Sargent

*A Beautiful Mind* (2002) Directed by Howard

*The Horse Boy* (2009) Directed by Scott

**Internet Research Guidelines**

While the course books and articles will provide enough material to write your essays and case study adequately, the quality may be improved by reference to some relevant material from journals, books, and appropriate online sources. The most convenient way of doing this is by searching the
internet. You will get the most scholarly results from PsycINFO which can be accessible from NYUHome or Senate House Library. ([www.ull.ac.uk](http://www.ull.ac.uk)). MedLine, Web of Knowledge, [http://scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com) and [http://books.google.com](http://books.google.com) may also be helpful. Abstracts are almost always available from these sources, and often give sufficient information, and some full text articles are accessible.

Warning: books.google will not let you print the pages (they want to persuade you to buy the book)– so you will need to take notes, or get the book from a library if necessary. A regular Google (or other general search engine) search can sometimes be useful, but hits cannot always be used as scholarly sources. Note that Wikipedia is not always regarded as a reliable source for academic purposes, but may point you to reliable sources.

If using an electronic copy of this syllabus, the links should all work if you are online (ctrl+click).

Remember that cutting and pasting material into an essay is regarded as plagiarism, unless you make clear that you are quoting, and acknowledge the source. It is normally preferable to summarise and paraphrase, again acknowledging the source/s of the points being made. Only use quotations where these enhance the points you are making. Remember to use quotation marks.

### Additional Required Equipment

None

### Session 1

Sept 7

**Introduction to abnormal psychology: Overview of past and present views on the nature of psychiatric illnesses, their causes, treatment and diagnosis.**

**Supplementary reading:** you are unlikely to be able to read before this session. If you wish to do supplementary reading, try to look at least one of the following. Note. Case material is marked – other sources may cite some case material. In future weeks, a seminar presentation will be invited of one case from the supplementary list.

- Butcher et al, chapter 3 (models)
- Barnes & Berke: *Mary Barnes (or an alternative)*
- Kesey: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest.* (and/or the DVD of the same title)
- Szasz et al: *Is Depression a Disease?* (use link) [http://www.szasz.com/isdepressionadiseasetranscript.html](http://www.szasz.com/isdepressionadiseasetranscript.html) (on [www.szasz.com](http://www.szasz.com)). (*This highlights an important concern in abnormal psychology and psychiatry: are we really dealing with illnesses?*)

### Session 2

Sept 14

**Anxiety – its varieties, causes and treatments**

**Essential reading:** Butcher et al, chapter 6 (Panic and anxiety disorders)

- Getzfeld chapter 2 (Fannie: OCD)

**Supplementary reading:**

- Freud: *Case Histories 1: Little Hans*

### Session 3

Sept 21

**Unipolar Depression**
Essential reading: Butcher et al, chapter 7 pp 222-247 (unipolar disorders)

Getzfeld chapter 3 (Allison: MDD)

Supplementary reading Select from:

Sanghera: Shame

Solomon: Noonday Demon

Session 4

Sept 28
(This date may have to be changed)

Disorders related to anxiety and depression: PTSD, suicide, eating disorders, alcohol abuse


Getzfeld chapter 2 (Sarah: PTSD)

Supplementary reading

Sanghera: Shame

Session 5

Oct 5

Somatic disorders

Essential reading: Butcher et al, chapter 8 pp 273-288, (somatoform disorders)

Getzfeld has no case material on this topic, so try to look at something from the supplementary list.

Supplementary reading Select from:

Salmon et al: Patients' perceptions of medical explanations for somatisation disorders, British Medical Journal, 1999 (use the link) [http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/318/7180/372](http://www.bmj.com/cgi/content/full/318/7180/372)

Feldman & Ford: Patient or Pretender


Helfgott & Tanskaya: Love you to bits and pieces (or DVD: Shine)

Loewenthal: chapter 6

Session 6

Oct 12

Dissociation and multiple personality disorder

Essential reading: Butcher et al: Chapter 8 pp 288-303 (dissociative disorders)

Getzfeld has no case material on this topic, so try to look at something from the supplementary list

Supplementary reading select from

Schreiber Sybil. (and/or the DVD of the same title)

Oltmanns et al: Chapter 6

Loewenthal. Chapter 7

Session 7

Oct 19

Borderline and other personality disorders

Depending on the lecture (Lecture 8, 9, 10, or 11), the requirements are as follows:

**Session 8**

**Psychosis: Schizophrenia**

**Essential reading**: Butcher et al, chapter 13 (Schizophrenia)

**Supplementary reading**

- Getzfeld, chapter 4 (Henry)

**Session 9**

**Psychosis: Bipolar disorder**

**Essential reading**: Butcher et al, chapter 7, pp247-254 (bipolar disorders)

**Supplementary reading**

- Getzfeld, chapter 3, Ken pp 75-87.

**Session 10**

**Childhood disorders**

**Essential reading**: Butcher et al, chapter 15 pp528-543,546-551 (ADHD, conduct disorder, anxiety and depression, autism and Asperger’s)

**Supplementary reading**

- Getzfeld, chapter 9 (Bernard, conduct and Jacqueline, ADHD)

**Session 11**

**Treatments and their efficacy: Psychodynamic therapies**

**Essential reading**: Butcher et al, Butcher et al, chapter 16 pp568-576 (help-seeking and outcomes),584-586 (psychodynamic therapy, but note the account of research is very limited).

**Supplementary reading**

- Freud: Case Histories 1: Dora
- Barnes & Berke: Mary Barnes

  Freud Life & Work: [http://www.freudfile.org/](http://www.freudfile.org/) This website is a convenient source of basic Freudian psychoanalytic concepts for those who would like an introduction or overview.
Session 12
Nov 30

Treatments and their efficacy: CBT, positive psychology and other approaches.
**Essential reading:** Butcher et al, chapter 16, pp 576-584, CBT, behaviour and humanistic therapies, also chapter 5, pp 149-150, positive psychology. If not yet read, chapter 16, pp 568-576, help-seeking and outcomes.

**Supplementary reading:** Select from


Authentic happiness websites for tests, examples, training (use links):
- [http://www.authentichappiness.sas.upenn.edu/Default.aspx](http://www.authentichappiness.sas.upenn.edu/Default.aspx)

Session 13
Dec 2 Make-up Class (Friday 10-1)

Religious and spiritual coping.
**Essential Reading:** Hsu, T: Religion and mental health: an interview with Koenig, 1995. (use link).
[http://www.duke.edu/vertices/update/win95/koenig.html](http://www.duke.edu/vertices/update/win95/koenig.html)

**Supplementary reading:** select from
- Rollins, J. Wounded Child. [http://members.tripod.com/Jmae](http://members.tripod.com/Jmae)

Look at the links “Our story”, and “God and MPD”
Loewenthal chapter 4 pp 60-67.

Session 14
Dec 7

Applying what you have learned (class discussions of case histories and other examination topics)

**Essential Reading:** Getzfeld Chapter 11

DEADLINE FOR COURSEWORK 2 (PRINTED COPY OF PRESENTATION, OR AN ESSAY)

Session 15
Dec 14

EXAMINATION

Classroom Etiquette

Eating is not permitted in any classrooms in 4-6 Bedford Square. Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.

Required Co-curricular Activities

None required

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

Students will be advised of any public lectures, exhibitions and seminars of interest, as they come to the attention of the course leader. These will be optional.