

**\*\*\*Tentative Syllabus\*\*\***

**Yale University  
Department of Psychology**

**Abnormal Psychology (Psychology S180E)  
Summer 2017**

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Abnormal Psychology is concerned with identifying, understanding, and treating psychological disorders. Why do people have difficulties enjoying life and why do they experience sustained sadness which may even result in attempts to end their own lives? Why do war veterans who return from Iraq experience panic attacks in the middle of a supermarket even though they are out of harm's way? Why do young girls starve themselves to death pursuing unrealistic ideals of thinness? Why do people hear voices and see things that are not there? When do these problems typically start, how can we understand factors that increase the risk of experiencing psychological problems, and what options exist for treatment? These topics and questions surround us every day and this course will try to answer some of these questions, providing an overview of the scientific study of abnormal thought, emotion, and behavior.

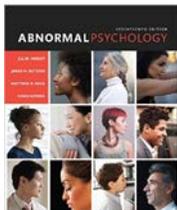
The course will explore psychological disorders from a variety of theoretical frameworks including psychological, biological, and sociocultural perspectives. After reviewing historical perspectives, current diagnostic approaches, and classification systems, the course will discuss specific disorders including mood and anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, substance-related disorders, and eating disorders. The course will focus on current empirical studies that examine underlying factors as well as on empirically based treatments. Finally, we will briefly review legal aspects of psychological disorders and other timely topics related to Abnormal Psychology.

Course objectives include:

- Review contemporary psychological, biological and sociocultural perspectives on psychological disorders
- Examine multiple probable causes and correlates of abnormal human behavior
- Learn about etiological considerations, descriptions, theories underlying diagnostic classification of psychological disorders
- Review current empirical findings and trends relative to the development and description of abnormal behavior
- Learn about gender and demographic influences on the prevalence of disorders
- Learn and understand benefits, critiques, limitations, and implications of diagnosis and classification
- Provide an overview of current empirically supported treatments.

**Readings:**

Required Text: Hooley, Butcher, Nock & Mineka (2017, 17<sup>th</sup> edition). Abnormal Psychology. Pearson. The textbook is available at the Campus Bookstore or on Amazon (take delivery time into account). You can also purchase a loose-leaf version, which is cheaper. The 17<sup>th</sup> edition is highly recommended (dark cover). The previous edition (white cover) is outdated, so I cannot



take responsibility for misaligned page numbers or missing information that may be on the exams.

There will be other readings and videos. I will provide links and make files available for download.

**Instructor: Jutta Joormann**

Dr. Jutta Joormann is a Professor of Psychology at Yale. Her research focuses on depression and anxiety disorders. She examines risk factors for the onset, maintenance and recurrence of these disorders using a multitude of methods including cognitive tasks, brain imaging, neuroendocrinology and genetic factors. In her work, she not only focuses on individuals who have been diagnosed with depression and anxiety but also on the children of depressed parents to better understand risk factors for these disorders.

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**Course website :**

<http://canvas.yale.edu/login>

Log in with your net ID. This site will contain all sorts of relevant information, including an up-to-date syllabus, PDFs of the slides, copies of handouts, links to videos and assigned readings.

**Online Virtual Classroom Meeting Time:**

*Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-8 :30pm*

You will be required to participate in two online section meetings per week in our virtual classroom. During these sessions, you will participate in open discussions with Professor Joormann and the TF, Ema Tanovic. It is expected that you will have already watched the lectures and done the readings listed before each online classroom meeting begins.

**Lectures:** You will be required to watch approx. 60 online lecture videos (each about 20 minutes long) on your own. You are expected to watch the lectures needed for each online discussion before the online meeting time. Some weeks you will be expected to watch 8-10 videos, so plan your schedule so that you can keep up with lecture viewing. Much of the information on the exams will directly come from what is presented in the lectures.

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<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Week 1	<p>What is Abnormal Psychology? Historical views of abnormal behavior</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Chapter 1 and 2 <u>Watch film:</u> <i>Madness: A History</i></p> <p><b>Live Discussion Section 1:</b> 05/30 with Ema Tanovic</p> <p>Contemporary views of abnormal behavior <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 3</p> <p>Assessment and diagnosis <u>Readings:</u> Chapter 4 and NYT article, The <a href="#">Americanization of Mental Illness</a></p> <p><b>Live Discussion Section 2:</b> 06/01 with Professor Joormann</p>
Week 2	<p>Anxiety disorders Specific Phobia, Panic Disorder, Social Anxiety Disorder and GAD</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Chapter 6 and NYT article, <a href="#">A Drug to Cure Fear</a></p> <p><b>Live Discussion Section 3:</b> 06/06 with Ema Tanovic</p> <p>OCD and PTSD</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Chapter 5 and TED Talk by Sebastian Junger, <a href="#">Our Lonely Society Makes It Hard to Come Home from War</a></p> <p><b>Live Discussion Section 4 :</b> 06/08 with Professor Joormann</p>
Week 3	<p>Mood disorders and suicide</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> Chapter 7 and TED Talk by Andrew Solomon, <a href="#">Depression, the Secret We Share</a></p> <p><b>Live Discussion Section 5:</b> 06/13 with Professor Joormann</p> <p>Review online lectures and readings as needed for Midterm Exam</p> <p><b>Live Discussion Section 6 – Midterm Exam: 06/15</b></p>

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Week 4 Eating disorders

Readings: Chapter 9 and NYT article, [Zoe Kazan on Overcoming an Eating Disorder](#)

**Live Discussion Section 7:** 06/20 with Ema Tanovic

Personality disorders

Readings: Chapter 10 and NYT article, [Can You Call a 9-Year-Old a Psychopath?](#)

Substance-related disorders and addiction

Readings: Chapter 11

**Live Discussion Section 8:** 06/22 with Professor Joormann

Week 5 Schizophrenia

Readings: Chapter 13 and TED talk by Elyn Saks, [A Tale of Mental Illness – from the Inside](#)

**Live Discussion Section 9:** 06/27 with Ema Tanovic

Review online lectures and readings as needed for final exam

**Live Discussion Section – Final Exam: 06/29**

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Grading:

Source	Weight	Date
Exam 1	30%	06/15
Exam 2	30%	06/29
Discussion questions	20%	before each discussion section
Class participation	20%	

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**Your final grade will be based on a 100-point weighted average.**

**A = above 90**

**B = 81-90**

**C = 71-80**

**D = 61-70**

**E = 50-60**

**F = below 50**

**Exams (60%).** Class and book material will not entirely overlap; you are responsible for both sets of material. There will be two exams for the course: Each exam covers about half of the course material. The exams will be non-cumulative and will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions and will cover all assigned readings, lecture material, and videos. The course material should not be too difficult but there is a large amount of information to understand and remember. Don't try to cram at last minute! The midterm exam will take place during online discussion times on Thursday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. The final exam will be during the final online discussion section on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. You must take the exams during the assigned time slots.

**Online Discussion Section Participation (20%):** There will be eight discussion sections (worth 2.5% each). To receive full credit, we expect you to 1) be promptly online at the section starting time, 2) have completed the viewing of the assigned lectures, 3) completed the assigned readings, and 4) participate in the discussion and 5) post three discussion questions/comments – see below. The goal of these sessions is to review the material covered in the lectures and the readings, but also to allow you to ask questions and discuss the topics presented in the lectures. In preparation for the section, we would like you to post short comments/questions in an online discussion forum before the section meeting.

**Discussion comments/questions (20%):** Comments and/or questions are due by noon (EST) on the day of each discussion section. Please prepare three thoughtful questions/comments per discussion section (worth 2.5% each) based on the assigned readings and lectures. Your questions/comments should demonstrate careful consideration of and engagement with the material. Please upload your questions to the discussion forum created on Canvas.

### **Academic Honesty**

All exams are closed-book. Use of any written materials or any form of collaboration is forbidden. For the written assignments, *any* use of words or ideas from other sources—including *online sources such as Wikipedia*—has to be clearly acknowledged.

For a useful discussion, see:

<http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/cheating-plagiarism-and-documentation>

Any case of suspected cheating will be referred to the Executive Committee of Yale College. The consequences can be severe, including suspension and expulsion.