

# Clinical Psychology [PSY-2041] [PSY-2041-1]

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## Faculty Name

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## Office timing

Wednesdays between 11am-1m. Please make 10-15 minute long appointments using this link at least 24 hrs prior: [calendly.com/simipsych](https://calendly.com/simipsych)

## Overview

This course focuses on understanding the phenomenology (description), etiology (causes), and treatment of abnormal behavior. Major psychological syndromes will be discussed along with the current APA classification system (DSM-5) and other classification systems. Genetic, biological, social, and psychological parameters implicated in the etiology of these syndromes will be introduced.

## Learning Outcomes

- Understand the merits and limitations of research methods and assessment techniques for clinical psychology
- Learn basics of critical and analytical skills required to read a journal article on clinical psychology
- Understand and be able to describe the current APA classification system (DSM-5) and show appreciation for other classification systems internationally
- Understand and be able to describe the major psychological disorders
- Describe the genetic, biological, social, and psychological influences on these disorders
- Understand the influence of societal, cultural, historical, and environmental influences on these disorders
- Appreciate the concept of comorbidity
- Discuss mental health services historically, and in today's USA, and appreciate international differences
- Understand ethical issues involved with mental health services
- Learn the importance of vocabulary, empathy and nuances in abnormal behavior
- Be able to navigate and think through elementary clinical problems in practice
- Learn to write an interview questionnaire based on a clinical case study

## Requirements (Reading List and other materials)

Text : Butcher J.N, Mineka S, Hooley J.M, Kapoor P (2019) Abnormal Psychology (17th ed) Pearson India  
<https://www.amazon.in/dp/9353065593?tag=pearindieduc-21> ( Rs.781 from amazon India for paperback, Rs. 389 for Kindle edition)

Reference: Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2015). Abnormal psychology (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

In Addition to text chapters, occasionally, there will be sections from the reference, other book chapters, or articles. All chapters, articles, readings, lectures, will be uploaded on the course page on Google Classroom

## Prerequisites (If Any)

1. SRM 1 (PSY-2001) ( Can not be taken concurrently with this course).
2. Any one from the following courses
  1. Introduction to Psychology (PSY-1001)
  2. Thinking like a Psycholoist (PSY-1003)

## Grading Rubric

### Class Blog- 30%

- There will be a class blog.
- All students will be added as authors/contributors to the class blog. It is YOUR responsibility to check with the TAs if you are enrolled.
- Each student is responsible for THREE blog posts. Each one of these needs to be at least 700 words long. Each one of the posts will count towards 10% of the course grade.
- Every week, some articles of interest and videos will be posted in the course website by the TAs or the instructors on the material of the week. Students can select the topic of their posts.
- There will be an online roster for the blogpost students will use to keep rack of their posts and scores.
- Students can also select their own topic, but they have to check once with the instructor or one of the TAs
- Beyond their required number of posts, students are welcome to make further blogposts to add to the discussion. Everyone should have written at least 3 blogposts by the last week of class. Everyone should have written at least 1 post before mid- term break.
- Blogposts will be graded by the TA (each out of 10 points)

### Exam - 30%

- This will be a combination of MCQ, True or false, fill in the blanks, and short answer type questions to test understanding of concepts and reasoning
- The exam will take place during the final exam week in December. Exact time and venue TBD
- Most questions will address your critical and analytical thinking
- The exam will be administered via paper and pen.
- The exam will be conducted on 100 points. Your score will be scaled down to 30 for the final course grade calculation

### Remedial Blogging

If a student scores below 20th Percentile in the final exam, they can, with the instructor's permission, write ONE REMEDIAL blog post, which will be scored out of ten points, and the score will be added to their exam total before it is scaled down to 30% of the course grade. This needs to be done within the last day of the semester.

### Group practicum- 40%

- Instructor will create a spreadsheet with provision for groups of 6-8 students each. Final number of groups and number of students will be declared AFTER THE ADD/DROP DEADLINE
- Further details about the practicum assignments will be provided before the mid-term break

### Calculation of final grades

- Your weighted scores from each section above will be summated to generate a final score out of 100
- You will be finally graded based on relative cluster grading. Be aware that this is not grading on a curve. Neither this is relative grading or absolute grading
- A class grade curve is constructed. If the clusters are well separate, then the boundaries are easier to determine
- The Top score need not be an A automatically, A is outstanding- in the pool of all students at your level (undergraduate or graduate), is your performance in the course able to stand apart from the peer group? That will qualify you for an A, rather than a top score.
- Where the letter grades start for the class grade curve will be determined by the professor, based on her understanding of the performance of the class overall
- The instructor determines the grade boundaries based on multiple factors. If the scores only show a difference in 0.5 or less, the instructor might consider performance and engagement in class, a particularly well written

assignment or exam, or practicum associated with the course. Once a grade boundary is determined on the score curve however, anyone below or above it will fall into the respective categories.

- Smaller classes and bigger classes tend to have very differently shaped grade curves
- Your weighted scores from each section above will be summated to generate a final score out of 100
- A class grade curve will be constructed and you will be finally graded based on relative cluster grading.
  
- Please remember, A- Outstanding, B- Very Good, C- Adequate, D- Less than Adequate and F-Fail. No student is entitled to an A just by turning up for the class. Your work truly needs to stand out among your peers to get an A. There is no point cut off for any grade- the class curve will determine how good or bad you have done in comparison to your peers and that gets you your final letter grade. Find the updated Ashoka University Grading system here. [https://lms.ashoka.edu.in/Contents/Masters/OrientationMaterial\\_View.aspx](https://lms.ashoka.edu.in/Contents/Masters/OrientationMaterial_View.aspx). This is quoted from the grading policy document from the Ashoka University Grading policy Document:
  - A, A- Excellent quality and full mastery of the subject. A grade of A means extraordinary distinction.
  - B+, B, B- Good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities.
  - C+, C, C- Adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material. Indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and participating in class activities.
  - D+, D, D- Barely satisfactory work indicating minimal command of the course materials and minimal participation in class activities.
  - F unsatisfactory and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.
- Grades can be moderated by the instructor based on her assessment of student performance, which cannot be measured simply by scores.
- Grade appeals are not allowed carte blanche. The exam will be in MCQ or objective format, so their grades cannot be appealed except in case of a miscalculation of scores or structural mistakes in questions. Grades for Blogposts cannot be appealed as well.
- For the practicum if the entire group has consensus that the assigned scores need a re-evaluation, they must bring it to the notice of the instructor in writing as a grade appeal. There is no guarantee that your scores will increase. They might remain same or even reduce after re-evaluation.

## Attendance Policy

- Attendance, participation, and punctuality are critical for the lecture and discussion, and are central characteristics of being a professional.
- Attendance: Attendance will be taken every day for records.
  - 3 unexcused absences will be granted from lectures.
  - 4 absences: reduction in 5 points from the total course score before letter grades are assigned.
  - 5 absences: Reduction of a letter grade (A to B, B to C etc.)
  - more than 5 absences: Fail grade (F).
- Please also keep in mind that it is in your best interest to come to class, since repeated absence will affect your ability to understand the material and do well in the coursework.
- In the past classes, the total course score which is used to calculate grade always shows a significant association with attendance, the higher the number of absences, the lower the course score.
- If you leave earlier than 30 minutes, email the instructor ahead of time. Bring a medical certificate for any medical emergency that requires you to miss more than two classes in a row. If leaving early, seat yourself such that you can leave the class without creating much disturbance.
- If you miss a class it is up to you to make up the learning gap. The instructor or the TAs cannot be expected to go over everything done in class because you were absent. They can of course help you catch up with conceptual difficulties.
- Note: We will provide an online attendance tracker so that you can track your attendance. Any disputed attendance marking on the sheet shall need to be resolved with the TAs directly within 7 days of a mismatch. The professor will NOT entertain attendance correction requests at the end of the course and after grades have been published.

### Students with Disabilities:

If you have any disability that may impair your ability, I encourage you to come talk to me in person during my office hours and explain to me how the disability affects your learning so that we can figure out together how to optimize your experience in this course.

However, for any serious mental or physical illness, leading to extended or repeated absences (more than 3) will be dealt with separately. If you want academic adjustments be made for you such as alternative assignments or late submission etc., please route your request through both OAA and OLS, and have them send me confirmations and recommendations. I will work with the OAA and OLS as well as you. Simply showing prescriptions, with medications, psychotropic or otherwise can not be used to obtain accommodation in academic work or absences or to request an incomplete at all. Also, such adjustments do not guarantee that you pass the course. If we agree upon alternate assignments and timelines, I will expect you to keep up with them. If I judge that you have not mustered the minimum level of competence for passing the class, you will still be given a fail grade.

## Academic Dishonesty

Do not plagiarize or cheat in exams and assignments. The professor, teaching fellows and assistants will be vigilant. I will not grade plagiarized work, or give a chance for resubmission/make up assignment. Ashoka University expects you to fulfill your academic obligations through honest and independent effort. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with Ashoka's policy about academic integrity in your Student Handbook. And as a final warning: Merely citing sources without paraphrasing is still plagiarism. Recycling your own work without paraphrasing or using the same data collected before, submitted for another course for the experimental project will be considered an act of plagiarism. Consult the CWC if in doubt what plagiarism is. The onus is yours to know what constitutes plagiarizing.