

Psychology 208, Section 20077/(Honors: 20964), Abnormal Psychology  
Spring 2013: MW 3:05 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Room: 404

Instructor: Mike Cushner, MS

Communication:

- 1) Email: [michael.cushner@imperial.edu](mailto:michael.cushner@imperial.edu)
- 2) Text Message: 760-550-9480
- 3) In person office hours: Office location – 807F  
M – 10:45-11:45 a.m.  
T – 3:00-4:30 p.m.  
W – 10:45-11:45 a.m.  
R – 9:40 – 10:10 a.m.  
OR by appointment
- 4) Telephone: 760-355-6142
- 5) Student Email Accounts: Each student at IVC has been issued an email account. Please go to the College website in order to access your account. If I need to communicate with you as a group, I will send email to these accounts. You should check your official email account frequently. In addition to messages from your instructors, the College also uses these email accounts for all official correspondence so it would behoove you to embrace this account and use it! **Warning:** email sent from personal accounts often is flagged as spam by the email filtering software used at IVC. If you do not receive a response to an email, it could be that your message was identified as spam and I have not received it. Email sent from IVC student accounts always gets past the spam filter.

**NOTE:** In any communication that you initiate with me you must include the following information:

- Your full name
- The course that you are enrolled in

If you do not provide this information, your message will be returned.

Website: <http://imperial.blackboard.com>

**Required Text:**

Butcher, J.N., Mineka, S., & Hooley, J.M. (2011). *Abnormal psychology: Core concepts*, (2nd ed.). Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon.

**Course Description:**

This course provides an understanding of the psychological disorders that have been identified and described in the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Text Revision*. Disorders will be analyzed in terms of their etiology, course, diagnostic symptoms and signs, and treatment. In addition, issues related to mental health including historical perspective, causal theories and viewpoints, and clinical processes will be addressed. Finally, the role of culture and society – including the impact of stress and the prevention of psychological disorders – will be discussed.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- 1) Discuss the historical, theoretical, and methodological context for the study of abnormal behavior.
- 2) Identify the major mental disorders and describe the symptoms, diagnosis, etiology and treatment of each.
- 3) Provide examples of community and institutional intervention programs and discuss their effectiveness in dealing with mental disorder.
- 4) Identify and discuss contemporary legal and ethical issues in abnormal psychology.

The exams and other assignments that are required for this course are designed to assist students in achieving these outcomes.

**Assignments and Grading:**

3 Exams, 300 points (3 x 100 points each)

Case Conceptualization, 100 points

Homework Assignments, 75 points (3 x 25 points each)

Participation, 25 points

**Total for class = 500 points**

**Please Note: The instructor does not provide opportunities for extra credit.**

**Grades will be assigned based on the percentage of total points earned as follows:**

A = .90 – 1.00    C = .70 – .79    F = .59 or less

B = .80 – .89    D = .60 – .69

**Exams:**

- \* The three exams will consist of multiple-choice questions covering material from the lectures and assigned readings. Each exam consists of 100 questions worth 1 point each. The third exam is comprehensive.
- \* All exams are closed book and closed notes; no outside resources – including dictionaries – can be used while taking an exam. Also, students must never touch a mobile phone during an exam for any reason.
- \* For each exam, you must bring a green Scantron form (form number 822-E) and a #2 pencil. Scantrons are available for purchase at the campus bookstore. Scantrons need to be kept in good condition or they will not feed through the scantron machine. **If you do not have a scantron and a pencil to record your answers, you will receive a zero for the exam.**
- \* On the days that exams are scheduled, exams will begin promptly at 3:05 p.m. **Anyone who arrives more than 5 minutes late for an exam will have 20 points deducted from their test score.**
- \* Study Guides – I **do not** provide study guides for exams. Anything covered in lecture or contained in the assigned reading is considered to be “fair game” for inclusion on an exam.

**\*\*\*Make-up exams: In order to be eligible for a makeup exam you must meet the following conditions:**

- Your absence must be due to an extreme emergency (such as medical emergency, death in the family, automobile accident, etc.).
- You must provide proof that the emergency occurred.
- You must notify me within 48 hours of the time of the exam either in person or via text/email/voicemail.
- You must report to the makeup exam at the time that I specify.
- Once a makeup exam is scheduled, it will not be rescheduled for any reason; if you fail to show up, you will receive a zero for the exam.
- Under no circumstances will more than one make-up exam be given to a student in a given semester.

**Homework Assignments:**

- \* Each homework assignment will consist of completing several critical thinking questions. Your answers to these questions will be entered directly into the assignment on blackboard.
- \* **For this class, I do not accept late assignments under any circumstances.**
- \* The length of each assignment will be specified in the assignment description. Please be certain to meet the minimum length requirement for each assignment. **If you submit fewer words than the minimum required number – even one word less – the maximum grade you will receive will be the equivalent of a “C”.**

**Case Conceptualization:**

- \* Each student will be assigned a dialog between a therapist and client.
- \* The student must analyze this exchange and provide a case summary, a five-axis DSM diagnosis, a description of causal factors, and a treatment plan.
- \* This assignment will require the student to use many of the supporting concepts from the course and to apply them to a particular case.

**Participation:**

- \* In order to encourage students to take a more active role in the course, points will be awarded for participation. While questions on the textbook and lecture material count as participation, your substantive comments and ideas about the material are equally valuable. You do not receive participation points for questions about course requirements/procedures or if you request clarification of lecture material (although you should do both of these things when you believe it is necessary).
- \* My hope is that you will participate five times during the semester – you will only receive credit for participating once during any class session. You will receive 5 points for each time you participate up to a maximum of 25 points.
- \* When you participate, you should make a note for yourself of the subject and date. You can then enter a record of your participation in blackboard and I will award the points after I have reviewed your input.

**Honors Enrollment:**

- \* This course is eligible for honors credit. Only students with excellent academic records are eligible to take the course for honors credit. The following are specific requirements:
  1. Have completed twelve (12) units of University of California (UC) transferable courses with grades of "C" or higher.
  2. Have earned an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher on all UC transferable courses.
  3. Have completed IVC English 101, or UC transfer equivalent, with a grade of "B" or higher.
- \* In addition to the requirements stated in this syllabus, those who take the course for honors credit must complete the requirements in the honors addendum to the syllabus.
- \* The specific honors assignments that are agreed upon must be approved by the IVC Honors Committee.
- \* Once your project is approved, you will meet with me periodically in order to report progress.
- \* Honors assignments are graded and factored into the final grade for the course.
- \* If you qualify and you are interested in taking this course for honors credit, please see me or email me during the first two weeks of the semester.

**Attendance:**

- \* Students who are not present for the first day of class will be dropped.
- \* After the first day of class, **I will not drop students from the course for non-attendance or non-participation. If you are unable to complete the course, it is your responsibility to use the processes that exist to drop yourself from the course.** I am obligated to give a final grade to every student who is still registered in the course at the end of the semester. If you do not complete the course and do not drop yourself from the course, your grade will be based on whatever work you have completed in the course.
- \* I will know whether a student is actively involved in the course primarily through submission of assignments and completion of exams.
- \* **Students are expected to attend all class sessions.** If you do not attend class and take notes, you will not have any idea as to what to study for a given exam. I highly recommend that you make a friend in the class so that you can get notes from your friend if the need

should arise to miss a class. **In addition**, there are points available for participation and you will not be able to earn those points if you do not attend class.

- \* **Punctuality is important.** I will be in class on time and I expect you to do the same. Tardiness is disrespectful and disruptive to the entire class; while it may be “nothing personal”, you distract the entire class when you enter late. If you are late, please enter the classroom and be seated as quickly and unobtrusively as possible. Material (including announcements) that is covered in the beginning of class will not be repeated for latecomers; it is your responsibility to get any missed information.
- \* **PLEASE NOTE: I do not** make any lecture materials available to students **for any reason.** In order to have an idea of what will be addressed on exams, it will be necessary for you to attend class and take notes.
- \* **PLEASE NOTE:** You may *not* record lectures without receiving my permission to do so beforehand.

**Classroom Etiquette:**

- \* Most of you are here to learn the material, but some students are ambivalent or downright disinterested in this course and/or school. To preserve a productive learning environment, students who disrupt or interfere with a class may be told to leave the classroom and to meet with Sergio Lopez, campus disciplinary officer before returning to the class. Mr. Lopez will follow disciplinary procedures as outlined in the General Catalog.
- \* Students are expected to behave in a manner that is consistent with the Imperial Valley College “Standards of Student Conduct”. If you do not conduct yourself in a manner that is consistent with these standards as well as with the instructor’s standards of conduct, this could result in the disciplinary measures just described.
- \* Openness to ideas is a key factor in becoming an educated person. During class discussions, all ideas should be submitted and received in this spirit. No abusive, intolerant, or offensive language will be allowed.
- \* By college policy, students are not allowed to have food or drinks in the classroom with the exception of bottled water.
- \* **You may not use mobile phones, smart phones and other electronic communication devices for any reason during class.** In addition, the use of laptop computers is also not permitted unless you have a documented physical disability.
- \* I expect that your purpose in registering for this class is to learn the subject matter. Any behaviors that do not involve paying active attention to the class are not permitted. This includes:

• Any use of electronic devices	• Listening to music
• Private conversations	• Reading newspapers
• Writing notes	• Reading/studying for another course
• Sleeping	• Wearing sunglasses (unless you have a documented medical condition)
• Any other behavior that does not involve paying active attention	

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Cheating and plagiarism are not tolerated at the College. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will be given a zero for the assignment and sent to Disciplinary Officer Sergio Lopez. A second occurrence of cheating or plagiarism may result in dismissal from class and expulsion from IVC as outlined in the General Catalog.

**Students With Disabilities:**

If you have a disability that has been registered with Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) and you have been granted an accommodation relative to that disability in order to participate in this class, please let me know immediately following the first class session. If you

believe that you may have a disability, please notify DSPS as soon as possible – contact the Mel Wendrick Access Center, Room 2117, 760-355-6312.

***About Blackboard:***

Blackboard is a course management system that has been implemented at IVC. The system is a web-based software package that most users find very simple to master because it looks like many other websites that users are already familiar with. Blackboard has many capabilities that instructors and students find helpful: the ability to send messages, submit documents, send email, post announcements, set up chat rooms, track grades, administer tests and more are all part of this software package.

For this course, Blackboard will be used as the mechanism to track grades, to submit assignments, to record your class participation, and as a means of communication. I will also post relevant documents on Blackboard such as this syllabus, course assignment descriptions, and the documents that I have developed to help students to master the fundamentals required to succeed in college.

You can access the Blackboard system by entering the following web address into your web browser: <http://imperial.blackboard.com> . This web address will take you to the IVC Blackboard login page. Your username for Blackboard is the same as the first part of your IVC email address (for example, juan.rodriguez). Your password is your WEBSTAR/Student Portal PIN. Enter your username and password and click the "Login" button.

Once you enter Blackboard, you should see a list of the courses in which you are currently enrolled on the right side of the page. To get to the course website, click on the link for "PSY 208: Abnormal Psychology". This will take you to the course homepage and there is a graphic that indicates this. At this point, you might want to just explore around in Blackboard to see what is available. Feel free to click on the buttons as there is very little that you can harm. While every effort has been made to make the buttons in Blackboard obvious as to their purpose, a bit of exploration will help you to learn where everything is.

If you need some additional information about Blackboard, there is a link to the On Demand Learning Center on the first page after you login to Blackboard. To access this help directly, go to the following website: <http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm> .

***This syllabus describes the course that the instructor intends to deliver to the students. This intended plan is subject to change as the instructor deems necessary as the semester progresses.***

**Course Outline**

<b>WEEK</b>	<b>WEEK OF:</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>ASSIGNED READINGS (Chapters)</b>
1	01/14	Syllabus Review Introduction	1
2	01/21	<b>01/21: Martin Luther King Day Holiday – No Classes</b> Causal Factors/Viewpoints	2
	<b>01/26</b>	<b>Last Day to Drop With Refund of Fees</b>	
	<b>01/27</b>	<b>Last Day to Drop With No Grade</b>	
	<b>01/28</b>	<b>Census</b>	
3	01/28	Causal Factors/Viewpoints (continued) Clinical assessment, Dx, Tx	2 3
4	02/04	Stress and Health	4
5	02/11	Anxiety Disorders	5
6	02/18	<b>02/18: President’s Day Holiday – No Classes</b> 02/20: Exam 1 – Chapters 1-5	5
7	02/25	Mood Disorders	6
8	03/04	Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders	7
9	03/11	Eating Disorders	8
10	03/18	Personality Disorders	9
11	03/25	03/25: Exam 2 – Chapters 6-9 Substance-Related Disorders	10
	<b>04/01</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
12	04/08	Substance-Related Disorders	10
	<b>04/13</b>	<b>Last Day to Drop With Grade “W”</b>	
13	04/15	Sexual Variants and Dysfunctions	11
14	04/22	Schizophrenia and Psychosis	12
15	04/29	Cognitive Disorders Disorders of Childhood/Adolescence	13 14
16	05/06	Issues 05/08: Exam 3 – Chapters 10-15	15

# HONORS SUPPLEMENTAL SYLLABUS\*\*

**COURSE/TITLE/UNITS: PSY208 Abnormal Psychology**  
**INSTRUCTOR: Mike Cushner, MS**

**3.0 UNITS**

In addition to the regularly assigned coursework on the syllabus, the student will complete the following:

## DESCRIPTION OF HONORS REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Reading Requirement:** FIVE journal articles, each one at least ten pages long, all on a related topic will be selected and analyzed by the student as part of a literature review project. The student will be given information on how to read and digest articles from scientific journals.
- 2. Writing Requirement:** FIVE journal synopses will be produced that demonstrate the student has a command of the facts in each article.
- 3. Writing Requirement:** A literature review in APA format will be produced by the student. The student will be given information about APA format and the production of a literature review to aid in the development of this 10-page paper.
- 4. Presentation to the Class:** A presentation (in PowerPoint or other automated format) of 15-minute length on the literature review topic will be given during a class session.
- 5. Office Hour Contacts:** The student will need to make an appointment with the instructor and report progress at a minimum of every two weeks. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure that students are moving in a positive direction and to maximize the likelihood of student success.

**OBJECTIVES:** Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to accomplish the learning objectives stated in the regular syllabus and the objectives listed below for the Honors contract:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking skills in their written report and oral presentation.
2. Demonstrate personal responsibility by coming to meetings at appointed times and making deliveries by agreed-to deadlines.
3. Demonstrate mastery of information by producing insightful and coherent documents and by giving a clear and organized presentation.

## REGULAR COURSE REQUIREMENTS

3 Examinations	300 points
1 Case Conceptualization	100 points
3 Homework (3 x 25 points)	75 points
1 Self-Evaluation	25 points

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**Total Regular Points: 500 points**

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## HONORS SUPPLEMENTAL COURSE REQUIREMENTS

5 Selection of suitable articles	10 points
5 Article Synopses	40 points
1 APA Literature Review	75 points
1 Presentation to Class	25 points
Attending Status Meetings	25 points

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**Total Honors Points: 175 points**

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**Maximum points achievable:**

**675 points**

**Honors Points:  $175/500 = 35\%$  extra course work**

**\*\* NOTE:** Please assess your class schedule, workload, and non-school related responsibilities prior to signing the Honors contract. Once you sign the Honors Contract you must complete the semester as an Honors Student, you cannot switch back to the Non-Honors course.

