

Syllabus

Psychology 440 BC: Abnormal Child Psychology

FALL 2007

ROOM 301 – Flipse Bldg.

Mon & Wed: 9:05 to 10:20 am

Professor: Dr. Alexandra L. Quittner
Flipse Building, Room 308
Phone: 305-284-8439
Email: aquittner@miami.edu

- Please put your name and Psych 440 in the subject of any email!

Office Hours: Monday: 10:30-11:30 a.m. or by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Carolyn Snell
Flipse Building, Room 327
Phone: 305-284-8475
Email: csnell@psy.miami.edu
Office Hours: Monday 2:30-4:30 pm,
Wednesday 5-6pm, or by appointment

Text: *Abnormal Child Psychology*, 3rd Edition by Eric J. Marsh & David A. Wolfe

Selected Readings From

Casebook: *Casebook in Child Behavior Disorders*, 3rd Edition
by Christopher A. Kearny
(a copy of this book will be available through the TA)

Course Objectives

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the research and clinical issues affecting children with psychological and physical disorders. We will examine childhood disorders within the context of normal developmental process and the larger systems in which children live (family, peers, school).

Attention will be devoted to the methods commonly used to assess and treat children, adolescents, and families. The definitions and etiology of these disorders will also be covered. Disorders involving both psychological (autism, attention-deficit disorder depression) and physical problems (chronic illness) will be addressed.

Writing

You will also learn to read and critically evaluate journal articles as part this class. Over the course of the semester, you will compare and contrast two journal articles on ADHD and prepare a 5-page critique. You will be given an outline for the format of the review and detailed feedback on a draft of your critique. You will have the opportunity to revise your critique to improve your grade.

Evaluation and Grading

Requirements of the course include 3 exams (worth 90% of grade) and the writing assignment (worth 10% of grade). The final exam will be non-cumulative. No make-up exams will be offered *without a written medical excuse* from a physician or other practitioner.

Grades

Grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ = 97 – 100	C+ = 77- 79.99
A = 93 – 96.99	C = 73 – 76.99
A- = 90 – 92.99	C- = 70 – 72.99
B+ = 87 – 89.99	D+ = 67 – 69.99
B = 83 – 86.99	D = 63 – 66.99
B- = 80 – 82.99	D- = 60 – 62.99
	E = below 60

Attendance

Attendance is strongly encouraged and **5 bonus points** can be earned for attendance and participation. No other extra credit will be available. Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester, and bonus points will be assigned according to the following table:

Attendance	Points
90% or more	5
80% or more	3
Less than 80%	0

Course Grades

- 1) average of the 3 exams (30% each)
- 2) grade for journal critique (10%)

Being on Time

Class will begin and end on time. Students who are chronically late may not be allowed to earn bonus points for attendance.

Late/Missed Assignments

Assignments turned in late will lose points for each day they are late, at a rate of 10 points per day. The journal critique is worth a possible 100 points (1 day late = 90; two days late = 80, etc.).

Cell Phone & Pagers

Please make sure they are OFF BEFORE class begins.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities should inform the instructor of their needs at the beginning of the semester. The instructor will work with the student to determine and implement appropriate academic accommodations.

Policy on Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to abide by the terms of the University of Miami Honor Code. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on exams or assignments, plagiarizing written work, submitting fraudulent documents, and forging signatures. A written honor pledge must be signed for each exam. Any violation of the honor code will result in a course grade of F. For further information on the University of Miami Honor Code, please go to http://www.miami.edu/UMH/CDA/UMH_Main/1,1770,2618-1;12148-3,00.html.

Course Outline and Schedule

This is tentative and may change during the semester

Day/Date	Topic for Discussion	Reading {text or casebook}
Wed 8/22	Introduction to the course Review of the syllabus	Ch. 1
Mon 8/27	Theories of abnormal development; Risk factors for psychopathology	Ch. 1 & 2
Wed 8/29	Risk factors for psychopathology	Case #10
Mon 9/3	Labor Day (no class)	
Wed 9/5	Research Methods	Ch. 3
Mon 9/10	Research Methods	Ch. 3
Wed 9/12	Child & Family Assessment	Ch. 4 Case #1
Mon 9/17	Classification & Treatment; DSM-IV	Ch. 4
Wed 9/19	Exam #1: Covers class notes, Chapters 1 to 4 in text; Cases 1 & 10	
Common childhood disorders (sleep problems, non-compliance, enuresis, ADHD)		
Mon 9/24	Common sleep problems	Ch. 12, pp. 345-352
Wed 9/26	Behavior problems, parenting	
Mon 10/1	Enuresis	Ch. 12, pp. 352-356 Case #5
Wed 10/3	ADHD (guest lecture)	Ch. 5 Case #6

{academic alerts due}

Mon 10/8	ADHD cont.	Ch. 5 Case #6
Wed 10/10	Chronic illnesses in children	Ch. 12, pp. 357-369 Case #12
Mon 10/15	Chronic illnesses	Ch. 12, pp. 357-369 Case #12
Wed 10/17	Bereavement; Children's Concepts of death	
Mon 10/22	Exam #2: Class notes, Chapters 5 & 12, Cases 5, 6, & 12	

Severe psychological disorders (autism, depression, eating disorders)

Wed 10/24	Anxiety Disorders	Ch. 7 Case #2
Mon 10/29	Anxiety cont.	Ch. 17 Case #2
Wed 10/31	Autism Spectrum <i>Journal Critique due</i>	Ch. 10 Case #11
Mon 11/5	Autism cont.; through page 311	Ch. 10 Case #11
Wed 11/7	Depression	Ch. 8
Mon 11/12	Depression	Ch. 8
Wed 11/14	Eating Disorders	Ch. 13 Case #4
Mon 11/19	Eating Disorders	Ch. 13 Case #4
Wed 11/21	Happy Thanksgiving!!	
Mon 11/26	Empirically Supported Treatments for childhood disorders	

Wed 11/28

Review & wrap-up

Mon 12/3 & Wed 12/5

Reading Week

Mon 12/10

Final Exam: Class notes, Chapters 8, 10, 13 and
Cases #2, 4, & 11

FINAL EXAM: 8 AM TO 10:30 AM