PSY 337
Psychopathology
S1 Day 2015
Department of Psychology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Unit Convenor
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Credit points
3

Prerequisites
(PSY234(P) or PSY236(P)) and (PSY222 or PSY248)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit focuses on so-called abnormal behaviour. Following a general introduction to the nature of abnormality, each of the main forms of psychopathology is discussed. In each case the disorder is described, demographic features are covered, and theories of cause and maintenance are discussed. Psychological, social, and biochemical factors are included. As much as possible, empirical evidence supporting the theories is highlighted.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at http://students.mq.edu.au/student_admin/enrolmentguide/academicdates/

Learning Outcomes

1. To understand the multiple definitions of abnormal behaviour
2. To know the signs and symptoms of most of the major psychological disorders
3. To be aware of the prevalence and demographics typical for each disorder
4. To develop a basic understanding and appreciation of the typical research findings relating to cause and maintenance of each of the major disorders
5. To develop communication and critical analysis skills: In particular the analysis of literature and the professional communication of research findings
### Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-semester exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>see unit outline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>see unit outline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Discussions</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>see unit outline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>see unit outline</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mid-semester exam

**Due:** see unit outline  
**Weighting:** 20%

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- To understand the multiple definitions of abnormal behaviour
- To know the signs and symptoms of most of the major psychological disorders
- To be aware of the prevalence and demographics typical for each disorder
- To develop a basic understanding and appreciation of the typical research findings relating to cause and maintenance of each of the major disorders
- To develop communication and critical analysis skills: In particular the analysis of literature and the professional communication of research findings

### Research paper

**Due:** see unit outline  
**Weighting:** 32%

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- To understand the multiple definitions of abnormal behaviour
- To know the signs and symptoms of most of the major psychological disorders
- To be aware of the prevalence and demographics typical for each disorder
- To develop a basic understanding and appreciation of the typical research findings relating to cause and maintenance of each of the major disorders
- To develop communication and critical analysis skills: In particular the analysis of literature and the professional communication of research findings
Online Discussions
Due: see unit outline
Weighting: 8%

Students need to contribute to four online discussions

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- To understand the multiple definitions of abnormal behaviour
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- To be aware of the prevalence and demographics typical for each disorder
- To develop a basic understanding and appreciation of the typical research findings relating to cause and maintenance of each of the major disorders
- To develop communication and critical analysis skills: In particular the analysis of literature and the professional communication of research findings

Final exam
Due: see unit outline
Weighting: 40%

Final exam

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- To understand the multiple definitions of abnormal behaviour
- To know the signs and symptoms of most of the major psychological disorders
- To be aware of the prevalence and demographics typical for each disorder
- To develop a basic understanding and appreciation of the typical research findings relating to cause and maintenance of each of the major disorders
- To develop communication and critical analysis skills: In particular the analysis of literature and the professional communication of research findings

Delivery and Resources
This unit will consist of…

- 2 x 1-hour meetings: week 1 (introduction), and week 8 (mid-semester exam)
- 1 online module on introductory issues and 7 online modules covering the major mental disorders. Online modules will consist of video presentations of conceptual issues; narrated slide presentations of supporting evidence; clinical perspectives; researcher perspectives; case material; and associated links
- 4 on-line discussions
6 x 2-hour tutorials that will cover the assignment and enable discussion of the major mental disorders. Video presentations usually focused on case material will be shown. The aim of the tutorials is to give students the opportunity to develop their awareness of the symptoms of a range of disorders, to learn something of the real world experience of these disorders and to encourage discussion of controversies and issues relevant to psychopathology.

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central. Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:


In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the Learning and Teaching Category of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

Results

Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
Graduate Capabilities

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- To understand the multiple definitions of abnormal behaviour
- To know the signs and symptoms of most of the major psychological disorders
- To be aware of the prevalence and demographics typical for each disorder
- To develop a basic understanding and appreciation of the typical research findings relating to cause and maintenance of each of the major disorders
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Assessment tasks

- Mid-semester exam
- Research paper
- Online Discussions
Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- To understand the multiple definitions of abnormal behaviour
- To know the signs and symptoms of most of the major psychological disorders
- To be aware of the prevalence and demographics typical for each disorder
- To develop a basic understanding and appreciation of the typical research findings relating to cause and maintenance of each of the major disorders
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**Assessment tasks**

- Mid-semester exam
- Research paper
- Online Discussions
- Final exam

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- To understand the multiple definitions of abnormal behaviour
- To know the signs and symptoms of most of the major psychological disorders
- To be aware of the prevalence and demographics typical for each disorder
- To develop a basic understanding and appreciation of the typical research findings relating to cause and maintenance of each of the major disorders
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**Assessment tasks**

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**Creative and Innovative**

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- To develop communication and critical analysis skills: In particular the analysis of literature and the professional communication of research findings

**Assessment tasks**

- Research paper
- Online Discussions

**Effective Communication**

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcome**

- To develop communication and critical analysis skills: In particular the analysis of literature and the professional communication of research findings

**Assessment tasks**

- Research paper
- Online Discussions
Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens
As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment task**
- Online Discussions

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible
We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment task**
- Online Discussions

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative
We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Assessment task**
- Online Discussions

Commitment to Continuous Learning
Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Assessment task

- Online Discussions