

**Abnormal Psychology (Psych 37)**  
**INTERNET COURSE (100% Distance Education)**

**Saddleback College, Spring 2010**

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*Office hours:* Mon 4-6pm online, Wed 4-5pm online, Fri 2-4pm online and by appt.

*Online Office Hours:* Your instructor will be online during these hours answer emails sent within the hour, chat on Google Chat, or reply to emails with a phone call if requested.

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the symptoms, causes, treatment, and prevention of psychological disorders. Disorders covered will include: anxiety, personality, psychophysiological, substance use, sexual, eating, and organic disorders.

Course Goals and Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) List and describe the five axes of diagnosis used in the DSM-IV-TR
- 2) Compare and contrast biological, psychological, family, and social views of the causes and treatment of abnormal behavior.
- 3) Identify and compare major scientific methods for gathering and analyzing information to describe abnormal behavior.
- 4) Identify the difference between organic and functional disorders.
- 5) List and/or recognize the characteristics of specific anxiety, somatoform, mood, eating, sleep, sexual-identity, substance abuse, personality, schizophrenic and cognitive disorders.
- 6) Recognize unethical therapeutic practices according to American Psychological Association Guidelines.

**REQUIRED Text:**

Abnormal Psychology; Clinical Perspectives on Psychological Disorders. Halgin and Whitbourne, 6th edition. The ISBN number for this book is: 9780073370699. The accompanying CD is not required, therefore it is not necessary to have a copy.

*OR* There may be a less expensive E-book version of this text available at:

<http://www.coursesmart.com/0077295692>

Additional Required Readings: Additional research articles and web site links will be made available on the course Blackboard website for students to read in order to complete the course Writing Assignment described below.

Copies of the textbook are on reserve under your instructor's name for students to read at the Saddleback campus library.

Additional Required Readings:

Additional research articles and Web site links will be made available on the course Blackboard website for students to read in order to complete the course Writing Assignment described below.

**Blackboard Website Usage:** This internet-based system will be used for the entire course. It allows for class/faculty interaction and includes; class email lists, discussion boards, announcements, on-line quizzes and exams, grade posting, etc. Your username is your Saddleback College email address (without the @saddleback.edu) given to you at registration and your password is your email password. Note; class email announcements will be emailed through Blackboard and this means that all announcements will be sent to your Saddleback Email account (i.e., your instructor can not create a course email list using your other personal email accounts). Therefore you will need to check your Saddleback college email account through MySite (<http://www.saddleback.edu>) or go through this site once in order to change your email options and forward email to an account that you regularly check. Forwarding directions are on your class site under the syllabus. Blackboard can be accessed [socccd.blackboard.com](http://socccd.blackboard.com) or through the main saddleback webpage under Online Education tab at the top of the page. Check your user accessibility IMMEDIATELY. The password is usually your Saddleback email password (the last four digits of your PIN followed by two zeros is the default password if you have not changed yours).

**Chapter Quizzes:** There will 10 chapter quizzes worth 100 course points total. You should read assigned chapter material BEFORE taking the quizzes, as *quizzes can only be taken once* and will be administered entirely on the internet. There will not be a time limit on the quizzes but they must be completed once they are opened. You will submit your answers through the Blackboard website. Most assignments are due on Wednesdays at midnight (right before Thursday starts). See course schedule. Answers will be submitted through Blackboard.

**Exams:** There will be a total of three exams in this course. Each one will be worth 100 course points. Each exam will cover the chapters and course materials described on the Course Schedule and will not be cumulative in nature. Exams will include both multiple choice and essay questions. Exams can ONLY BE TAKEN ONCE and will be administered entirely on the internet, with a 1.5 hour time limit to complete the exam once it has been started. There is no scheduled exam time during which the exam must be taken, but the due dates are firm. Be sure to prepare by reading and reviewing chapter

materials before taking the exams. You will submit your answers through the Blackboard website.

### ***Taking quizzes and exams via Blackboard:***

The quizzes are good practice for you to get used to taking the online exams, since they will be administered in the same format. Here are tips on how to avoid getting booted off an exam due to technical or user error that you must read and follow before opening your quizzes and exams.

Avoid the following actions so that you do not get kicked out of the exam due to user error:

- Do not click outside of the test window
- Once an exam is opened, you may not save it and continue it later- it must be completed.
- Do not click on Save, it does not do anything for exams/quizzes in this class since they can not be saved and returned to later
- Do not click on Submit multiple times
- Do not use a wireless connection even if it seems to be a continuous, stable connection
- Do not click on backspace or try to back track to previous questions. There is no backtracking and this will kick you out of the quiz/exam.
- Do not allow other programs to run or have other browser windows open while taking the exam (even iTunes)
- Any of these actions can lead to a technical error that will kick you out of the exam due to user error

Your instructor will only unlock a quiz one time for students should they get locked out and expect those students to follow through with contacting your instructor and the appropriate channels on campus to trouble shoot so as to avoid getting kicked out of a quiz or exam again. Students should take a screen shot of any error message they see if they do get kicked out of an exam and send an email to the instructor immediately. Always check your score in the gradebook, My Grades section, after turning in a test or quiz. This is how you can tell if a technical error occurred in submitting your assessments. If you see a padlock symbol instead of a grade for that item it means that you were kicked off of the system during the assessment.

\*Technical difficulties are not an excuse for late assignments, and your instructor will likely not help with technical difficulties experienced within 3 hours of an exam due date/time- so don't work at the last minute. *Should technical difficulties arise, students should always contact the instructor each and every time technical difficulty arises.* Take a screen shot of any error message if possible and follow up by contacting technical support on campus if requested to do so. Students may be given the option of a written exam in only rare cases at the instructors' discretion. If true technical difficulties occur repeatedly and the student *does not* proactively make the effort to contact the Instructor and appropriate support channels on campus in order to remediate the problem, make-up work may not be an option. This policy is in place to ensure that exams go smoothly for all students and to avoid problems.

**Discussion Board Assignments:** Students will be required to submit thoughtful and clear answers to the Discussion questions posted each week. These will be worth a total of 50 course points. You are also encouraged to answer other students' discussion postings to

fulfill this requirement.

Discussion Board topics will usually require two posts (except for the first). The discussion board assignments can be found in the Group Discussion section of the site. In most cases, you will need to post two posts, an initial one and then a reply to another person by Wednesday at midnight. Please do not wait until the last minute to post your initial reply as this detracts from everyone's discussion. Each posting will be graded on a pass/no pass basis based on a) how well it addressed the specific question, b) quality of thoughts expressed. At least one clear paragraph containing all complete sentences is required for initial posts as well as reply posts. Both must be completed on time for full credit. See the Discussion Board sections on Rules for Discussion Board Use including online etiquette.

**Written Assignments:** There will be a written assignment posted that requires students to read research articles or to answer questions about how a research study may be conducted. This will be worth 50 course points, and is expected to be typed, up to 3 pages long, and double spaced. Be sure to type your name and section number at the top of the assignment, and to make sure that you turn it in online as directed on the Blackboard website using the TurnItIn link. (DO NOT SEND ASSIGNMENTS VIA EMAIL to the instructor).

**Missed Assignment/Exam Policy:** Late assignments/exams will not be accepted. Do not wait until the last minute.... There is ample time to complete assignments, technical difficulties are generally not an acceptable excuse for late assignments.

Please let your instructor know if you have a qualified excuse for missing an assignment (e.g., documented illness or death in the family) and do so within one week of missing the assignment.

Grading Policy:

There are a total of 500 points available to be earned in this class.

Online Chapter Quizzes	= 100 points
Exams	= 300 points
Writing Assignment	= 50 points
Discussion Boards posts	= 50 points

Final letter grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned in the class. The following scale will be used in assigning final letter grades:

90% - 100% = A 80% - 89% = B 70% - 79% = C 60% - 69% = D ≤ 59% = F

**Grade updates:** To view your grades in the course, click on the My Grades section. Grades will be updated on a weekly basis, with updates accompanied by an announcement.

**Extra Credit:** There will be one extra credit assignment available to all students in the course. Extra credit will boost student's overall grade by 2% total, which can positively impact any student with a borderline letter grade (e.g., a 78% would be boosted to an 80%, C to B) if the student has completed all course assignments. Extra credit cannot be used to pass the course, however. This means that a D grade can not be boosted to a C grade via extra credit.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy:** Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating on an exam or plagiarizing the written work of others is considered a very serious offense & will not be tolerated in this course. All exams, quizzes, and assignments must be taken by the student who is enrolled in the course. If a student is suspected of or caught cheating on any test or assignment, he/she will receive a grade of zero on that test or assignment and an Academic Dishonesty Report will be filed with the Dean's office to be retained on record. It is very important to avoid putting yourself in the position of even being suspected of cheating or plagiarism (i.e., using another's words as if they were your own written words), as very serious consequences may result and remain on your student record.

**Student Services:** General Student Service Information is available at the Saddleback College Website [www.saddleback.edu](http://www.saddleback.edu). General, academic, and service information can be obtained by accessing the Counseling Division and Financial Aid Websites. Individual and small group counseling information such as academic planning and review of transcripts is available by appointment. Free and confidential psychological counseling is available through the health center. All other student services are available on campus during normal business hours.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** This course meets the requirements set forth in the accessibility checklist and universal design grid provided by Special Services. The Web pages, video presentations, textbooks and class materials used in this course are accessible to students with disabilities. If you have questions on how to make accommodations please contact Special Services-Mike Sauter.