

**Abnormal Child Psychology
Psychology 440 (Section HJ)
Fall 07**

Syllabus

Professor: Dr. Jennifer Durocher
Office: FHF 240
Office Hours: MON & WEDS 2:00 -3:30 PM
Contact Info: 305-284-6557; jstella@miami.edu
Meeting Place & Time: FHF 301

MW 3:35 PM – 4:50 PM

Course Description: This course will survey a wide range of childhood psychological disorders from a developmental perspective. In particular, the nature, causes, and treatment of behavioral, developmental, emotional, and personality disturbances in children will be addressed.

Required Textbook:

Title: Abnormal Child Psychology
Authors: Eric J. Mash & David A. Wolfe

Course Requirements:

Exams 75 percent
A total of 4 section exams will be given; Students will be allowed to drop their lowest course grade

Paper: 25 percent
Students will be responsible for writing a short paper (5-6 pages) critiquing a recently published research article on one of the childhood disorders covered in class, and briefly summarizing the article during class discussion.

Course Grading Scale: (TOTAL Average)

A+ 98-100	B+ 88-89	C+ 78-79	D+ 68-69	F <60
A 93-97	B 83-87	C 73-77	D 63-67	
A- 90-92	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Final letter grades will be based on the above scale. No final grades will be lower than that indicated by the total number of points earned. However, in some cases, letter grades may be higher than those indicated by the number of points earned (For example, if a student who has contributed significantly to class discussions has an 89 average, that student may be assigned an A- instead of a B+).

Attendance: Highly recommended as exam questions will be based in large part on class lectures.

Extra Credit: Opportunities may be provided throughout the semester to earn extra credit points.

Academic Honesty: It is expected that all students will maintain the standards of academic honesty. Cheating or plagiarism can be reason for failure of this course. All exams and assignments will require the signed honor code pledge.

Course Structure

The course is divided into 4 substantive sections, each with its own set of lectures, lecture notes, readings, and examinations. Beginning and end dates, related readings, and exam dates for each section are noted below. The professor reserves the right to make changes in the order of topic presentation and reading assignments.

SECTION I

DATES: 8/22/07—9/12/07

9/3 No Class (LABOR DAY)

READINGS: Chapters 1 – 4

TOPICS: Intro to Normal & Abnormal Behavior in Children & Adolescents
Theories & Causes of Abnormal behavior
Research issues
Issues in Assessment, Diagnosis & Treatment

EXAM I: **September 12th, 2007**

SECTION II

DATES: 9/17/07—10/10/07

READINGS: Chapters 9 & 11
Chapter 10 (pgs. 283-310)

TOPICS: Communication & Learning Disorders
Mental Retardation
Autism Spectrum Disorders
Tourette's Disorder

EXAM II: **October 10th, 2007**

SECTION III:

DATES: 10/15/07—11/05/07

READINGS: Chapter 14
Chapters 5 & 6
Chapter 12 (pgs. 370-374)

TOPICS: Childhood Maltreatment & Accidental Trauma
ADHD
Conduct Disorder
Adolescent Substance Use Disorders

EXAM III: November 7th, 2007

SECTION IV:

DATES: 11/12/07—11/28/07

READINGS: Chapter 10 (pgs. 311-316)
Chapters 7 & 8
Chapter 13 (pgs. 387-402)

TOPICS: Childhood Schizophrenia
Anxiety Disorders
Mood Disorders
Eating Disorders of Adolescence

EXAM IV (final exam): December 11th, 2007 2:00—4:30PM
