Course Objective

This course will provide an overview of the most common expressions of child and adolescent psychopathology. The focus of the course will be on conceptual, research, and clinical issues related to the mental health of children and adolescents. The diverse factors that influence the etiology and expression of disorders will be considered. In particular, the contributions of factors such as genetics, family influences, social systems, learned patterns of behavior, and psychodynamics will be explored. Students will become familiar with the DSM-IV and how to conceptualize cases.

At times, interventions may be mentioned in presentations and course readings. However, the issue of treatment will not be a significant focus. This course is designed to advance the student’s understanding of the current state of knowledge with regard to etiological factors and the diagnostic issues related to the expression of various disorders.

The format of this seminar class will be lecture and discussions. Open discussion is an integral part of this seminar.

Required Texts (available at the Rutgers University Bookstore on Albany Street, across from the New Brunswick train station)


Readings available on Sakai

For some weeks, please check the Sakai course site for article readings: https://sakai.rutgers.edu/ You will find the articles in a folder for each week. The PDFs of the readings are typically saved as the author last names. In addition, supplemental recommended readings are also within each folder. Depending on your interest, you may decide to read the recommended readings.

Class Requirements

1. **Attendance.** Each student is required to attend all classes and be on time. If you must miss a class due to illness or an emergency, please notify me in advance. **10% of course grade**

2. **Participation:** You are expected to come prepared for class and participate actively in class discussion. Students should come prepared to incorporate assigned readings into the discussion. Computers can only be used for class related work. **15% of course grade**

3. **Short papers:** Instead of a mid-term, there are a total of three 2 page short essays which are due throughout the semester. They should be 2-2.5 pages, double space (no more), 12 pt font, 1 inch margins. You are asked to read a case vignette and write up a short essay including proposed diagnosis, presenting problem, case conceptualization, and a research on the etiology of the
primary diagnosis (based on the assigned readings). In each essay, please reference the readings, when appropriate. You will be provided with details about the assignments and opportunities to practice as a group. **35% of course grade.**

4. **Final exam:** You will be given a series of case vignettes. You will write up a case conceptualization of each case and you will provide a DSMIV multiaxial assessment. For each case, you will also write one to two paragraphs on the etiology of the Axis 1 or Axis 2 diagnosis, as has been supported by empirical findings. **40% of course grade.**
# COURSE OUTLINE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td><strong>Introduction and Overview of Course</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Please read through the introduction to DSM-IV-TR (focus on pages 27-37)</td>
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<td>January 26</td>
<td><strong>Models of Developmental Psychopathology</strong></td>
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<td><em>Recommended:</em></td>
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<td>February 2</td>
<td><strong>Disruptive Behavior Disorders</strong></td>
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<td>DSM-IV-TR</td>
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<td><em>Recommended:</em></td>
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February 9  
**ADHD - Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder**

Campbell, S. Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: A developmental view. *HDP* chapter 21, 383-402.


**DSM-IV-TR**

*Recommended:*


**Paper #1 due:** Essay should be emailed to Anne by 3pm on Sunday Feb 7th.

February 16  
**Culture and Psychopathology**


**DSM-IV-TR**

*Recommended Reading:*


February 23  
**Anxiety Disorders**


Carter, A. S., & Pollock, R. A. Obsessions and compulsions: The developmental and


**DSM-IV-TR**

**March 2**

**Autism and Asperger’s Disorder**


Additional reading to be announced

Movie: *Autism the Musical*

**DSM-IV-TR**

**March 9**

**Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders**


Kantor, NIMH, *Schizophrenia*. Booklet from NIMH.

**DSM-IV-TR**

**March 16**

**Spring Break**

**March 23**

**Depression**


**DSM-IV-TR**

**Paper #2 due: Essay should be emailed to Anne by 3pm on Sunday, March 21st.**

**March 30**

**Underlying processes – emotion regulation and learned behavior**


April 6

**Eating disorders**


Additional Reading To Be Announced

DSM-IV-TR

April 13

**Bipolar disorder**


The bipolar puzzle NYTimes article http://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/14/magazine/14bipolar-t.html?_r=1&scp=4&sq=bipolar+kid&st=nyt

DSM-IV-TR

April 20

**Substance-related disorders**


Hops et al., Adolescent drug use development. Chapter 31, in *HDP*, p. 589

DSM-IV-TR

**Paper #3 due:** Essay should be emailed to Anne by 3pm on Sunday, April 18th.

April 27

**Gender identity**


Zucker, K. J. Gender identity disorder. Chapter 36, in *HDP*, pp. 671-688

Film Clip: *My life as a rose*

DSM-IV-TR

*Revisiting:*
**Further detail on the assignments:**

Case conceptualization of case vignettes

Throughout the semester, we will be reading case vignettes and developing case conceptualizations. You will turn in three essays and complete a final exam in a similar format. More detail will be provided in class.

Your essays will have the following sections:

1) Multiaxial assessment and two to three sentences explaining why you ruled in a diagnosis for Axis I and/or Axis II.

2) Presenting Problem - In one to two paragraphs, please describe the presenting problem/symptoms of the child/adolescent? Why are the child/adolescent and family seeking support? What is the concern? What are some of the symptoms?

3) Case Conceptualization - In one to two paragraphs, please hypothesize why this client is struggling from the symptoms and what might be exacerbating, mitigating, and/or maintaining the symptoms? Provide a tentative causal model explaining the illness based on what you read in the case vignette and based on what you know about the etiology of the illness.

4) Etiology - Please provide two paragraphs about what we know related to the etiology of the primary diagnosis. Please cite readings and lectures.