

HUMAN BEHAVIOR COURSE 2004

PAR

CONCEPT. The Psychiatry Academic Report (PAR) is an optional project that allows you to obtain bonus points toward your final course grade (see 'Grading' section in this syllabus). The objective of the project is to cultivate independent learning skills that will be critical to your continued success as a clinician and to give you a chance to pursue a topic of interest in psychiatry.

WHY DO A PAR? The biggest and most immediate benefit is on the course grade. In past years, 80% of individuals completing a PAR raised their final point total enough to come up one full letter grade for the course. A PAR can also bring departmental visibility to the students producing it. Each year, the student completing the best PAR (determined by department faculty consensus) is invited to present his or her work to the entire National Capital Area Department of Psychiatry Grand Rounds at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. There may be the opportunity for other students to similarly present their work too. This kind of visibility may be a big benefit if a student is considering psychiatry as a career. Lastly, a good PAR can support write-ups required in the third year USUHS psychiatry clerkship.

APPROACH. The PAR is an optional project that students complete individually to receive course bonus points (essentially extra credit points). **Student collaboration on PAR projects is not allowed.** In other words, the PAR is an independent project, not a group project. Any student with an innovative idea for a PAR, i.e., one that deviates from the formats described below, is encouraged to discuss his or her idea with Dr. Engel. **All topics and ideas must receive his approval in advance to be accepted for bonus points.**

SUGGESTED FORMATS. Please double-space all PARs.

Format One (Good for up to 10 bonus points): Conventional Report

This type of PAR is essentially a substantial and relatively conventional report on any topic pertaining to Psychiatry. The standards for Format One PARs are as follows:

1. Title page. Include title, author, date of completion.
2. Abstract. Summarize the paper in 250-400 words.
3. The body of the PAR should contain some appropriate visuals such as pictures, tables, or figures.
4. Length of the overall report excluding references should be 4,500-6,000 words (15-25 double-spaced pages of 12-point text with one inch margins).
5. Clinical case examples are often useful to illustrate points but they are not required.
6. PAR literature citations should emphasize primary articles from the medical or social science literature. Citing textbooks is discouraged, but published review articles are acceptable, and often textbooks can help the student to identify relevant primary literature.
 - A. A minimum of 10 and maximum of 30 literature citations is required.
 - B. Citations must be formatted in a consistent manner. The recommended format for citations may be found in the "information for authors" posted in the journal *JAMA* (see <http://jama.ama-assn.org/info/auinst.html>).

Format Two (Good for up to 10 bonus points): Book Report/Review.

Novel or biographical account that focuses on an individual with an apparent psychiatric disorder. Books may address an individual with a major axis I psychiatric disorder such as schizophrenia (many great books of this sort, for example, *Shine* or *A Beautiful Mind*) or an individual with an axis II disorder such as mental retardation or an apparent personality disorder. The resulting book report would be 3,000-4,000 words (10-15 double-spaced pages of 12-point text with one inch margins) and should focus on a specific issue relevant to psychiatry. The student should clearly state the issue they want to develop after reading the book and use 5-10 references from the medical or social sciences literature to support the discussion. Issues of relevance, for example, might include stigma, patient versus clinician perspective of psychiatric disorders, the range of disability associated with psychiatric disorders, or differential diagnosis of a particular psychiatric symptom or sign. **Students should seek course director approval or advice regarding an appropriate book before reading it for the course.** To receive bonus points, the student must read the book during the period of time

encompassing the Human Behavior Course course. Students are not allowed to report on a book they have previously read.

Format Three (Good for up to 5 bonus points each, but students can do up to two for a maximum of 10 total bonus points). Movie Review.

Movies reviews should address a movie that focuses on an individual with an apparent psychiatric disorder. Movies may address an individual with a major axis I psychiatric disorder such as schizophrenia or an individual with an axis II disorder such as mental retardation or an apparent personality disorder. The resulting movie review should be 2,000-3,000 words (7-10 double-spaced pages of 12-point text with one inch margins) and should focus on a specific issue relevant to psychiatry. The student should clearly state the issue they want to develop after reading the book and use up to 5 references from the medical or social sciences literature to support the discussion. Issues of relevance, for example, might include stigma, patient versus clinician perspective of psychiatric disorders, the range of disability associated with psychiatric disorders, or differential diagnosis of a particular psychiatric symptom or sign. **Students should seek course director approval or advice regarding an appropriate movie to review before watching it for the course.** To receive bonus points, the student must watch the movie during the period of time encompassing the Human Behavior Course. Students are not allowed to report on a movie they have previously viewed.

GRADING. Dr. Engel will coordinate Department of Psychiatry faculty reviews of and grades for the completed PARs.

DUE DATES. To receive bonus points, you must submit your topic(s) to Dr. Engel on email (cengel@usuhs.mil) by **COB Friday April 2**. Any student missing this deadline cannot receive bonus points (exceptions to this rule may be made for students who discover late that they are struggling to pass the course – note that this exception will not be extended to people are otherwise passing and decide late that they want to raise their grade). A completed electronic version of the PAR must be submitted to Dr. Engel by **COB Monday April 26** (please note that this is also the date of the block 3 examination, so students are warned not to wait until the last minute to complete the PAR). PARs submitted late but before May 3 will be accepted but cannot receive more than half credit. PARs submitted after COB April 28 will not receive bonus points unless by previous arrangement with Dr. Engel (usually reserved for students struggling to pass the course or students with extenuating personal circumstances that prevent them from meeting the regular deadline).

PLAGIARISM: It is increasingly easy to plagiarize previously written reviews or reports by cutting and pasting material from the World Wide Web and other source material. All PARs are submitted to a web-based service that reviews them for evidence of plagiarism. Any student who has plagiarized all or part of their PAR will be punished to the maximum extent allowed by University policy.