PSY 440: Abnormal Psychology
Online Course

Instructor
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Course Description
Abnormal psychology is primarily concerned with the study of abnormal and clinically diagnosable behaviors. This course will cover material related to the development, etiology, manifestation, treatment and prognosis for various psychological conditions, as well as other topics. Note that some of this material may be uncomfortable for some students. If you have concerns about any of these issues, please do not hesitate to discuss them with me.

Course Description: Introduction to abnormal psychology emphasizing forms of abnormal behavior, etiology, developmental factors, interpretations, behavioral manifestations and treatment programs. Note: Six hours in psychological science or psychology including one of the prerequisite courses or permission of instructor. Prerequisites: (PSY 100 or PSYC 100C or PSYS 100) Equivalents: PSYS 440

Course Texts
Listed here is the required course text:

Whitbourne, S. K. (2022). *Abnormal Psychology: Clinical Perspectives in Psychological Disorders* (10th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

- ISBN: 978-1-2665668-9-9

Additional readings and resources can be found in Blackboard.

Course Objectives
At the end of the semester, you should be able to:
1) Understand the basic methodologies in psychology and how diagnoses are made

2) Describe the various categories and distinctions of psychological diagnoses

3) Understand the dominant theories of psychopathologies and how they are used to understand and treat various psychological diagnoses.

Colonnade and General Education Information
Psychology 440 is a three-credit hour course which counts for Colonnade credit in the Explorations: Social and Behavioral Studies category. It also counts for credit in Category C of the old General Education Program.

Contact Information
In general, email is the best way to contact me. I will inform you of any changes to my schedule at least 24 hours in advance and will promptly respond to your emails (within 24 hours). I am happy to assist and help navigate you through the course, so please let me know what questions or concerns you may have.

The U.S. Department of Education requires that distance education courses must include regular and substantive interaction between students and faculty. For more information about Regular and Substantive Interaction at WKU, please visit the Regular and Substantive Interaction in Online and Distance Learning webpage.

In this course, regular and substantive interaction will take place in the following ways:

- Faculty participation in weekly discussion boards,
- Weekly announcements, and
- Timely and detailed feedback on assignments provided within one week of submission.

Blackboard Help/WKU IT Help Desk
Blackboard can sometimes experience issues. If you encounter any problems, contact the WKU IT Help Desk at 270-745-7000.

Understanding Blackboard
If this is your first time using Blackboard, or if this is your first online class, I highly encourage you to complete the Blackboard Student User Training.

To sign up, go to Blackboard and sign in, and click IT TRAINING. Browse for IT Blackboard Student User Training. The training is not a requirement for the class, but you may find it to be helpful and aid in your success for online courses.

You are also welcome to review the Blackboard Overview in the Welcome section of our course. If you are a distance learner, you may want to visit the WKU Student Resource Center: http://wku.edu/its

COVID Information

All students are strongly encouraged to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Out of respect for the health and safety of the WKU community and in adherence with CDC guidelines and practices of all public universities and colleges in Kentucky, the University requires that a cloth face covering (reusable or disposable) that covers both the nose and mouth must be worn at all times when in public areas within all buildings. Students must properly wear face coverings while in class regardless of the room size or the nature of the classroom activities. Students who fail to wear a face covering as required will be in violation of the WKU Student Code of Conduct and will be asked to comply or will face disciplinary action, including possible dismissal from the University. Accommodations can be requested in special cases through the Student Accessibility and Resource Center (SARC): 270-745-5004 (voice), 270-745-3030 (TTY), or 270-288-0597 (video).

All students must immediately report a positive Covid-19 test result or close contact with a person who has tested positive to the Covid-19 Assistance Line at 270-745-2019. The assistance line is available to answer questions regarding any Covid-19 related issue. This guidance is subject to change based on requirements set forth by public health agencies or the office of the governor. Please refer to the Healthy on the Hill website for the most current information. www.wku.edu/healthyonthehill

Technology Requirements

You are taking an online class where all required work needs to be submitted online through Blackboard using the Internet. Therefore, having a reliable internet source will help you be successful in the course. If you have never taken an online class before using Blackboard, I encourage you to review the tutorials available online. Microsoft Office, particularly Word and Power Point, is another software program you should have installed on your computer as the majority of assignments will require one of these formats.

Attendance Policy

Even though there is no formal attendance policy for online classes, you are expected to complete assignments on time according to the course schedule.

Email and Blackboard Announcements

Blackboard is our primary way of communicating throughout the semester, with email as a secondary route. Any messages sent through Blackboard will also arrive to your email. It is important to check your email and Blackboard on a regular basis as I will frequently send out announcements to the class.

Evaluation

Your course grade is based on the assignments and exams found in the schedule of assignments section. You are encouraged to check your grades frequently, which are available on Blackboard (My Grades).

Grading Time and Feedback

You can expect an assigned grade, which includes feedback, within a week after submitting an assignment.

Late Work

As expected for any course, all work should be turned in on time and in full per the assignment instructions outlined on the course page. For any circumstances that arise beyond your control, please contact me so that we can work out a plan for you to submit late or missing work.

Work Submission

All assignments must be submitted to the designated area in Blackboard on the course page, using Microsoft Word (.doc/.docx) or Power Point (.ppt/pptx) files. Other file formats are not accepted.

ADA Notice: Disability and Accommodations

Distance Learning supports the previsions of General Standard 8, Accessibility and Usability in the QM Rubric. Distance Learning strongly supports reasonable accommodation for all participants. In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

This course is offered through Blackboard which is a conformance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 Priority AA, issues December 2012 by Deque Systems. For more information on Blackboard and its development, please visit the Blackboard Accessibility webpage (http://www.blackboard.com/Platforms/Learn/Resources/Accessibility.aspx).

Title IX

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (#0.070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Deborah Wilkins, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

Respectful and Professional Behavior
When communicating online, please be sure to follow the rules of *netiquette*. You do not have the benefit of visual cues (e.g., body language, facial expressions) or auditory cues (e.g., voice inflection) when communicating online, so it is possible to inadvertently offend a fellow student or instructor with written words. Differences of opinion will and should occur in classroom discussions; however, students can disagree with one another's viewpoints while demonstrating kindness and respect.

Expectations for Your Instructor
- To be available to you as needed, whether in a real or online environment.
- To have work graded and posted with feedback within a week after due dates.
- To answer your questions within 24 hours during normal business hours (Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 4:30pm, or by Monday afternoon when asked after Friday at 4:30pm.
- To facilitate your learning, along with assisting in the development and improvement of your skills in an online course environment.

Assignment Descriptions
- All due dates are Central Standard times.
- All quizzes, discussion boards, and assignments are due on Sunday night by 11:59pm, unless otherwise noted in the course.
- New modules open on Friday mornings to give you a head start on the next week of activities.

Quizzes/Exams

- 13 weekly quizzes (each worth 30 points)
- Two exams (a midterm and a final, with the midterm worth 100 points and the final worth 150 points).

Discussion Boards

- Six discussion forums (each worth 45 points)

Schedule of Assignments

Week 1: January 12 – January 22

<u>To Do</u>:

Welcome and Introduction

- Read the syllabus
- Post to Discussion Board 1

Week 2: January 20 – January 29

<u>To Do</u>:

- Read Chapter 1: Overview to Understanding Abnormal Behavior
- Read Chapter 2: Diagnosis and Treatment
- Take Quiz 1

Week 3: January 27 – February 5

<u>To Do</u>:

- Read Chapter 3: Assessment
- Read Chapter 4: Theoretical Perspectives
- Take Quiz 2

Week 4: February 3 – February 12

<u>To Do</u>:

- Read Chapter 5: Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- Take Quiz 3

Week 5: February 10 – February 19

<u>To Do</u>:

- Post to Discussion Board 2

Week 6: February 17 – February 26

<u>To Do</u>:

- Read Chapter 6: Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders
- Take Quiz 4

Week 7: February 24 – March 5

<u>To Do</u>:

- Read Chapter 7: Depressive and Bipolar Disorders
- Midterm Exam

Week 8: March 3 – March 12

<u>To Do</u>:

- Read Chapter 8: Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders
- Read Chapter 9: Dissociative and Somatic Symptom Disorders
- Take Quiz 5

Week 9: March 13 – March 17

<u>To Do</u>: **None (Spring Break)**

Week 10: March 17 – March 26

- Read Chapter 10: Feeding and Eating Disorders; Elimination Disorders; Sleep-Wake Disorders; and Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders
- Read Chapter 11: Paraphilic Disorders, Sexual Dysfunctions, and Gender Dysphoria
- Post to Discussion Board 3
- Take Quiz 6

Week 11: March 24 – April 2

<u>To Do</u>:

- Post to Discussion Board 4

Week 12: March 31 – April 9

<u>To Do</u>:

- Read Chapter 12: Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders
- Take Quiz 7

Week 13: April 7 – April 16

<u>To Do</u>:

- Read Chapter 13: Neurocognitive Disorders
- Take Quiz 8

Week 14: April 14 – April 23

<u>To Do</u>:

- Post to Discussion Board 5

Week 15: April 21 – April 30
To Do:
- Read Chapter 14: Personality Disorders
- Read Chapter 15: Ethical and Legal Issues
- Take Quiz 9
- Post to Discussion Board 6

Week 16: April 28 – May 4
To Do:
- Take Final Exam

Your course grade is based on a point accumulation system:

Exams
- Quizzes (9 quizzes at 30 points) = 270 points
- Midterm exam (50 questions x 2 points) = 100 points
- Final exam (75 questions x 2 points) =   150 points

Discussion Boards
- Six discussion forums (each worth 45 points) = 270 points

Total possible for course 790 points:

A = 708 - 790
B = 629 - 707
C = 550 - 628
D = 471 - 549
F = 470 or below