

PSY-440 – Abnormal Psychology--- Spring 2015

Instructor Information

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Course Information

Required Text:

Butcher, J.N., Hooley, J.M., & Mineka, S. (2014). *Abnormal Psychology*, 16th ed. Pearson: Upper Saddle River, NJ. ISBN: 978-0205944286.

Student Study Guide available at [Pearson Library](#)

Course Prerequisites

PSY 100 and junior standing or permission of instructor.

Catalog Description

Introduction to abnormal psychology emphasizing forms of abnormal behavior, etiology, developmental factors, interpretations, behavioral manifestations and treatment programs.

Course Content Discipline:

Psychology

Why take this course?

This course meets the criteria for one of the required courses for the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology, introducing students to theories behind behavioral change. The information in the course will prepare students for a career in the psychological and behavioral health fields.

This course is in alignment with the [General Education Goals](http://www.wku.edu/gened/goals_and_objectives.php) www.wku.edu/gened/goals_and_objectives.php.

Course Objectives & Overview:

Upon completion of this course, the student shall be able to:	How the student will develop the learning outcomes	How the student will be assessed on these learning outcomes
1. Use critical and logical thinking of the introductory concepts of abnormal psychology.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.
2. Demonstrate a proficiency in reading, writing and speaking in regards to assessing causal factors and viewpoints of abnormal behavior.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.
3. Apply the ability to understand basic statistical skills and concepts of psychological research about abnormal behavior through the use of the scientific method.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.
4. Develop an informed acquaintance with the major achievements of clinical assessment and diagnostic changes, therapy and legal issues.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.
5. Apply cultural contributions to mental illness, neurocognitive disorders, and developmental disorders.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.
6. Explain and apply a historical perspective of stigma and integration of people who have a mental illness.	Readings, mini-lectures & video demonstrations, course discussions.	4 exams, weekly discussion forums and critical thinking assignments.

Student Disability Services

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in Downing University Center A-200. The phone number is 270-745-5004; TTY is 270-745-3030. Per university policy, please DO NOT request

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accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the OFSDS.

1. **Student Disability Services** (<http://www.wku.edu/sds/>) provides services to students with disabilities: **WKU's policy** on web accessibility is located at (<http://www.wku.edu/eoo/section508/pnlsection508.php>). For more at the same website select ADA Services from the top menu and choose Policy and Procedure.
2. The **Counseling & Testing Center** provides counseling for students face-to-face: (<http://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/>) but also their Outreach Services offers a “Here to Help” Web form where you can ask questions online and have them answered. They also have a 24 hour Help Line for emergencies: 270- 843-4357

Attendance & Participation

For the online class, students must complete a “task” each week during the semester. This may take the form of an online discussion posting and response, a critical thinking assignment, or an exam. Students who do not log in and complete a task during the scheduled week will be recorded as absent.

Policies related to attendance are available in the Undergraduate Catalog under Academic Information/University Attendance Policy. This includes issues like enrollment, excessive absenteeism, absences that may be justifiable, and dropping for non-attendance during the first week of classes.

http://www.wku.edu/undergraduatedcatalog/documents/academic_information.pdf

Grading

There will be 16 weeks of coursework in the online environment. The assignments will be a combination of online discussion forums in which the student is responsible for initiating a thoughtful and substantive discussion post, as well as responding to 2 other students, critical thinking writing assignments, and 4 online exams.

Item Description	Point Value
Exams (4 at 60 points each)	240
Discussions (7 at 20 points each)	140
Critical Thinking Writing Assignments (4 at 100 points each)	400
Total:	780

Grades will be distributed **STRICTLY** based on the following scale:

Letter Grade:	Point Distribution:
A	702-780
B	624-701
C	546-623
D	468-545

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Email

Email is not answered on a 24/7 timeframe; rather, it is answered during standard business hours only. Most emails are answered with 24 hours, except on weekends. Additionally, it is answered in the order it is received. Please do not wait to the last minute to make requests or ask questions via email, as they may not be answered according to your time constraints. Email messages not composed in a professional manner (proper capitalization, punctuation, format, etc.) will be deleted without response.

Assignments

All work is due by 11:59 p.m., Central Time, on the day assigned on the course syllabus. All coursework (except the final projects in the course) will be due on Sundays throughout the term. Any items not submitted prior to the due date will not be accepted. No late assignments will be accepted in the course without prior approval. Waiting until the last minute is STRONGLY DISCOURAGED. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy.

Course Schedule

Date(s)	Chapter	Assignments
Week 1	1, 2	Read chapter 1 & 2: Abnormal Psychology: An Overview Historical & Contemporary Views of Abnormal Behavior Discussion Question 1
Week 2	3	Read chapter 3: Causal Factors & Viewpoints Critical Thinking Writing Assignment
Week 3	4	Read chapter 4: Clinical Assessment & Diagnosis Exam 1
Week 4	5	Read chapter 5: Stress & Physical & Mental Health Discussion Question 2
Week 5	6	Read chapter 6: Panic, Anxiety & Obsessions, and Their Disorders Discussion Question 3
Week 6		Read chapter 7: Mood Disorders & Suicide Critical Thinking Writing Assignment 2
Week 7	7	Spring Break-Not required to complete an activity.
Week 8	8	Read chapter 8: Somatic Symptom & Dissociative Disorders Exam 2
Week 9	9	Read chapter 9: Eating Disorders & Obesity Discussion Question 4
Week 10	10	Read chapter 10: Personality Disorders Critical Thinking Writing Assignment 3
Week 11	11	Read chapter 11: Substance-Related Disorders Discussion Question 5
Week 12	12	Read chapter 12: Sexual Variants, Abuse & Dysfunctional Relationships Exam 3
Week 13	13	Read chapter 13: Schizophrenia & Other Psychotic Disorders Discussion Question 6
Week 14	14, 15	Read chapter 14 & 15: Neurocognitive Disorders and Disorders of Childhood & Adolescence Discussion Question 7
Week 15	16	Read chapter 16: Therapy Critical Thinking Writing Assignment 4
Week 16	17	Read chapter 17: Contemporary & Legal Issues in Abnormal Psychology Exam 4 (Final Exam)

5th Week Assessment of First Year Undergraduates

Per the WKU Undergraduate Advising Handbook:

“Fifth Week Freshmen Assessment Program: During the 5th week of each semester all faculty and staff who are teaching 100 level courses are required to enter in 5th Week Assessment information on students in their class. Information provided will notify AARC if students are passing or failing their courses as well as excessive absences. AARC disseminates to selected offices on campus to attempt to provide help to these students early in the semester. Marks entered by faculty and staff can now be seen on TopNet by students and advisors.”

Click here for [Academic Advising](http://www.wku.edu/advising/academic-advising-handbook.php) <http://www.wku.edu/advising/academic-advising-handbook.php>

The Learning Center

Should you require academic assistance with your WKU courses, The Learning Center (located in the Downing University Center, A330) provides free supplemental education programs for all currently enrolled WKU students. TLC @ DUC offers certified, one-on-one tutoring in over 200 subjects by appointment, walk in, or online. TLC is also a quiet study area, with side rooms designated for peer to peer tutoring, and offers a thirty-two machine Dell computer lab to complete academic coursework. Additionally, TLC has three satellite locations. Each satellite is a quiet study center and is equipped with a small computer lab. These satellites are located in Douglas Keen Hall, McCormack Hall, and Pearce Ford Tower. For more information, or to schedule a tutoring appointment, please call TLC at (270) 745-6254. <http://www.wku.edu/tlc>

Student Supports

Technical Support:

1. WKU Students can call 270-745-7000 for technical support with Blackboard or computer problems. Other information is located at [Information Technology](http://www.wku.edu/it/) (IT: <http://www.wku.edu/it/>) or by following the [IT](#) Helpdesk link in the left menu bar.

Academic Supports

1. [The Learning Center](http://www.wku.edu/tlc/) has offers online tutoring in select subjects to help students succeed in their academic work. Begin with this service if you are seeking help: (<http://www.wku.edu/tlc/>) and look for online tutoring.
2. Various disciplines also provide [more specialized tutoring services](http://www.wku.edu/teaching/booklets/tutoringhandout.pdf) (e.g., the Writing Center) and the link below provides a list and map to locations. Some may offer phone or online help, such as the Writing Center. Others do not: (<http://www.wku.edu/teaching/booklets/tutoringhandout.pdf>)

Research Tools

1. [WKU Libraries](http://www.wku.edu/library/) provide help with many research tools and writing tasks. You will find a link in the Blackboard left menu or click here: (<http://www.wku.edu/library/>). There is a librarian assigned to your subject area. Just contact the library to find out who your liaison is. The orientation from the Distance Learning Website (below) includes a guide to using the library.
 - a. WKU Libraries' Regional Campus section provides services by mail to distance students, such as interlibrary loan, reserves, etc.
 - b. [Research Guides](http://libguides.wku.edu/) for specific majors have been developed by the WKU libraries and can be found at: (<http://libguides.wku.edu/>)
2. [Son of Citation Machine](http://citationmachine.net/): This tool helps format citations in appropriate styles (<http://citationmachine.net/>)
3. [Kentucky Virtual Library](http://www.kyvl.org/) provides virtual resources to students attending Kentucky schools: (<http://www.kyvl.org/>)

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Student Support of Special Interest for Online Students

1. [The Distance Learning website](http://www.wku.edu/online) located at (<http://www.wku.edu/online>) provides a Distance Learning Support Directory listing offices on campus that provide support to distance students, including technical support. Other resources provided include:
 - a. [The Orientation for Online Learners](http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation) located at (<http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation>) provides a complete overview of technology required in online classes, and features tutorials on Blackboard, setting up a WKU email account, accessing TopNet (WKUs student information and registration system), course registration, study skills, time management, writing and other academic skills, and even directions to campus and how to get a parking permit should you need to visit.
 - b. Are you ready to be an online student? Visit "[Is Distance Learning for me?](http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation/for-me.php)" at (<http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation/for-me.php>) to see how prepared you are to be an online student. You'll find a quiz over [your level of Readiness](http://www.wku.edu/online/readiness-quiz.php) at (<http://www.wku.edu/online/readiness-quiz.php>).
 - c. [Join an Online Blackboard Community for Distance Learners at WKU](#). The community provides a download library of free plug-ins and discounted software, a link to technical support, and a university support directory. To join, email learn.online@wku.edu with the subject line Online Community. There are also Facebook, Flickr and YouTube communities found by going to the Distance Learning orientation (above) and selecting Social Networking from the Resources.
2. [WKUReal: Reaching Each Adult Learner](http://www.wku.edu/real/) (<http://www.wku.edu/real/>) is a program to assist adult students (also known as nontraditional students) at WKU.