

PSY 440 – 700
Abnormal Psychology
Online Course - Spring 2016

Instructor: Chance Littrell, M.A.

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- Email is the best way to contact me. I will respond to all emails, Monday through Friday, within a 24 hour period. Any emails sent after 4pm on Friday will receive a response on Monday.

Blackboard Help/WKU IT Help Desk
270-745-7000

If You Are Unfamiliar with Blackboard

If this is your first online course using Blackboard, I strongly urge you to complete the Blackboard Student User Training. The modules included in the training are extremely helpful in orienting you to the format.

In order to complete the training, go to Blackboard and sign-in using your user information, click the IT Training tab located in the top right corner. Locate and select the IT Blackboard Student User Training Link. Once you have signed up, you will be granted access to the training. This training is not required, but it may prove to be extremely beneficial for you.

Course Policies

Catalog Course Description:

An introductory course to the field of abnormal psychology with emphasis upon forms of abnormal behavior, etiology, developmental course, interpretations, behavioral manifestations, and treatment programs.

Prerequisites:

Six hours in psychology, including PSY 100

Course Objectives:

- To provide a comprehensive overview of the field of psychopathology and abnormal behavior.
- To be knowledgeable about various theories of psychopathology and how they influence our conception of normality
- To provide insight into the personal experiences of those suffering from psychopathology
- To become familiar with important issues in the diagnosis and subsequent treatment of abnormal behavior and mental illness
- To recognize and understand the various settings in which assessment, diagnosis, & treatment of mental disorders occur

Required Text:

Durand, V. M. & Barlow, D. H. (2016) *Essentials of abnormal psychology* (7th edition). CA: Cengage Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-305-09414-7. The multimedia package can be obtained through the WKU bookstore or through various online retailers. The MindTap additional feature will be used to supplement the material, though it is not required. *The newest version of the text is required as it reflects the changes presented in the DSM-5; older versions will reflect the DSM-IV-TR and will make following the material much more difficult.*

Suggested Texts:

American Psychiatric Association (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders*, Fifth Edition. Washington, D.C.: Author.

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th Edition). Washington, D.C.: Author.

***These texts are not required, but you may find them helpful**

Other Items Needed:

- Access to a computer with a reliable internet connection
- Access to Microsoft Word or other word processing software that saves in .doc, or .docx format
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (can be obtained for free from Adobe.com)
- Additional technical requirements can be located in the Technical Requirements menu link in Blackboard

Use of Technology

This is an entirely online course where all required assignments will be completed online through the use of Blackboard.

Attendance Policy

As this course is online, there is no formal class attendance; however, you will be expected to complete all assignments in accordance with the course schedule

Email and Course Announcements

Blackboard will serve as our primary means of communication throughout the duration of the course. All announcements posted in the course will be simultaneously sent to all users via e-mail. Please ensure that you are frequently monitoring the course and your email.

Course Requirements:**Course Format:**

We will cover one chapter per week throughout the course. Due to the volume of information, on some occasions, two chapters may be combined into a single week. I may provide lecture powerpoints to supplement the readings from the text, as needed (these will be provided in pdf format). Lecture material will be selective and may not cover everything in the text, but you will still be responsible for the readings. I reserve the right to include quiz/exam questions from the text about which I do not lecture.

Exams:

There will be a total of four exams, each worth 100 points. Exams will be comprised of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions.

Quizzes

There will be a quiz worth 10 points at the start of every unit. Your four lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester for a total of 100 points.

Discussion Boards

There will be a weekly discussion board topic, each worth 10 points. For each discussion board, you will reflect on the required reading for the week, provide a response, and respond to at least two posts from classmates. Further instruction for each discussion board will be provided as the topic is posted.

Reading Journals

There will be a weekly reading journal assignment, each worth 10 points, in which you will respond to a journal article assigned at the start of the week. For each journal entry, you will identify two points you found interesting from the article, how the article relates to abnormal psychology, and one limitation or remaining question you may have. Further instruction for each journal entry will be provided as the article is posted.

Paper

Each student will complete an individual paper on a controversial topic in abnormal psychology. For the paper, each student will use existing research and literature to provide evidence in support of their opinion. The written paper is worth 100 points. This paper will be 3 to 5 pages in length. The Total Page count is not including the title page or references. The assignment will be discussed in greater detail, and a guide will be posted outlining the specifics regarding the assignment.

Grading and Feedback

Grades and all feedback for assignments will be posted within 4 days after the submission deadline. All late assignments will receive a 10% point deduction per day late.

Grades

Assignment	Points
4 Exams	400
10 Quizzes	100
14 Discussion Boards	140
14 Reading Journals	140
Paper	100
Total Possible	880

Final grades will be calculated by taking the total percentage of points possible earned.

Respectful Behavior:

In our class, I would like to foster an environment that promotes free and open discussion in which individuals feel comfortable expressing their thoughts and opinions. In order to ensure that this environment is maintained, I ask that we all be respectful towards one another. It is a given that we will not always agree with the opinions of others, but we can still maintain respect for the personal views held by each individual in the course.

Failure of Technology:

Blackboard can sometimes have issues. If you have issues with Blackboard, please contact the IT Help Desk at 270-745-7000.

Student Accommodations:

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, 1074. The phone number is 270.745.5004 [270.745.3030 V/TTY] or email at sarc@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.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to complete their own work. As stated in the university catalog, “students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the coursework in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal.” In other words, students should do their own work and not cheat. The psychology faculty consider academic dishonesty a serious ethical matter.