

SYLLABUS
Summer, 2020
PSY 440: Abnormal Psychology

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This class is worth 3 credits and is designed to cover an entire semester in only a few weeks. You will have daily assignments that require you to read multiple chapters a week. I highly recommend that you do not take more than one Summer Term course at a time.

CRN- 38671- PSY 440 A71 Online 05/18-06/12

REQUIRED

- **Text: Durand, V.M. & Barlow, D.H. (2016) *Essentials of abnormal psychology* (7th edition). CA: Cengage Publishing**

***The electronic version of this book is available; it may be a cheaper price and is completely acceptable. Older versions are not acceptable. Newer editions are.**

- **Please note that you will need to use the DSM-5 for this class. You may purchase a copy or use the DSM Library online (a link has been provided in the Blackboard course). If you have difficulty accessing this resource, contact IT support or the campus library at 270-745-6125. Please do not contact me with questions pertaining to IT issues, I cannot help you.**

Computer and internet access (high speed recommended) are required. Your web browser should be within 1-2 years of the current browser. This course requires *frequent* use of Blackboard. Blackboard works very well with Firefox and Chrome. You can download this browser free for both WIN and Mac from the Blackboard home page. **Please note that I am not an expert in technology issues and will not be able to provide support with technological issues. If you have any technical issues please contact WKU's IT support at <https://www.wku.edu/it/helpdesk/> or 270-745-7000. To save yourself stress, do not procrastinate.**

WKU Statements

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 for the course are six credit hours in Psychology including Psychology 100 and junior standing or permission from the instructor.

Course Objectives (Students will be able to answer all of the following):

Chapter 1

- What is a psychological disorder?
- What is “abnormal” behavior?
- What are the “3 Ds” of abnormal behavior?
- How do we define a psychological disorder?
- What is a scientist-practitioner?
- What supernatural influences have been used to explain abnormal behavior?
- What are the assumptions of the biological approach?
- What are the major psychological approaches to treating disorders?
- How do these various psychological approaches explain abnormal behavior?

Chapter 2

- What are the main features of unidimensional and multidimensional models of psychopathology?
- How do these models differ?
- How do these different models account for the development of psychopathology?
- What influences do genes and environment have on behavior?
- What is the diathesis-stress model and how does it explain psychopathology?
- How are different brain regions and neurotransmitters thought to influence mental health?
- How do behavioral, emotional and cognitive science explain the origins of mental illness?
- How do cultural factors affect psychopathology?

Chapter 3

- What is clinical assessment and diagnosis?
- What are the major components of psychological assessment/diagnosis?
- What are the basic components and methods of psychopathology research?
- What are the major questions asked by psychopathology researchers?
- How do researchers study behavior across time and culture?
- What are the ethical components/principles of research? Why are they important?

Chapters 4-13

- What are the signs and symptoms that define the disorders described in each chapter?
- What are the possible etiologies (causes) of the disorders described in each chapter?
- What are the DSM-5 criteria used to diagnose the disorders described in each chapter?
- What are the evidence-based treatments for the disorders described in each chapter?
- Do we have accurate statistics on the incidence and prevalence of the disorders described in each chapter? If so, what are they?
- Are the disorders described in each chapter more commonly diagnosed in men or women?

Chapters 14

- How is working with individuals with mental health issues in a legal setting often a “balancing act?”
- What is the difference between having a mental disorder and the legal definition of mental illness/insanity?
- What is the relationship between dangerousness and mental illness?
- What is a civil commitment?
- On what criteria is a civil commitment made?
- What are the components of an insanity defense?
- What is the difference between not *guilty by reason of insanity* and *guilty but mentally ill*?
- What are patients’ basic rights in the mental health system?

WKU Disability Statement:

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.

WKU Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

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, Andrea Anderson, 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.*

Being "Online"- The nature of this class

Using Blackboard

This class will be presented through "Blackboard," which is the name of the website you will use to access materials, turn in assignments, and take exams.

In general, I will communicate with the class through Announcements. However, if I need to contact an individual student, I will use e-mail. I count on you to check your WKU e-mail at least daily during the week. To protect your confidentiality, I will not respond to non-WKU emails (e.g., Gmail, Hotmail), so please email me from your WKU address. I will check my email at least twice a day—usually throughout the day during the week. You can expect me to reply to your email within 24 hours, but usually it will be sooner with the exception being during the weekends.

What to do if your computer or internet fails

This course is strictly online, therefore, computer or internet failure might prevent you from accessing this course. I do not accept late work, regardless of whether or not your computer/internet has failed. Because of this, I highly recommend that you **do not procrastinate**, and have a backup plan. Some backup plans could be:

1. Each WKU campus has a computer lab that you may use for free with your WKU student ID. Call your closest campus for hours of operation.
2. Several coffee shops and bookstores have free internet access. Check with your local shops for this availability and hours of operation.
3. Libraries most likely have computers and internet access available to the public. Check with your local library for this availability and hours of operation.
4. Ask an acquaintance if you may use their computer/internet as a backup plan.
5. Ask your employer if you may use their computer/internet as a backup plan.
6. Blackboard has an app for smart phones. **Use this as a last resort only.**

Emails

Students are expected to correspond using WKU email addresses not personal (e.g., Gmail) accounts. When communicating students should do the following:

- Be formal (e.g., *Dear Professor Lockwood*)
- Specify – state your first and last name, and the class you are emailing me about
- Be clear
- Be courteous
- Proofread your email before sending
- Avoid the use of emojis and all caps

Privacy

The Internet may change or challenge the notions of what is private and what is not. Although the course is protected by a password, no one can guarantee privacy online. Privacy for every student depends on the actions of each individual student – sharing your password with a friend is a violation of privacy to your classmates. Do not share passwords with anyone else or allow access to this course to those not registered in it.

Discussion of Grades:

Sometimes students want to discuss their grades via email. However, email is not a secure nor private form of communication. I cannot disclose student information via email without a legal signature from that student. Although I can make some general statements about your progress via email, I am always happy to chat more about your grades via phone.

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to conform to the WKU Academic Integrity Policy. Refer to the policy outlined in the Student Code of Conduct which includes academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and cheating. Student work may be checked by plagiarism detection software. An incident of any kind of academic dishonesty may lead to serious consequences

Assignments and Grade

Assignments and Grades:

- Exams: There will be five exams in the class, including the final exam. Each exam will be worth 50 points. You will have **45 minutes** for each exam, and they are forced completion. Please make sure that you have a quiet space and the time to complete an exam before you begin one. Your lowest grade will be exempted (i.e., “dropped”) for your overall grade. This includes a missed exam or score of “0.” If you are happy with your performance on the first four exams, then it is up to you whether or not to take the final exam. Exams must be submitted by 11:59pm; due dates are provided below.
- Quizzes: There will be 13 quizzes throughout the term and only the 12 highest quiz scores will count towards the final grade. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. The quizzes will be placed on Blackboard in the “Tests & Quizzes” folder. These are not timed and are not forced completion. Quizzes must be submitted by 11:59pm; due dates are provided below.
- Case Study Vignette Paper: Each student will choose a diagnosis and identify a movie/TV character that meets diagnostic criteria for a psychological disorder. You will turn in a 4-5-page paper detailing the diagnosis of the character based on symptomology as well as differential diagnoses (a diagnosis you chose not to provide) of the character. More information on the requirements, including the grading rubric, is located on Blackboard in the “Diagnosis Paper” folder. Additionally, a sample paper, written by a previous 440 student is also located in this folder as is a paper (titled “Recommended Movies and Television Programs Featuring Psychotherapy and People with Mental Disorders”) that has hundreds of suggested movies. The paper is worth 100 points. Note, if you **turn your paper in a week or more early, you will receive 10 points extra credit.** If you submit early, please email me to let me know (and so that you can receive the extra credit).
- Videos: I have provided video links to aid in your learning. You are required to watch three videos for this class. Two of these videos (*A Tale of Mental Illness – From the Inside*, and *The Voices Inside my Head*) are for chapter 12, and one is from chapter 14 (*The New Asylums*). **All of the other videos** are for your enrichment and **are not required.**
- Journal articles, podcasts, etc.: I have provided journal articles and links to other learning materials. You **are not required to utilize any of these.** They are solely for your enrichment.

In summary (tentatively):

12 Quizzes	= 120 points
4 Exams (remember the lowest is exempted)	= 200 points
Case Study Paper	<u>= 100 points</u>
Total Points	= 420 points

Grading Scale:

A	90%-100%
B	80%-89%
C	70%-79%
D	60%-69%
F	< 60%

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Changes-The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus during the semester if necessary. Due to this, grades will be based on percentage not points.

Course Outline and Schedule:

Week	Date	Topic / Readings	Due
1	5/17	Section 1: Chapters 1-4 Opens	
	5/19	Chapter 1: Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context	Ch. 1 Quiz
	5/20	Chapter 2: Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	Ch. 2 Quiz
	5/21	Chapter 3: Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Research in Psychopathology	Ch. 3 Quiz
	5/22	Chapter 4: Anxiety, Trauma, OCD, and Related Disorders	Ch. 4 Quiz
	5/23	Exam 1: Chapters 1-4	Exam 1
2	5/24	Section 2: Chapters 5, 6, & 8 Opens	
	5/26	Chapter 5: Somatic Symptom and Dissociative Disorders	Ch. 5 Quiz
	5/28	Chapter 6: Mood Disorders and Suicide	Ch. 6 Quiz
	5/29	Chapter 8: Eating and Sleep-Wake Disorders	Ch. 8 Quiz
	5/30	Exam 2: Chapters 5, 6, & 8	Exam 2
3	5/31	Section 3: Chapters 9-11 Opens	
	6/1	Chapter 9: Sexual Dysfunction, Paraphilic, & Gender Dysphoria	Ch. 9 Quiz
	6/3	Chapter 10: Substance Related Disorders	Ch. 10 Quiz
	6/4	Chapter 11: Personality Disorders	Ch. 11 Quiz
	6/6	Exam 3: Chapters 9-11	Exam 3; Case Study Vignette Paper due
4	6/7	Section 4: Chapters 12-14 Opens	
	6/8	Chapter 12: Schizophrenia Disorders; watch <i>A Tale of Mental Illness – From the Inside</i> , and <i>The Voices Inside my Head</i>	Ch. 12 Quiz
	6/9	Chapter 13: Neurodevelopment and Neurocognitive Disorders	Ch. 13 Quiz
	6/10	Chapter 14: Legal and Ethical Issues; Watch <i>The New Asylums</i>	Ch. 14 Quiz
	6/11	Exam 4: Chapters 12-14	Exam 4
	6/12	Final Exam: Cumulative	Final Exam

FAQ

Q: Can I work ahead?

A: The materials (i.e., videos, quizzes, and exam) for each section will be opened on the dates noted above. You may work ahead of the due dates for each week, but you may not go further than that. For example, if you want to complete all of the assignments for Section 1 on Monday 5/18 you may (though I do not suggest it). However, you may not start Section 2 until it opens on 5/24. No exceptions.

Q: But can't you make an exception for me I have a (wedding, vacation, etc.) to attend?

A: I'm sorry but no exceptions. If you have some event planned, make sure that have a way to work around your plans or consider taking the course at another time.

Q: My computer (or internet) died. Will you make an exception?

A: I'm sorry but no exceptions. For this reason, I would suggest completing quizzes and exams at least a few hours before they are due. This will allow you plenty of time should something go wrong.

Q: Some exams are due on Saturday, but I use Saturday as a day to (have fun, relax, worship, etc.). Can I take the exam on Friday?

A: Yes. As mentioned earlier, you can work ahead in each section. I make the due dates on Saturday for those who need the extra time. I highly encourage taking the weekend off for those who are able to do so and still complete their work.

Q: I did really well on exams 1, 2, 3 and 4. Do I have to take the final?

A: No. Remember that I exempt your lowest exam score. If you are happy with your grade on the first four exams, then I will exempt your lowest score (i.e., your "0" on the final).