

PSY 3315

Psychopathology

Instructor Dr.

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Course Description

An introduction to the study of psychopathology: (1) issues in defining and evaluating it, (2) examples, (3) theories and research attempting to categorize, describe, and explain it, and (4) approaches used to prevent or change it when it is deemed a problem by the individual and/or society.

Scope & Nature of the Course

In this course, you will be given a detailed look at the causes, consequences, and possible treatments for psychopathology/ "abnormal behavior." We will discuss what makes a behavior "abnormal" as well as what techniques may be used to assess behavior. We will survey mental disorders as described in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition, Text Revision (DSM-5-TR)* (American Psychiatric Association, 2022). This will include diagnosis, classification, and treatment of various mental and behavioral disorders. As time permits, we will track the development of various treatment techniques and use case examples, films, and other demonstrations whenever possible to illustrate key points. Abnormal behavior is a vast and complicated area of psychology and covers everything from depression to hallucinations to phobias. We will attempt to understand these disorders in terms of factors that may have led to their development and what factors might help us understand, explain, and, eventually, cure and prevent them.

Required Materials

You are required to use the following text, which comes inside a platform called Achieve. This platform includes activities for assignments as well as other resources, such as practice quizzes, videos, flashcards, and LearningCurve activities you can use for self-improvement. I have included the ISBN below:

Comer, R.J., and Comer, J.S. (2022). *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology* (10th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

Achieve ISBN:9781319424510

You must register for the Achieve site using your Texas State e-mail address. Registration can be found in the Getting Started Module on Canvas or through this link:

<https://macmillan.force.com/macmillanlearning/s/article/Students-Register-for-Achieve-courses-via-your-school-s-LMS> . Once you have registered, you can access the link to the Achieve site in the Getting Started Module or through the Macmillan Learning link on the course navigation on the left side of the page in Canvas. The Achieve site will show this as a Summer 2023 term, but you should ignore that since this course has continuous enrollment and students are added at various times.

The e-book in Achieve is available for 6 months, but you can download specific chapters or the entire e-book for up to 4 years by going to the drop-down menu under your name on the Achieve site (upper right corner) and selecting "Read E-book on Vital Source Bookshelf." Turn off pop-up

blockers. You may have to create a password for this. Do not select “Download E-Book from App Store” from that drop-down menu or you will have to pay again.

Prerequisite

A course in Introduction to Psychology (PSY 1300 at Texas State) is the prerequisite for this course.

Student Learning Outcomes and Course Content Objectives

The Department of Psychology has adopted expected student learning outcomes for the undergraduate major, the graduate major, and for PSY 1300, a general education course meeting a requirement for the social and behavioral science component. These expected student learning outcomes are available for your review via the [Psychology Department's assessment page](#).

After completing this course, you should be able to discuss and describe the following:

- what abnormal behavior/psychopathology is,
- how psychopathology/abnormal behaviors develop,
- basic assessment of psychopathology/abnormal behavior,
- basic classification methods in psychopathology/abnormal behavior,
- basic disorders and distinguish between them, and • treatments used for each major disorder discussed.

Course Procedure

You have six months from your date of enrollment to complete this course. The course is divided into three parts, each comprised of four lessons. Each lesson contains an assignment. Exams occur after each set of four lessons. (Completing the [Course Pacing Guide](#) before you begin your first lesson will help you plan your progress throughout the course.) For each lesson, it is expected that you will carefully read and review the assigned chapters from your text and the material posted in the modules of this online course. The lessons in this online course include a review of some of the major points from the text and provide additional material that is not included in your text. To complete each lesson in this course, read the assigned textbook chapter(s) and read the online lesson content.

Grading, Exams, and Assignments

To keep track of your understanding of the material covered in this course, you will complete a variety of assessments and assignments.

Exams: You will take a total of three exams in this course. The first two will consist of 40 multiple-choice questions and will be worth 120 points each (which means each question will be worth 3 points). The final exam will be comprehensive and will consist of 80 multiple-choice questions, worth 3 points each, for a total of 240 points. *Note that you must earn a score of 60% or higher on the cumulative final exam to pass this course.* Information on exam procedures can be found on the [Correspondence Course Testing Policies](#) webpage.

To uphold academic integrity during exams, we will be using Proctorio, an online proctoring tool. This technology helps ensure a fair testing environment by monitoring exam conditions through video, audio, and web traffic analysis. Proctorio is designed to deter academic dishonesty while allowing you the flexibility of taking exams remotely. Please make sure to install the Proctorio extension on Google Chrome and familiarize yourself with the process before your assessments. Your cooperation in maintaining a secure testing environment is greatly appreciated.

Assignments: There are a variety of assignments that will be used in this course to track your understanding of the material. They will vary among the lessons. Here are some of the types of assignments that may be used:

Quizzes: Multiple choice quizzes comprised of 10 questions each.

Short Written Assignments: In these assignments, you may be asked to do some research on a topic or to compare and contrast issues from the readings.

Reactions and Video Reactions: You may see links to videos on the Achieve site or articles in the assignment. After you have viewed the video or read the article, you will be directed to write a short reaction to it.

You may submit no more than two assignments per week for this course.

Please be aware that I have ten business days from the time you submit an assignment to grade and return it to you.

Your final grade is based on 610 points that are broken down as follows:

Exams 1 and 2: 120 points each (240 points total) — 39% of final grade

Assignments: 10 points each (130 points total) — 21% of final grade Final exam: 240 points — 39% of final grade

Communication Policy

Even though this is a correspondence course, please feel free to contact me personally if you have any concerns, questions, or problems. E-mail is my preferred method of contact, but you must use the Canvas Inbox Mail tool in the left menu bar. (It is important to keep all mail related to this course contained within this Canvas site.) You may also leave me a phone message, and I will be notified of your call. My office phone number is (512) 245-3167. My policy is that, except for holidays and announced away times, any e-mail I receive between Monday morning and Friday at noon will receive a reply within 48 hours. E-mails received between Friday at noon and Sunday night will receive a reply on the next business day. If you want to have a Zoom meeting, we can schedule that as well.

Technology Requirement

As you have elected to enroll in an online course, it is *your* responsibility to acquire a consistent, stable, dependable computer and internet connection with which to complete the course before your six-month enrollment period expires. It is not the responsibility of the instructor to provide additional time for assignments or exams or an alternative means of completing the course due to technological issues on your part. Just as it is your responsibility to acquire and maintain adequate transportation to attend a face-to-face course, it is your responsibility to secure the technological means to participate in and complete this course.

For the online proctored exams, students must meet the following additional technical requirements:

- Access to a computer with a webcam and a microphone (for exams, students may not use a tablet or mobile phone)
- Sufficient internet speed of at least 700 kbps for upload and download
- Ability (and willingness) to disable pop-up blockers—even on work or borrowed computers
- See the [Proctorio Minimum System Requirements page](#) for additional details.

Correspondence Course Information

As a correspondence studies student, it is your responsibility to be familiar with correspondence-related policies and services. To this end, I encourage you to review the [Correspondence Course Information webpage](#).

Students with Disabilities

Online and Extended Programs is committed to helping students with disabilities achieve their educational goals. A disability is not a barrier to correspondence study, and we strive to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals in coursework and test taking. Students who require special accommodations need to provide verification of their disability to the [Office of Disability Services](#), Suite 5-5.1 LBJ Student Center, 512.245.3451 (voice/TTY).

Students should then notify [OXF](#) at corrstudy@txstate.edu of any disability-related accommodation needs as soon as possible to avoid a delay in accommodations.

Scheduling Your Time

To some extent you can set your own pace in a correspondence course, but it is important that you schedule your time effectively. You should be able to complete each lesson, along with the assignment for each lesson, within two weeks, so completing the course in five to six months is quite possible if you carefully budget your time. Remember, you have a maximum of nine months to complete this course. Use the [Course Pacing Guide](#) to help you proceed through the course effectively. Again, please be aware that I have ten business days from the time you submit an assignment to grade and return it to you.

Free Tutoring Resources

A variety of free tutoring resources are available for students enrolled in correspondence courses. All correspondence students have access to several hours of free online tutoring from [Tutor.com](#) for subjects ranging from grammar and writing to mathematics and Spanish. Free online tutoring for writing-related assignments is also available from the Texas State Writing Center. For information on accessing these resources, please visit Online and Extended Program's [Free](#)

[Tutoring](#) page. Currently-enrolled, degree-seeking students able to visit the Texas State campus are eligible for free in-person tutoring from the [Student Learning Assistance Center \(SLAC\)](#) on the fourth floor of Alkek Library.

Canvas Technical Support

Texas State's Information Technology Assistance Center (ITAC) provides phone and LiveChat technical support for TRACS 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. To take advantage of these services, visit [IT Assistance Center](#) or call 512.245.ITAC (4822). Note also that a number of online Canvas tutorials are available from the [IT Assistance Center](#).

Texas State Academic Honor Code

The [Texas State Academic Honor Code](#) applies to all Texas State students, including correspondence students. The Honor Code serves as an affirmation that the University demands the highest standard of integrity in all actions related to the academic community.

Psychology Department Policy

The Texas State Psychology Department has also adopted a policy on academic honesty, which applies to correspondence students as well as to on-campus students. As the policy states,

The study of psychology is done best in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect. Academic dishonesty, in any form, destroys this atmosphere. Academic dishonesty consists of any of a number of things that spoil a good student-teacher relationship. A list of academically dishonest behaviors includes:

- passing off others' work as one's own,
- copying off of another person during an examination,
- signing another person's name on an attendance sheet,
- in written papers, paraphrasing from an outside source while failing to credit the source or copying more than four words in sequence without quotation marks and appropriate citation.

The Psychology Department faculty believe that appropriate penalties for academic dishonesty include an "F" in the course and/or prosecution through the Student Justice System. **Mandatory**

Reporting of Sexual Misconduct:

As an instructor, one of my responsibilities is to help create a safe learning environment on our campus. I also have a mandatory reporting responsibility related to my role as an instructor. It is my goal that you feel able to share information related to your life experiences in classroom discussions, in your written work, and in our one-on-one meetings. I will seek to keep information you share private to the greatest extent possible. However, I am required to share information regarding sexual misconduct. Information about the Texas State Policy on sexual misconduct can be found at <http://www.txstate.edu/oea/Sexual-Misconduct--Title-IX-.html>

Effective January 2, 2020, state law (SB 212) requires all university employees, acting in the course and scope of employment, who witness or receive information concerning an incident of sexual misconduct involving an enrolled student or employee to report all relevant information known about the incident to the university's Title IX Coordinator or Deputy Title IX coordinator. According to SB 212, employees who knowingly fail to report or knowingly file a false report shall be terminated in accordance with university policy and Texas State University System (TSUS) Rules and Regulations.