

Psychology 14: Abnormal Psychology

Dr. Carrie Canales

You can reach me through "private message" in the discussion tab or call me during office hours at 310.287.4588, Mondays from 3:00 to 5:00 PM or Wednesdays from 2:30-3:00.

Please keep in mind that this syllabus is an approximation of the way the course will proceed & is subject to change.

Course Objective:

This course will introduce students to the study of abnormal human behavior, including the major categories of mental disorders of mood, anxiety, stress, sexuality, psychosis, and personality.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Describe major categories of mental illness diagnoses and apply treatment theories to each.

Required Text: Ronald Comer, "Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology," 7th Edition, 2013

You should not use any other edition due to major changes in the diagnosing of mental disorders that occurred in 2013.

Online Requirements:

This is an online course, so you must have daily access to a computer with the internet. Please go to www.wlac.edu/online and review the tabs on the left side of that page. Pay specific attention to "Course Login" and "Technical Requirements." This information is critical to helping you succeed as an online student. Please make sure your email address is correct in the school system!

There is also information regarding how to order the book online from our bookstore. You can also go to campus to purchase it.

Course Requirements:

Lecture, Reading, Discussion Questions, Tests, Research Paper

It is imperative that you are online regularly in order to do the work. If you have never taken an online class, you should spend time quickly getting familiar with the tabs on the left side of the home page of the class. We will be utilizing almost all of the tabs.

Lecture/Readings

Essentially, the lectures are in the "Modules" tab, and each week you will be responsible for a chapter, just as you would have been in a classroom (see calendar below). You will need to read all of the modules associated with the assigned book chapters each week.

Discussion Questions

Each week, you will need to answer a Discussion Question (DQ) related to your reading. These are due by Wednesday night each week at 11:45 PM.

After reading the modules and the textbook, you will go to the "Discussion and Private Messages" tab, then click on "Discussion Questions," then the appropriate DQ # for that week. After reading the question, you hit "post reply" and write your answer in the space provided (do not cut and paste from Word because it doesn't always transmit properly to Etudes). Your grade on these discussion questions will be dependent on how thoroughly and thoughtfully you answer them as well as if you properly cite your answer.

Important: Do not copy other classmates' work; answers are posted for everyone to see in this format, and I do not want you to receive no credit because your answer matches someone else's. The best way to avoid this is to answer your question, *then* read what other people wrote.

Also, do not copy word-for-word from a website or your textbook - this will also result in no credit for your answer. Write your answer only in your own words and you must cite your source.

Please note: when you answer a DQ and use a source for your answer, such as the textbook, you **MUST** give that source credit for the information. If you don't, you are saying that the answer came from you, and that is plagiarism. This too will result in no credit for your answer. For further clarification, read the information in the research paper module on plagiarism and watch the power point presentation in Module 1 on plagiarism. (AGAIN, note that you can't use a "wiki" site for DQs or the research paper).

I will not grade DQs that are posted after 11:45 PM on Wednesday each week. You can not answer or post DQ's after they have closed. There are no make-up DQs.

Your classmates can see what you post in the discussion section as well as the "Chat Room." Please feel free to chat with each other as much as possible as this helps with the discussions, and you can ask each other questions, etc. You will see when others are in the chat room because a blue dot will appear by their name in the users list on the left side of the site page.

Tests

There are five, 40 question multiple choice exams and a 50 question multiple choice cumulative final exam. They are based on both the modules and the textbook reading.

You will need to go into the "Assignments, Tests, and Surveys" tab to do the test the week it is due. Once you begin an exam, the timer will continue to run until time runs out, so please plan accordingly. You can't stop the timer and come back to the test later.

Access to the exams will open about a week they are due and they will *close at midnight* the week they are due. You will not be able to go back to take an exam after it has closed. In other words, there are **NO** make-up exams because you have a full week to take each exam. Please do not wait until the last minute to take the exams!

Research Paper:

You may choose any topic covered in the textbook to write about. It needs to be at least 5 complete, typed, double-spaced pages with 1.0" margins in Times New Roman font, 12 point size. Do not skip spaces between paragraphs. The paper can be longer than 5 pages. Please read the specific details in the modules section entitled "Getting Started - Research Paper."

Your paper is due Sunday, Nov 15, and must be sent to me as a .doc or .docx attachment in the assignments section in Etudes by midnight. I do not accept papers via email unless it is after the deadline. After midnight, and each day it is late after that, points will automatically be deducted.

Please note that I am more than happy to give you feedback on one rough draft if sent at least 72 hours before the paper is due. Rough drafts must be submitted via "private message." The paper is worth a total of 100 points.

Academic Honesty:

You are NOT allowed to use your text book, friends, internet, the modules, notes, old exams, your cell phone, or anything else when you take the exams. Utilizing any part of another person's work or any of the above on exams constitutes "cheating." This is completely unacceptable and will result in an automatic ZERO on the exam or assignment. If you allow your work (or any part of it) to be copied by another person, this too is considered cheating and is grounds for a ZERO.

Professional Conduct in Our Virtual Classroom Community:

One of the unifying objectives in this course is to familiarize you with best practices and give you exposure to becoming a member of a professional community such as the psychology profession. I also have the responsibility to insure that our virtual community is a conducive learning environment for all students. As such, all students will please follow these policies of our classroom community for all emails, private messages, discussion groups, and chat rooms:

1. No profanity or foul language, either in writing or pictures, of any kind at any time.
2. Please address everyone politely by their name.
3. Under no circumstances may you ask for a classmate's personal contact information or in any way ask for a personal meeting or date.
4. Unless I specifically ask you to do so as part of an assignment, do not include in your email signatures or other material in your messages any kind of a personal nature, sales solicitation, information about a business, or a political or religious message of any kind. Do not include a blind or other kind of hyperlink to such information. Violators will be excluded from the course.
5. Please use common sense and common courtesy when messaging. This includes messages you send between each other or to me. I will not tolerate rude, condescending, or "challenging" emails.

If you choose to disregard these rules, there are college policies that I can follow that may eventually lead to you being dropped from this course. Please check with me first if you have any questions about what is appropriate.

Special Instructional Accommodation

To receive accommodations for a special need or disability, students must register with the Office of Disabled Student Program and Services, SSB 320, (310) 287.4450.

Grading

Each exam is worth 80 points. The online discussion questions are worth 5 or 10 points each. The research paper is worth 100 points, and the final exam is worth 100 points. This totals a maximum of 700 points. Grades will be determined as follows:

A = 700 - 630 pts D = 489 - 420
B = 629 - 560 F = below 420
C = 559 - 490

Calendar:

Week 1 - Aug 31: Chapter 1 - Abnormal Psychology: Past and Present
Week 2 - Sep 7: Chapter 2 - Models of Abnormality

Week 3 - Sep 14: Chapter 3 - Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment

TEST 1 must be completed by Sunday, Sep 21, at midnight

Week 4 - Sep 21: Chapter 4 - Anxiety Disorders

Week 5 - Sep 28: Chapter 5 - Stress Disorders

Week 6 - Oct 5: Chapter 6 - Mood Disorders

TEST 2 must be completed by Sunday, Oct 12, at midnight

Week 7 - Oct 12: Chapter 8- Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms

Week 8 - Oct 19: Chapter 9 - Eating Disorders

Week 9 - Oct 26: Chapter 10- Substance Related Disorders:

TEST 3 must be completed by Sunday, Nov 2, at midnight

Week 10 - Nov 2: Chapter 11- Disorders of Sex and Gender

Week 12 - Nov 9: Chapter 12 - Schizophrenia

PAPER DUE - Sunday, Nov 15, at midnight!

Week 13 - Nov 16: Chapter 13- Personality Disorders

TEST 4 must be completed by Sunday, Nov 23, at midnight

Week 14 - Nov 23: Chapter 14 - Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence

Week 15 - Nov 30: Chapter 15- Disorders of Aging and Cognition

Week 16 - Dec 7: Chapter 16 - Law, Society, and the Mental Health Profession

TEST 5 must be completed by Sunday, Dec 13, at midnight

FINAL EXAM must be completed by Thursday, Dec 17, at midnight