

Course Syllabus

PSY 3315

Abnormal Psychology

Instructor

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Course Description

An introduction to the study of abnormality: (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 “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 (DSM-5)* (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). 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 e-Book and LaunchPad. I have included below the ISBN below:

Comer, R.J. & Comer, J.S. (2019). *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology* (9th ed.). New York: Worth Publishers.

LaunchPad and e-Book: ISBN:9781319191467

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 is;
 - how abnormal behaviors develop;
 - basic assessment of abnormal behavior;
 - basic classification methods in abnormal behavior;
 - basic disorders and distinguish between them; and
 - treatments used for each major disorder discussed.
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Course Procedure

You have nine months from your date of enrollment to complete this course. The course is divided into three parts, each comprised of four modules. Each module contains an assignment. Exams occur after each set of four modules. (Completing the [Course Study Schedule](#) before you begin your first module will help you plan your progress throughout the course.) For each module, it is expected that you will carefully read and review the assigned chapters from your text and the material posted in this online course. The modules 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 module in this course, read the assigned textbook chapter(s) and read the online module 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 proctored 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 in order to pass this course.* Information on how to

arrange for a proctored exam can be found on the [Correspondence Course Testing Policies](#) webpage.

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 modules. 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: When I teach this course in a traditional classroom, I have students complete reaction cards several times a semester. We'll be doing something similar in this online class as you react to information posted. You are to respond to the module content, ask questions, reflect on the material, or discuss issues you want to address. These will be in the Assignments section.

Video Reactions: Video clips may be embedded in the modules, or you may be directed to a site to view a video. After you have viewed it, you will be directed to write a short reaction paper about it. This could include what you liked, what you did not like, what you did not understand, what did not make sense, how the information fits (or does not fit) with other information in the course, etc.

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 600 points that are broken down as follows:

Exams 1 and 2: 120 points each (240 points total) — 40% of final grade

Assignments: 10 points each (120 points total) — 20% of final grade

Final exam: 240 points — 40% 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 *Contact Your Instructor/ODEL* link in the left menu bar. (It is important to keep all mail related to this course contained within this Canvas site.) You may also try to reach me by phone, though I am not in the office every day. My office phone number is (512) 245-3167 or (512) 245-2526 (Psychology Department Office). My policy is that, during non-holiday breaks or 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.

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 nine-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.

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 Requiring Accommodations

The Office of Distance and Extended Learning 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 the [Office of Distance and Extended Learning](#) 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 Study Schedule](#) 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

[Smarthinking](#) for subjects ranging from grammar and writing to mathematics and Spanish. For information on accessing these resources, please visit the Office of Distance and Extended Learning'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 [University Writing Center](#) on the first floor of ASBN the [Student Learning Assistance Center \(SLAC\)](#) on the fourth floor of Alkek Library, and from the [Math CATS \(Computer & Tutoring\)](#) in Derrick 233.

Canvas Technical Support

The [Technical Requirements](#) page identifies the browsers, operating systems, and plugins that work best with Canvas. If you are new to Canvas check out the Texas State [ITAC Canvas Support](#) page.

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.