

Abnormal Psychology -- Psychology 341, Spring 2016

Instructor:

Office:

Office Telephone:

Email:

Office Hours: 10:00am to 11:00am on Tuesday; by appointment

Course Times: 8:30am – 9:45am on Tuesday, Thursday

Location: CBC C120

Webpage: <https://webcampus.unlv.edu>

Please note: During the semester, I am prepared to meet individually (by appointment) with any and all students enrolled in this course. This is especially true for students with disabilities who are registered with the Disability Resource Center and who may need individual arrangements for completing course requirements. If at any time during the semester you have concerns about anything, please contact me so we can meet!

Course Description

What is mental illness? How do psychologists think about mental illness? How do psychiatrists think about mental illness? The purpose of this course is to provide an introductory look at the study of both psychopathology and "abnormal" behavior of adults. The course emphasizes the description, theory, prevention, and treatment of maladaptive behavior patterns. At the end of the semester, my hope is that each of you will be able to conceptualize disorders in a developmentally appropriate manner. We will discuss both adaptive and maladaptive behavior throughout the semester. I hope that we all learn to think about psychopathology in a thoughtful, realistic manner from a psychological perspective.

If you have questions about the content of the lectures, schedules, or assignments, please contact me. I am glad to meet with you if a more in-depth or extensive discussion would be helpful about matters related to the course or psychology.

The course primarily will use a lecture format. I will be giving presentations supplemented by both videos of actual cases and my personal experience with individuals with psychological disorders. Throughout the course, any case I present will be disguised to maintain confidentiality. In class discussions, I graciously ask that you extend a similar level of confidentiality to yourself, friends, or family members. All of you have or most likely know someone with one of these disorders. The purpose of the class is to learn about the disorders generally. Diagnosis and/or treatment of an individual are significant endeavors that are beyond the scope of this course.

Undergraduate Learning Objectives

1. Identify fundamental principles of psychopathology.
2. Apply theoretical models to psychopathology.
3. Identify problems, ask questions, and determine the need for novel information related to psychopathology.
4. Access and collect needed information related to problems in psychopathology.

5. Evaluate and report on conclusions regarding your questions about psychopathology.
6. Identify, analyze, and evaluate reasoning, and construct and defend reasonable arguments and explanations.
7. Demonstrate the ability to analyze reasons and evidence through writing a research-based argument using written English.
8. Demonstrate the awareness of one's place in the world as well as how culture might affect psychopathology.

Required texts:

Comer, Ronald J. (2015). *Abnormal Psychology* (9th ed.). New York, NY: Wadsworth.

Course Requirements:

For many grades are an anxiety provoking dilemma. To simplify, I will always post your grades on Webcampus as soon as possible. There will be three types of assignments in this class:

- 1) 3 exams covering both class and reading material.
- 2) Final term paper due near the end of the semester.
- 3) Answering questions online/class.

Exams

There will be three exams. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade. There will be two exams during the semester and one final exam. The second exam and the final exam are not comprehensive. The course is segmented into 3 sections, each exam covers a single section. Exams typically are based on lecture material (60% - 70%) and readings (30% - 40%). There will be a great deal of information covered in class that is not included in the assigned readings, and some of the assigned readings will not be covered in class.

I do not give make-up exams. If prior to the exam, you contact me and receive permission the exam time can be moved. Generally, I find the following reasons for missing a scheduled exam as *acceptable*: 1) illness, 2) family emergency, or 3) out of town university activity. Each of these requires written documentation. *Unacceptable* reasons include not having enough time to study, extending vacation, or leaving early for vacation. In the case that you cannot make the scheduled time for the Final Exam, you will need to receive formal consent from your respective academic dean, and a time for the makeup exam must be arranged at my convenience.

Term Paper.

Before the end of the semester, you will complete a 10 page term paper, which is worth the remaining 25% of your final grade. The purpose of the paper is to ask a meaningful question about psychopathology and answer the question.

Weekly Questions

We will use two different technology systems to enhance the classroom experience.

- 1) Peerwise – Directions to access Peerwise on are Webcampus. Over the course of the semester, you are expected to create 12 multiple choice questions over the 15 week

course. Only one question per week. For a question to count for that week, it must be done by the start of class on Thursday.

- 2) PollEverywhere – We will use PollEverywhere in class on a regular basis. To respond to polls, you can either text your responses OR go to a webpage and respond. The directions will always be listed with the question.

Determining your grade

Each assignment will receive the following weight:

Exam 1:	20%
Exam 2:	20%
Final Exam (not cumulative):	20%
Paper Assignment	
Rough Draft Feedback	10%
Final Paper	15%
Question Participation	15%

Class Schedule:

The current schedule of class topics and exams dates is given below along with the reading material to be included. Note that the topic dates might change some during the semester depending upon the need to spend more or less time on any given topic. Notification of such changes will be made in class and failure to attend class is no excuse for being unaware of date changes. In addition, any major changes in the schedule will be posted on Webcampus.

Week	Class Dates	Topics	Readings	Reminders
1	1/19 1/21	Introduction; Models of Abnormality Diagnosis/Treatment	Chapter 1 Chapter 4	
2	1/26 1/28	Behavioral Theory Cognitive Theory	Chapter 3	
3	2/2 24	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 5	
4	2/9 2/11	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 6	
5	2/16 2/18	Somatic Disorders EXAM #1	Chapter 10	
6	2/23 2/25	Eating Disorders	Chapter 11	
7	3/1 3/3	Eating Disorders Disorders of Gender/Sexuality	Chapter 13	
8	3/8 3/10	Disorders of Gender/Sexuality		
9	3/15 3/17	Personality Disorders	Chapter 16	
10	3/22 3/24	SPRING BREAK!		RELAX!
11	3/29 3/31	Substance Use Disorders EXAM #2	Chapter 12	
12	4/5 4/7	Disorders of Childhood/Adolescence	Chapter 17	
13	4/12 4/14	Mood Disorders	Chapter 7	

14	4/19 4/21	Mood Disorders Schizophrenia	Chapter 8 Chapter 14	
15	4/26 4/28	Schizophrenia	Chapter 15	Term Paper Rough Drafts
16	5/3 5/5	Disorders of Aging/Cognition Law and Mental Health	Chapter 18 Chapter 19	Term Paper DUE!
	5/12	FINAL EXAM!		

Academic Misconduct – Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

Copyright – The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.unlv.edu/provost/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC) – The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you.

If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to the instructor during office hours so that you may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach the instructor in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

Religious Holidays Policy – Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the end of the first two weeks of classes, **January 29, 2016**, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. For additional information, please visit: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=531>.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching - The University encourages application of the transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Incomplete Grades - The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Tutoring and Coaching – The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895-3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

UNLV Writing Center – One-on-One or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 702-895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>.

Rebelmail – By policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. **Emailing within WebCampus is acceptable.**

Final Examinations – The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

Library Statement:

Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the Subject Librarian is (https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.