

PSYC 325-003 – Abnormal Psychology
TR 9:00-10:15am – Enterprise Hall 276

Instructor: Annie Ledoux

Email: aledoux@gmu.edu

Required text: Abnormal Psychology 13th edition, Kring – ISBN-13: 978-1118953983

Office Hours: 1034 David King Hall

Wednesdays 10:30-11:30am

Course Schedule

This course schedule is tentative and may change, in which case the instructor will inform students via lecture, email, or Blackboard.

Date	Topic	To-do before class
Week 1 1/24 and 1/26	Introduction and Considering Abnormality	C. 1
Week 2 1/31 and 2/2	Theories and Treatment	C. 2
Week 3 2/7 and 2/9	Diagnosis and Assessment	C. 3
Week 4 2/14 and 2/16	EXAM 1 Tuesday 2/14 Research Methods	C. 4 for 2/16
Week 5 2/21 and 2/23	Anxiety Disorders	C. 6
Week 6 2/28 and 3/2	Trauma Disorders	C. 7
Week 7 3/7 and 3/9	Mood Disorders and Suicide	C. 5 Paper 1 due on 3/5
Week 8 3/14 and 3/16	SPRING BREAK NO CLASS	N/A
Week 9 3/21 and 3/23	EXAM 2 Tuesday 3/21 Late Life Disorders	C. 14 for 3/23
Week 10 3/28 and 3/30	Childhood Disorders	C. 13
Week 11 4/4 and 4/6	Eating Disorders	C. 11
Week 12 4/11 and 4/13	Personality Disorders	C. 15 Paper 2 due on 4/9
Week 13 4/18 and 4/20	EXAM 3 Tuesday 4/18 Substance-Related Disorders	C. 10 for 4/20
Week 14 4/25 and 4/27	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders	C. 9 for 4/25 C. 8 for 4/27
Week 15 5/2 and 5/4	Make-up week/whatever is left	
Week 16 5/9 and 5/11	GMU Reading Day 5/9 - No Class FINAL EXAM: Thursday 5/11 7:30am-10:15am	N/A

Course Description

Welcome to Abnormal Psychology! This course provides an overview of the theories and phenomenology currently defining the field of abnormal psychology. We will discuss specific forms of mental illness, the causes and subjective experience of psychopathology, as well as assessment and treatment of mental illness. The format of this course is primarily lecture, although classes will also include discussion, in-class activities, and films.

Course Objectives

- To increase students' knowledge of the historical foundations, assessment, and treatment of mental illness and "abnormal" behavior, with a particular emphasis on the biopsychosocial perspective.
- To enhance students' appreciation of the subjective experience of mental illness.
- To encourage critical thought of scientific research and societal perception of mental illness, while also synthesizing relevant course information.

Course Expectations

1. Thought Papers: Two thought papers have been assigned throughout the semester, and will consist of you locating a recent event, news article, or peer-reviewed journal article and incorporating it into a two-page (double-spaced; 12-point font; 1-inch margins) discussion of some topic previously covered in class. Your thought papers can involve an interesting question or issue, proposing a new study, or making an observation based on your readings. You **MUST** provide a link or citation for the recent event, news article, or peer-reviewed journal article you reference.

You are required to write *two* thought papers over the course of the semester. The first must be submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday March 5th and the second must be submitted by 11:59pm on Sunday April 9th. **You may submit these papers at any time before the due dates, however, late papers will not be accepted.** These assignments will only be accepted via Blackboard. The intent is for the papers to help synthesize some of the material covered in the course with real-life application, and to facilitate class participation. These will be primarily graded for completion, assuming that I can detect the presence of reasonable effort on the part of the student. Points may be deducted if poor grammar, punctuation or spelling interferes with basic understanding of the thought paper.

2. In-Class Activities: While I do not take attendance, a number of in-class activities will be assigned throughout the semester, which will count towards your final grade. These will consist primarily of short answer questions (no more than a page in length). These will be assigned as both in-class activities and/or homework. Like thought papers, these will be primarily graded for completion, assuming that I can detect the presence of legitimate effort on the part of the student. Points may be deducted if poor grammar, punctuation or spelling interferes with basic understanding of the activity.

3. Assigned Reading: Reading assignments should be completed **before class**. In class, I will assume that you have completed that week's reading. There will be some overlap between lectures and assigned readings, but novel information will also be presented in each source.

4. *Exams*: There will be 4 multiple-choice exams (3 exams and 1 cumulative final), worth 100 points each. Each student's lowest exam score will be dropped. If a student misses an exam, that exam will constitute the drop and they will be required to take the cumulative final. **No makeup exams will be given.** If a student is satisfied with their scores on the first 3 exams, they do not have to take the cumulative final. There will be some overlap between the lecture and the text, but there will also be some novel information presented in each source. Exam questions can be drawn from either of these sources, so you are responsible for keeping up with the readings as well as attending lectures. Emphasis will be on material covered in class.

Grading

Grades will consist of:

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|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Thought Papers (2) | 40 points (20 points each) |
| 2. In-Class Activities (best 5 out of 7) | 30 points (6 points each) |
| 3. Exams (best 3 out of 4) | 300 points (100 points each) |
| | 370 points total |

Grade	Points Needed	Grade	Points Needed
A	347-370	C+	285-295
A-	333-346	C	270-284
B+	322-332	C-	259-269
B	306-321	D	222-258
B-	296-305	F	0-221

Online Materials: Grades, course materials, and other information will be available on Blackboard, including a copy of this syllabus, exam dates, and an abbreviated version of the PowerPoint slides used in class. I will provide a simplified version of lecture slides on Blackboard weekly (before class) to assist you in studying and note-taking. These will be helpful for following along in class, but they will not suffice as a substitute for attending lecture. While the slides will always be provided online, students who have historically done well in the course attend every class and do not rely on reviewing the slides online exclusively.

Respect for Others: Most people have had some sort of experience with psychopathology or trauma by the time that they have started college. In this class, we will be talking about eating disorders, suicide, PTSD, child abuse, depression, and a number of other things that some of you may have experienced. I encourage everyone to share thoughts and ask questions throughout the class. As you make comments and ask questions, please keep in mind that someone in the room may have experienced the issue that we are talking about, and do not make sarcastic or disparaging comments about mental illness.

On-time Arrival: On-time arrival to class is very important, for two reasons. First, class will begin promptly and you will miss material if you arrive late. Second, late arrivals are distracting, and therefore disrespectful, to the instructor and to your peers.

Electronics: The use of cell phones/text messaging is **unacceptable** during class time. If there is an emergency requiring you to take a call, please notify me prior to class and

arrange to sit near the door. If you are using a laptop or tablet for note-taking, please be respectful of your peers and your instructor, and do not engage in activities that are unrelated to class.

Retention of Material: It is the student's responsibility to retain a copy of all work given to the instructor (as well as returned materials) should the student wish to appeal or correct a grade.

Office Hours: Students are welcome and encouraged to attend office hours. Whenever possible, please email me prior to office hours that you plan to attend.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity refers to honest and ethical behavior in all aspects of academic activity. This includes: not cheating on exams or assignments (e.g., copying the work of others), not passing off someone else's ideas as your own (plagiarism), and not engaging in dishonesty of any kind with regard to your class participation and assignments.

Honor Code: George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for detailed information. The instructor of this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation.

Classroom Needs: If you have any specific needs (e.g., related to vision, hearing, learning, or medical conditions) please let me know by the second week of class so that I can make the appropriate arrangements. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact Disability Resource Services (DRS) at 703-993-2474. Disabilities must be documented by DRS for reasonable accommodations to be provided.

Official Communications via GMU E-mail: Mason uses electronic mail to provide official information to students. Examples include communications from course instructors, notices from the library, notices about academic standing, financial aid information, class materials, assignments, questions, and instructor feedback. Students are responsible for the content of university communication sent to their Mason e-mail account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. **In the event that class is canceled, I will notify you via email; this email will include information about making up the missed class.**

Enrollment: Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes (available from the Registrar's Website: registrar.gmu.edu). Withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the Schedule of Classes for selective withdrawal procedures. Last day to add/drop without penalty: January 30. Last day to drop (33% tuition penalty): February 13. Last day to drop (67% tuition penalty): February 24.