

SYLLABUS\*  
PSYCHOLOGY 414-001  
Behavioral Disorders of Childhood  
Fall 2011

Instructor: K. Marinka Gadzichowski, Ph.D. kgadicho@gmu.edu

Class Hours & Location: MW 3:00pm-4:15 Robinson Hall B224

Office Hours: Wed 1:30-2:30pm  
Also available by appointment.

Office Location: David King Hall 1027  
Office Phone during hours: 703.993.4065

REQUIRED TEXT: Abnormal Child and Adolescent Psychology. Rita Wicks-Nelson and Allen C. Israel.

*COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GOALS:*

The goals of this course are to:

Determine what defines abnormal development in children as it pertains to behavior, mood, anxiety and other psychological disorders associated with childhood.

Acquaint students with the ethical concerns of diagnosing a child with a serious mental illness

Enable students to pick out key diagnostic features of disorders including but not limited to: autism spectrum, specific learning disabilities, ADHD, conduct and mood disorders.

Provide practical skills and knowledge: spotting abnormal development and what the best course of action is.

*TECHNOLOGY:*

\*Students will be expected to access and use Blackboard on a regular basis (<https://gmublackboard.com>). Important class information, such as the syllabus and weekly quizzes/practicum assignments will be posted here. To access Blackboard, students should use their George Mason email ID and password.  
\*In addition, students should check their GMU email account **regularly**. Be sure to check that new messages can be received and that you are not over the message limit. You also have the option for your GMU account to be forwarded to another email address.

*ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:*

You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss and apply the material. In order to make the most out of your learning experience, it is imperative that you are not only present at each class meeting, but are alert, attentive, and ready to learn. Students are required to read (before class) any texts that may be assigned for that week. Class reading assignments will be made clear via class emails.

Throughout the semester we will have class discussions. You are responsible for being prepared to discuss the material, and are expected to actively participate in discussion with your classmates about the material. **The textbook is mandatory. Please do NOT answer your cell phone in class.**

*EXAMS:*

\*There will be NO make-up exams offered for this course. If you anticipate conflict with an exam date, it is your responsibility to provide justification, but scheduling an alternate date is at the discretion of the instructor. Similarly, emergency exceptions are at the discretion of the instructor (in the hospital; car accident = emergency; alarm clock did not ring; bad hair day, had to go skiing = not an emergency)

*GRADES:*

4 exams worth 100 points each  
1 final (take home) exam worth 200 points  
3 in class assignments worth 100 points each (participation)  
1 project worth 100 points

**Total Possible Points: 1000 points**

Extra credit:

At least 3 extra credit opportunities will be furnished during the course of the semester. They will be announced IN CLASS and may include a separate in class mini-project, take home mini paper or other such assignment. Extra credit points will be added to the final grade at the conclusion of the semester, e.g. if a student has 876 points and completes an extra credit assignment worth 10 points (provided he/she obtains all 10pts) then that student's final grade would go up to 886 points. It has always been my experience that the students who do not do the extra credit assignments are those who could benefit from doing them. Please be aware of what your grade is and what you want it to be at all times, rather than waiting for the end of the semester and going into crisis management mode.

*Grade Breakdown:*

A+ 100 – 97	B+ 89 – 87	C+ 79 – 77	D 69 - 60
A 96 – 93	B 86 – 83	C 76 – 73	F 59 and below
A- 92 – 90	B- 82 – 80	C- 72 - 70	

*HONOR CODE:*

All provisions of the GMU Honor Code will be followed in this class. Information regarding the Honor Code and what constitutes academic dishonesty can be found in the 2009-2010 University Catalog or online at the following website: <http://www.gmu.edu/catalog/apolicies/>.

*DISABILITY HELP:*

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Schedule of classes \*Topics subject to change as needed to ensure that the majority of students are comfortable with material covered prior to moving to the next topic.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic/Readings</b>	<b>Quizzes/Practicum Due By Wednesday 5PM of that Week.</b>
Week 1 8/29 & 8/31	Chapters 1 and 2	
Week 2 9/5no class 9/7	Chapter 3 and 4	
Week 3 9/12 9/14	Chapter 5 Classification, Assesment and Intervention	Exam 1 (covers chapters 1,2, 3 and 4)
Week 4 9/19 9/21	Chapter 6 Anxiety Disorders	
Week 5 9/26 9/28	Chapter 7 Mood Disorders	In class assignment 1
Week 6 10/3 10/5	Chapter 8 Conduct Disorders	Exam 2 (covers chapters 5, 6, 7)
<b>Week 7</b> <b>10/11 10/12</b>	<b>**Please note university policy on coumbus day**</b> Chapter 9 ADHD	
Week 8 10/17 10/19	Wrap up of chapter 9 Chapter 10	
Week 9 10/24 10/26	Chapter 10 Continued Exam 3	Exam 3 (covers chapter 9, 10 )
Week 10 10/31 11/2	Chapter 11	
Week 11 11/7 11/9	Chapter 12 Autism Specturm Disorders	In class assignment 2
Week 12 11/14 11/16	Chapter 12 Schizophrenia	Exam 4 (covers, chapters 12, 13)
Week 13 11/21 no class wed	Chapters 13 Disorders of Basic Physical Function	
Week 14 11/28 11/30	Chapter 14 and 15	In class assignment 3
Week 15 12/5 12/7	Wrap up, review, discussion of final exam (take home)	Project due
<b>Mon. 1:30 pm –</b> <b>12/19 4:15 pm</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM due via email no later than 4:15pm on Monday December 19<sup>th</sup> NOEXCEPTIONS!</b>	Final exam

\*Syllabus subject to change, especially if we experience significant weather difficulties, as we did last year!

