

Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 325 – 001)
George Mason University – Fall 2019

Meeting Time: Monday and Wednesday 9:00am – 10:15am Location: Innovation Hall 208

Instructor: Jerry L. Mize, M.A. Email: jmize2@masonlive.gmu.edu

Walk-In Office Hours: David King Hall 1014A Monday 10:30am – 12:30pm
**Other times and location, including via skype, by appointment only.*

Textbook Requirement: Revel Access Card to Oltmanns, T. F., & Emery, R. E. (2019) Abnormal Psychology. 9th ed ISBN-13: 978-0134571751

Course Description, and Objectives

This course is designed to provide an overview of the study of psychopathology. This course will be an overview in the sense that we will discuss the theoretical concepts behind mental illness, diagnosis, classification, and treatment. You should leave the course with a basic understanding of these concepts as well as the symptoms of major forms of psychopathology. By the end of the course, it is expected that you will be able to:

1. Differentiate between abnormal and normal behavior.
2. Describe different assessment tools and what information they can provide.
3. Define diagnoses and differentiate between diagnosis and assessment.
4. Describe the similarities and differences between different orientations to conceptualization and treatment.
5. Identify symptoms of common mental disorders and describe empirical support for a treatment that is determined.

Most people have had some sort of experience with psychopathology or trauma by the time that they have started college. In this class, you will be reading and 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 and express your disagreement with me during class discussions. However, as you make comments and ask questions, please keep in mind that someone in the class has likely experienced the issue that we are talking about. So, please do not make sarcastic or disparaging comments about mental illness.

Teaching Philosophy: As an instructor, it is my goal that you will have successfully met the objectives for this course. It is my job to guide you through the course material and provide you with the appropriate resources to be successful. Your job, as a student of higher education, is to adequately prepare for class, listen attentively during lectures, make use of the resources that have been provided to you, and reach out to me when needed. I encourage a respectful, open-dialogue between instructor and students, so please do not hesitate to consult me.

Course Format: This is a lecture format course. I will guide you through the course material as illustrated in your text. There may be times when supplemental material such as additional readings or videos are assigned to enhance your learning. You are required to read the text. Your textbook is available through Revel, which gives access to the e-textbook chosen by the department. In-class assignments, exams, and a paper will be how I determine your grade.

Grading

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
> 96	93-96	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	60-69	< 60

*"Rounding Up" and makeups are at instructor's discretion.

**Please, do not ask for extra credit.

Participation = 15%

Paper = 35%

Exams = 50%

Assignment Details

In Class Participation/Assignments (15%):

Throughout the semester there will be opportunities that facilitate discussion and allow application of course material. Assignments could include, but are not limited to, in-class activities/participation, pop-quizzes, or small homework assignments. The average of participation assignments will make up 10% of your final grade.

Late and Make-Up Policy: You cannot make-up a participation assignment or turn it in late.

Paper (35%):

The paper assignment is intended for you to think critically about topics in the course differently than you would when studying for exams. Therefore, you have quite a bit of freedom in the topic of your paper. I will provide some general prompts for you to choose from to help gauge your topics. All papers are held to the same general standards and are graded on the same rubric. Use the prompts and rubric to determine what topic you would like to submit for approval. Papers are expected to not exceed 10 pages (excluding title page and reference list), follow APA guidelines, and include research to support your position and thoughts. Students are welcome to utilize office hours and email communication with the instructor to discuss their papers. Early papers are also accepted. You are required to submit your topics to me for approval via email no later than October 6, 2019. I will respond within two business days either approving your topic or asking you to meet with me to discuss it further and/or brainstorm alternatives. Final papers are due on **November 18, 2019**. You must turn in both a hardcopy and an electronic version. Hardcopies are due in class (they must be given directly to me) on the due date. Electronic versions are due by **10:15am** on the same day via BlackBoard. You may not make ANY changes to the electronic version once you have turned in the hardcopy. This will be considered cheating. Both must be turned in by their respective times in order to not be considered late. This will account for 35% of your final grade.

Late and Make-Up Policy: Papers will be deducted 5 points for each calendar day that the approval submission is late and 10 points for each calendar day that the final paper is late until there are no more points to deduct.

Exams (50%):

There are four exams given across the semester. Three exams covering 1/3 of exam material are given during class days during the semester. Material will largely come from lecture; however, you are still required to read the text as a part of your preparation for exams. These 3 exams are not cumulative. The fourth exam is a cumulative final given on the official final exam day for the course. I will drop the lowest of the four exams. The average of your top 3 exam grades will make up 50% of your final grade.

Late and Make-Up Policy: Do not arrive to class late for an exam. If you come to class after I have distributed the exam, I will deduct 5 points. If you miss an exam, you will receive a zero and it automatically becomes your drop grade. If a second test is missed, the student must contact the instructor within two calendar days of the missed test to request a make-up. The decision to make-up an exam will be at the instructor's sole discretion, decided on a case-by-case basis, and will likely require documentation. Please note that the makeup could be the same exam, a different exam format and questions, or a different assignment all together. Regardless, it will of course cover the material of the missed exam. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY!**

Course and Institution Policies

Respect Policy:

I encourage everyone to share thoughts and ask questions throughout the class and express your disagreement with me during class discussions. However, as you make comments and ask questions, please be mindful of other's potential situations and respectful of their beliefs/values/choices. Discriminatory or hateful comments will not be tolerated. Not complying with this policy may result in dismissal from the classroom or being dropped from the course.

Email:

Email is the best way to get in contact with me. Official Communications via GMU Email: 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

email account and are required to activate that account and check it regularly. Please be patient as you await a response. I'll respond within 2 business days. Make sure to include a subject line in your email mentioning your course/section (e.g., PSYC 200 – 01) and sign your name. Please be professional in your emails. Emails that are written in "text-speak" will receive a response asking to resend the email in a professional format.

Cancelation Policy:

It can be assumed that class will always be in session unless the university has closed that class is in session. If the instructor has cancelled class when the university is open, an email will be sent from the instructor stating such and will possibly include instructions/assignments that compensate for the missed class time.

Technology and Disruption Policy:

Students are welcome to use computers/tablets to take notes during class. I expect to not see phones during class or hear sounds from student electronics. While mistakes do happen, chronic or intentional behaviors that are disruptive may result in a participation grade penalty, dismissal from the classroom, or further action as deemed appropriate. Recording of classroom lectures is not allowed without explicit permission by the instructor.

LMS Policy and Grading:

The Learning Management System (LMS) used at this institution is BlackBoard. It is expected that you check the LMS regularly for possible announcements, the most up-to-date documents, and to see your grades on individual assignments. The instructor will make an effort to post individual grades. However, note that the LMS gradebook may not always be completely accurate in its weighted or final grade calculation throughout the semester. Students are welcome to calculate their weighted grades on their own or contact the instructor if they are uncertain of its accuracy. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if they notice an error in the LMS gradebook.

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. It is every student's responsibility to familiarize himself or herself with the Honor Code. The Honor Code is available at: <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee. Students are encouraged to study together as much as possible throughout the course, however, no assistance, sharing of information, or discussion of exam items or answers between students may take place. For all work, the name that appears on the paper must be the author. Violations of the Honor Code will not be tolerated in this course and will be immediately reported according to GMU procedures. The instructor reserves the right to use software to determine the extent to which the work is that of the students. The instructor for this course reserves the right to enter a failing grade to any student found guilty of an honor code violation. Additionally, students may not reproduce (including uploading to the Internet) any portion of the exam. Students who attempt to photograph or in any way capture information about the exam or other graded materials for others' use will be reported for an honor violation.

Students with Disabilities:

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students by upholding the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. If you are seeking accommodations for this class, please first visit <http://ds.gmu.edu/> for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Then please discuss your approved accommodations with me. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu | Phone: (703) 993-2474"

University Counseling Services:

Life is stressful and we all need a little support sometimes. Students are encouraged to contact Counseling & Psychological Services (3129 Student Union Building I, <http://caps.gmu.edu/>) at 993-2380 for assistance with any kind of psychological/life problem or crisis.

***By being enrolled in this class, you understand that you are agreeing to adhere to the policies and actions required of you by both me and the institution. You are agreeing to the content and regulations of the most recent student/institution handbook and acknowledging that this syllabus serves as a contract between you and the instructor. As such, you are also agreeing to its content and policies.*

Course Calendar

The following is tentatively how we will be covering material. If material in addition to reading the chapter is assigned, it will be announced and posted to BlackBoard. Please note that the schedule and syllabus are subject to change. Changes that results in my editing of the syllabus will be announced.

Class Dates 8/26 – 9/30:	
Chapter 1: Examples and Definitions of Abnormal Behavior Chapter 3: Treatments of Psychological Disorders Chapter 2: Causes of Abnormal Behavior Chapter 4: Classification and Assessment of Abnormal Behavior Chapter 5: Mood Disorders and Suicide Chapter 6: Anxiety and OCD	<u>Due Dates:</u> N/A
<i>Exam 1 on Monday 9/30/19 during class</i>	
Class Dates 9/30 – 10/28:	
Chapter 7: Acute PTS Disorders, Dissociative Disorders, and Somatic Symptom Disorders Chapter 9: Personality Disorders Chapter 10: Feeding and Eating Disorders Chapter 11: Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders	<u>Due Dates:</u> Paper Topic Approval due 10/6 (see assignment)
<i>Exam 2 on Monday 10/28 during class</i>	
Class Dates 10/30 – 12/5:	
Chapter 12: Sexual Dysfunctions, Paraphilic Disorders, and Gender Dysphoria Chapter 13: Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders and Other Psychotic Disorders Chapter 15: ID and ASD Chapter 16: Psychological Disorders in Childhood Chapter 17: Adjustment Disorders and Lifecycle Transitions	<u>Due Dates:</u> Final Papers due 11/17 (see assignment)
<i>Exam 3 on Monday 12/2 during class</i>	
<i>Cumulative Final Exam on 12/16/19 7:30 – 10:15am</i>	

**Note that we will not be coving chapters 8, 14, & 18 in class. While you are not responsible for that material when taking exams, I encourage students to read them, as they may also be helpful for the paper assignment.*

Other Important Dates:

9/2 - University Closed for Labor Day
9/3 – End of Add Drop
9/9 – Last Day to Drop with 100% tuition refund
9/17 – Final Day to Drop Class
10/15 – We meet on this day (a Tuesday) instead of Monday
10/14 due to Fall Break
11/27/19 – University Closed for Thanksgiving Break