

Psychology 325-002: Abnormal Psychology
Fall 2019

Instructor: Stefanie Gonçalves
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Class Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00-4:15 PM
Class Location: Exploratory Hall L111

Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:45-2:45pm or by appointment in David King Hall, Room 1014A.
Please email me ahead of time (if possible) when you plan to attend office hours.

Required Text:

Kring, Ann M. and Sheri L. Johnson. *Abnormal Psychology: The Science and Treatment of Psychological Disorders*. 14th ed. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley, 2017.
ISBN: 978-1-119-39523-2

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

<i>Learning Objective</i>	<i>Assignment(s)</i>	<i>Assessment(s)</i>
Identify and recall historical foundations, methods of assessment, and treatment of mental illness, with an emphasis on the biopsychosocial perspective	Read assigned chapters Review online PowerPoint lectures	Online quizzes Exams
Classify behavior as “abnormal” based on the DSM-5 conceptualization	Read assigned chapters Review online PowerPoint lectures	Online quizzes Exams Thought paper describing and critiquing representation of mental illness in a film
Synthesize acquired knowledge about mental illness and apply concepts learned in class to outside literature/current events	Read assigned chapters Review online PowerPoint lectures Locate one current events, news articles, or peer-review articles	Thought paper incorporating information from class to explain the findings/event, provide an alternative explanation, or propose a related research question

Course Assignments

1. Online Quizzes:

There will be 10 short online Blackboard quizzes, worth 5 points each. The lowest two scores will be dropped. Quizzes will be released at least one day prior to the due date and you will have anywhere from 5-10 minutes to complete the quiz. Quizzes will cover material previously lectured. It is recommended that students attend every class on time, read the textbook, and regularly review the material.

2. Thought Papers:

You are required to write two thought papers over the course of the semester. The first must be submitted by 11:59pm on Wednesday, October 9th and the second must be submitted by 11:59pm on Wednesday, November 13th. 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 a real-life application, and to facilitate class participation.

The first paper will consist of you locating a recent event or news article and incorporating it into a two-page discussion of some topic previously covered in class. The intent is for you to synthesize some of the material covered in the course with real-life application and to deepen your understanding of the concepts. Your thought paper should not merely summarize the article or event but apply concepts we have discussed in class. You may use learned concepts to provide an explanation for the event or to present an alternative explanation. Your thought paper may also involve posing an interesting research question or proposing a new study design based on your reading.

The second paper will consist of you reading a book or watching a movie with a depiction of mental illness and writing a two-page paper on it. Again, your thought paper should not merely summarize the plot of the book or movie, rather it should be a critical analysis of how the mental illness was portrayed. Be sure to include a discussion of the symptoms presented and how the symptoms do or do not coincide with DSM diagnostic criteria for that illness. Furthermore, consider whether the movie or book provided a well-rounded portrayal of the mental illness.

Papers will be graded for completion and on their effectiveness of incorporating class material, clarity of thought, organization, grammar, and spelling. Writing is an essential skill, and poor-quality papers that have not been proofread or structured effectively will receive poor grades. Papers should not exceed 3 pages (double-spaced; 12-point Times New Roman font; 1-inch margins). For every day the paper is late, the grade will be reduced by 5 points.

3. Exams:

There will be 3 multiple-choice exams (2 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 dropped exam 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 2 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:

1. Online Quizzes (best 8 out of 10) **40 points** (5 points each)
 2. Thought Papers (2) **60 points** (30 points each)
 3. Exams (best 2 out of 3) **200 points** (100 points each)
- 300 points total**

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
A	93-100%	C+	77-79%
A-	90-92%	C	73-76%
B+	87-89%	C-	70-72%
B	83-86%	D	65-69%
B-	80-82%	F	Below 64%

Course Schedule

Please note, 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 8/26 and 8/28	Introduction Historical Overview	C. 1
Week 2 9/2 and 9/4	No class on 9/2 (Labor Day) Theories and Treatment	C. 2 Online quiz due 9/2
Week 3 9/9 and 9/11	Theories and Treatment (cont.) Diagnosis and Assessment	C. 3
Week 4 9/16 and 9/18	Diagnosis and Assessment (cont.) Research Methods	C. 4 Online quiz due 9/16
Week 5 9/23 and 9/25	Mood Disorders	C. 5 Online quiz due 9/23
Week 6 9/30 and 10/2	Anxiety Disorders	C. 6 Online quiz due 9/30
Week 7 10/7 and 10/9	Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders Stress and Trauma-Related Disorders	C. 7 Thought Paper #1 due 10/9 Online quiz due 10/7

Week 8 10/15 and 10/16	EXAM 1 on 10/15 No class on 10/14. Instead, class is on 10/15. Dissociative Disorders and Somatic Symptom-Related Disorders	C. 8
Week 9 10/21 and 10/23	Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders	C. 9 Online quiz due 10/21
Week 10 10/28 and 10/30	Substance Use Disorders	C. 10 Online quiz due 10/28
Week 11 11/4 and 11/6	Eating Disorders	C. 11 Online quiz due 11/4
Week 12 11/11 and 11/13	Childhood Disorders	C. 13 Thought Paper due by 11/13 Online quiz due 11/11
Week 13 11/18 and 11/20	Personality Disorders EXAM 2 on 11/20	C. 12
Week 14 11/25 and 11/27	Sexual Disorders No class on 11/17 (Thanksgiving Break)	C. 15
Week 15 12/2 and 12/4	Late Life and Neurocognitive Disorders	C. 14 Online quiz due 12/2
Week 16 12/9 and 12/11	NO CLASS – READING DAYS	
Week 17 12/16	FINAL EXAM 1:30-4:15pm	

Other Policies

Online Materials: Grades, course materials, and other information will be available on Blackboard, including a copy of this syllabus, exam dates, and the PowerPoint slides used in class. While the slides will always be provided online, students who will do well in the course will attend every class and will not rely on reviewing the slides online exclusively.

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

Cancelled Class: If George Mason declares a snow/weather-related school cancellation, I will notify you in addition to the GMU issued announcement regarding class cancellation.

Respect for Classmates: 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, and I encourage everyone to share thoughts and ask questions throughout the class. As you make comments and ask questions, however, please keep in mind that someone in the room may have experienced the issue we are talking about. Be sensitive and do not make sarcastic or disparaging comments about mental illness.

Electronics: The use of cell phones/text messaging is unacceptable during class time. If there is an emergency requiring you to take a call, you should notify me prior to class and arrange to sit near the door.

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. Appeals for grades must be made within 1-week of the returned grade. Please provide a well-thought reason for challenging your grade. I also recognize that I make mistakes or misinterpret things, so please bring it to my attention if I made a mistake (e.g., inputting a grade on Blackboard incorrectly)!

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.

Classroom Needs/Disabilities: 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. 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.

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: September 9th.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a "Responsible Employee," and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason's Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1412. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason's confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (703-993-2380) or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) (703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from Mason's Title IX Coordinator by calling 207-993-8730 or emailing cde@gmu.edu.