



Department of Psychology, Counseling, and Special Education

PSY 316 Abnormal Psychology

Fall 2015

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Conoyer

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Office Hours: Mondays 2:00 – 4:00 pm,

Wednesday 2:00 – 5:00 pm, and by appointment

Meeting Day: MWF, 1:00 – 1:50 pm

Class Location: Henderson Rm 206

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

Kring, A. M., Davison, G.C., Neale, J.M., & Johnson, S.L. (2013). *Abnormal Psychology DSM-5 Update*, 12th Edition, New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Course Description

This course is designed as an introductory-level course in abnormal psychology. Emphasis is placed first on a study of the fundamental principles of understanding and appreciating mental disorder. Then a study of the types of disorders including incidence, causes, symptoms, therapy, and prognosis is made.

Course Objectives

The following are the standard course objectives: The student is expected to be able to 1) Define Normal/Abnormal behavior and become familiar with the history of treatment of disorders. 2) Compare and contrast the major theoretical perspectives and etiology of abnormal behaviors. 3) Become familiar with selected assessment techniques used in the diagnosis and major intervention techniques used in the treatment of psychological disorders (cognitive disorders; stress-related illness; anxiety, affective, psychotic, and personality disorders; substance abuse; disorders of childhood; violence and abuse). 4) Become familiar with the DSM-V classification system.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Requirements & Grading: Students are expected to complete all readings and attend each class prepared to ask questions and/or contribute to class discussions. Course grades will be determined by performance in the following areas:

1. **Exams** – Exams will constitute a portion of the grade. There will be four exams, three regular exams and one cumulative final, worth 100 points each. Exams will vary in terms of format, but are likely to include both multiple-choice and short answer questions.
Total: 400 points
2. **Group Paper** - Students will be placed in groups. Each group will pick a movie that highlights one of the mental health disorders covered in class. The instructor can provide movie options if necessary. Each group will watch their movie, meet as a group to discuss a potential diagnosis for the character named, basing this diagnosis on DSM- 5 criteria. Each individual will be required to write a paper including a short synopsis about the movie but more specifically about the character with the disorder.

Each group will need to assess how completely the diagnosis they chose applies to the character; what aspects did Hollywood get right (or wrong) about the way the disorder was portrayed; and what were some specific behaviors, shown in specific scenes that illustrate some of the hallmarks of that diagnosis. Students should consider any legal/ethical boundaries that were upheld or crossed. **The group is to discuss these considerations, but each group member is required to complete a paper.**

Treatment for this type of disorder needs to be researched and discussed in your paper. Students will use at least 1 peer-reviewed journal article to support treatment modalities. Historical and present day information must be provided concerning the treatment of this illness including the impact on the individual, their families, society and are there any cultural issues significant to this diagnosis

There will be an evaluation form given to each member of a group to assess the work/research contributed by the other members of that group. This information will be utilized to assess an individual's grade.

Suggest length: 3-5 pages. *Instructor will provide a sample layout sheet and grading rubric to students for the paper

Total: 100 points

3. **Group Presentation** - Each group will present, to the class, the information listed above. Your group may be as creative as you want in sharing the information that you researched. Feel free to use powerpoint, video clips, and reputable media sources. Each presentation will be approximately 10-15 minutes.

Total: 50 points

4. **Online Activities** – Due to the Hybrid nature of this course, during online class periods, students will be asked to complete short quizzes, discussions, or other activities online for participation points. There will be three topics discussed online (see course schedule). Each online activity will be worth 25 points.

Total: 75 points

5. **Research participation** - A goal of this class is to help you familiarize yourself with research methods. One manner to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at TAMUC, your understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. All students in this class will be required to participate in the psychology department's participant pool or complete alternative assignments (see me for more information on alternative assignments).

Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if students complete their first 4 experiment credits without any “no-shows” you will receive 2 free punctual participant credits. In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment system (SONA) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive ½ **free experiment credit**. You are only allowed to complete **2 experiment credits with online studies**, the remaining experiment credits will need to be obtained by participating in laboratory studies.

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full grade. In effect, if you have an ‘A’ in the class but fail to complete your research participation (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both) your final grade in the class will be a ‘B.’

Please attempt to complete all hours by Friday, December 4th.

GRADING

Final grades will be calculated based on the total number of points obtained for the assignments.

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points Possible</i>
Exams (4 worth 400 pts. each)	400
Group Paper	100
Group Presentation	50
Online Activities	75
+ Research Participation	
<hr/> <i>Total Points Possible</i>	<hr/> 625

Final grades will be assigned using the following scale:

Grades	A	=	90% and above
	B	=	80-89%
	C	=	70-79%
	D	=	60-69%
	F	=	< 60%

Late Work: Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless you have provided adequate documentation allowing your absence to be excused. Also, students WILL NOT be allowed to make up exams unless the absence is considered excused. If students have an unexcused absence on an exam day they will receive a grade of 0 on that exam. In the event your absence is excused, the missing assignment or exam must be completed within 1 week of the original due date.

Guidelines for Written Work

Written Assignments should be typed and double-spaced, using APA style when citing sources within text as well as in preparing the reference list. Refer to the publication manual for specific guidelines

American Psychological Association. (2009). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.)
Washington, D.C.: Author

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

This is course is a Hybrid Format, therefore there will be multiple class periods where we will not meet face to face but will complete lectures or activities online. Please see the course schedule for dates.

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course.

- Internet access/connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)
- Word Processor (i.e. MS Word or Word Perfect)
- Additionally, the following hardware and software are necessary to use eCollege:

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

It is strongly recommended that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the ‘myCourses’ tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services .

eCollege Access and Log in Information: This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu>. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES

Course Specific Procedures

Attendance, Tardiness, & Leaving Class Early

Students are expected to attend all classes unless they have excused absences as described in the Student's Handbook (Policies and Procedures, Academics). **Appropriate documentation must be provided in order for the absence to be excused.** Students that have **more than 3 unexcused absences** will have their **final grade reduced by one full letter grade** (If you have 4 unexcused absences and you have a final grade of A your grade will be reduced to a B). Students that have 3 additional unexcused absences (total of 7) **will have their final grades reduced by another letter grade** (If final grade was previously reduced to a B it will now be reduced to a C). Students that have **10 or more unexcused absences will automatically receive a grade of F in the course.** In addition, students that are **10 or more minutes late for class will be considered absent.**

Professional Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves as mature and responsible adults while enrolled in this course. Be cognizant that side conversations in class can be distracting to the instructor and your classmates. Please show respect for others when they speak. Behavior meant to demean or belittle a class member will not be tolerated. Also, student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at TAMUC. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor will seek the assistance from the proper authorities (e.g. Chair of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education, Dean's Office). Finally, please turn off all phones or put them on silent. **Laptops are permitted in class but should be used to enhance learning.** Students should not use them for checking email or posting messages on Facebook, Twitter, or other social networks (the same with cell phones). If students are found to be using laptops or cell phones for purposes not related to class the instructor will ask the student to refrain from using their laptops/cell phones during class.

Leo Mail and eCollege

All Students should activate and regularly check their Leo Mail (e-mail account) and eCollege accounts associated with this class. All assignments will be turned in on eCollege (when applicable) unless otherwise instructed to do something differently by the instructor of this course. All class communication will be done through Leo Mail/eCollege. **I WILL NOT** send communication about the class to personal email accounts. When emailing please put the Course Number in the Subject Line of the Email, for example **PSY 300: Question about Assignment.** All emails will be returned in 24-48 hours unless I notify you otherwise.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to conform to the Texas A&M University-Commerce's Code of Student Conduct Procedures as it relates to academic integrity. This states in part that all instances of cheating, fabrication and plagiarism are prohibited and will be reported. Any student who assists in any form of dishonesty is equally as guilty as the student who accepts such assistance. Any work submitted to me with your name alone on it should represent your work alone. Even in the event you are assigned group projects each student is still expected to complete their own part of the assignment. To the extent that others contribute ideas, suggestions, they must be directly credited by name (and fully cited as appropriate in APA format). Disciplinary action will be taken against any student found in violation of the Code, which may include failure of the given assignment, failure in the course, and possible expulsion from the University. Academic Dishonesty will also be reported to the department chair and university administration.

University Procedures

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. A&M-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Non-smoking Policy

Procedure 34.05.99.R1 now prohibits the use of vapor/electronic cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, snuff and chewing tobacco inside and adjacent to any building owned, leased, or operated by A&M – Commerce

Fall 2015 Course Schedule PSY 316 (Subject to Change)

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment
1	8/31/15	Welcome	
	9/2/15	Ch 1 Historical Overview of Mental Illness	
	9/4/15	Ch 1 Continued	
2	9/7/15	No Class Labor Day	
	9/9/15	Ch 2 Current Paradigms in Psychology	
	9/11/15	Ch 2 Continued	
3	9/14/15	Ch 3 Diagnosis & Assessment	
	9/16/15	Ch 3 Continued	
	9/18/15	Ch 4 Research Methodologies – Online Class	
4	9/21/15	Ch 4 Continued	
	9/23/15	Catch Up/Review In Class	
	9/25/15	Exam 1	
5	9/28/15	Ch 5 Mood Disorders	
	9/30/15	Ch 5 continued	
	10/2/15	Ch 5 continued	
6	10/5/15	Ch 6 Anxiety Disorders	Online Activities due 10/9/15
	10/7/15	Ch 6 - Online Class	
	10/9/15	Ch 6 - Online Class	
7	10/12/15	Ch 7 Obsessive-Compulsive & Trauma Related Disorders	Online Activities due 10/16/15
	10/14/15	Ch 7 Continued	
	10/16/15	Ch 7 Continued - Online Class	

8	10/19/15	Ch 13 Disorders of Childhood - Online Class	Online Activities due 10/23/15
	10/21/15	Ch 13 - Online Class	
	10/23/15	Ch 13 - Online Class	
9	10/26/15	Ch 8 Dissociative Disorders	
	10/28/15	Ch 8 continued	
	10/30/15	Ch 8 continued	
10	11/2/15	Catch Up/Review In Class	
	11/4/15	Exam 2	
	11/6/15	No Class - Group Paper Work Day	
11	11/9/15	Ch 9 Schizophrenia	
	11/11/15	Ch 9 continued	
	11/13/15	Ch 9 continued	
12	11/16/15	Ch 10 Substance Use Disorders	Papers are Due On Ecollege Dropbox at 5:00 pm 11/20/15
	11/18/15	Ch 11 Eating Disorders	
	11/20/15	Ch 15 Personality Disorders	
13	11/23/15	Ch 15 continued	
	11/25 – 11/27	No Classes Thanksgiving Break	
14	11/30/15	Catch Up/Review In Class	
	12/2/15	Exam 3	
	12/4/15	No Class -Group Presentation Work Day	
15	12/7 – 12/11	Group Presentations	
	12/18/15	Comprehensive Final Exam (10:30 - 12:30)	