

Abnormal Psychology

PSYC 312D 02 (1 unit/4.0 credit hours)

TTh 1:00PM-2:15PM

FLAGLER 317

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Office Location: FLAGLER 306
Office Hours: M 1:30-3:30PM & T 2:30-4:30PM or by appointment

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TA Office Hour: Time TBD

Course Description & Objectives: This course provides an overview of the field of abnormal psychology. The major psychological disorders, including mood disorders, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia spectrum disorders, somatic symptom and dissociative disorders, personality disorders, eating disorders, substance-related disorders, and sexual and gender identity disorders, are explored from biological, psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, and sociocultural perspectives. The investigation of each disorder covers symptoms, contributing factors, and treatment options. We will also consider how cultural beliefs about psychological disorders may impact patients, treatment providers, and the general public and explore our own beliefs about mental health. PSYC 201 (Theories of Personality) is a pre-requisite for this course. This course fulfills the Human Diversity general education requirement.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Analyze examples of human behavior to determine whether they constitute abnormal behavior and/or a psychological disorder
- Demonstrate knowledge of a range of psychological disorders likely to be seen in clinical practice, including their symptoms, etiology, and treatment
- Evaluate the portrayal of psychological disorders in popular culture and appreciate how such portrayals shape cultural beliefs about mental health
- Communicate about psychological disorders from the perspective of a scientist-practitioner, recognizing and reducing biases and/or misconceptions and utilizing evidence to support claims

Required Text:

Beidel, D. C., Bulik, C. M., & Stanley, M. A. (2014). *Abnormal psychology* (3rd ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Course Requirements:

Chapter Quizzes (10 points each; 100 points total): You will complete 11 quizzes covering the assigned reading over the course of the semester. Each quiz will consist of 10 multiple choice questions. There will also be an ungraded and optional short answer question where you can share any questions you have with me. Quizzes must be completed in Blackboard by 9:00AM on the date listed on the syllabus. This will allow me to make modifications to lectures and classroom activities so that we can maximize our time in class. Your highest 10 quizzes will be counted toward your final grade.

Classroom Participation (100 points): All class meetings will include activities and/or discussion designed to deepen understanding of the course material. Attendance at course meetings and

participation in these activities contributes to final grades. There are 27 dates with scheduled activities (all except the date of the midterm exam) or discussions. To earn all 100 participation points, you must attend class and fully participate in the day's activities on 25 of 27 days. This policy allows for two absences before your participation grade will be affected. Participation will be graded on a 0-4 scale anchored as follows:

0	2	4
Absent	Present	Present, actively engaged (e.g., completed worksheets/response questions, engaged in small group discussion)

At minimum, preparation for activities involves completion of the week's assigned reading. Preparation may also include other brief assignments (e.g., worksheets, short supplemental readings) to be completed outside of class meetings. These will be distributed in class and posted on Blackboard.

Papers (100 points each; 200 points total): You will complete two papers in the course. Each should be 3-4 pages in length and should be written using 1-inch margins, 12-point Times New Roman font, and double-spaced text. References should be formatted in APA Style. Hard copies of papers will be collected at the start of class on the due date. Detailed assignment guidelines and rubrics will be provided well in advance of each due date.

1. Is it Abnormal Behavior?: You will select a behavior or set of behaviors that others might consider to be abnormal and prepare a paper arguing for or against labeling the behavior as abnormal, using course content to support your position.

2. Abnormal Psychology at the Movies: You will select a film portraying a psychological disorder and prepare a paper describing the accuracy of the film's portrayal and the implications for the public's perception of psychological disorders.

Research Roundtables (50 points each; 100 points total): For this assignment, you will select a peer reviewed journal article about an assigned topic and complete an accompanying worksheet. In addition to turning in your article and worksheet, you should be prepared to engage in small group discussion about your article on the due date.

Midterm and Final Exam (100 points each; 200 points total): You will complete two exams in the course. The midterm exam will cover all material from your text, lectures, and classroom activities and discussions in the first half of the course. The final exam will emphasize material from the second half of the course and will also include a cumulative component. Both exams will include multiple choice and short answer questions. A study guide will be provided prior to each exam and we will leave time for in-class review.

Extra Credit: You may earn up to 20 extra credit points in the course (to be added to the total number of points earned in the course, not percentage points). The extra credit option for this course appears below.

Abnormal Psychology in the News (5 points for initial posts; 2 points for responses):

Without fail, you will see news stories that mention abnormal psychology in various contexts this semester. Visit Blackboard and post the link to a news story in any format (i.e., written, audio, or visual) along with a minimum 250-word commentary linking the piece to course content. In your commentary, you might address things like whether the story perpetuates or dispels stereotypes about mental illness, whether the story provides useful information for those diagnosed with a psychological disorder, and whether the information in the story is consistent with what you

know to be true based on evidence presented in the course. Be sure to end with a question to stimulate discussion with your peers. You may also write 250-word responses to other students' posts in order to earn extra credit points. Discussion posts can (and should) be posted throughout the semester. Extra credit posts must be complete by 11:59PM on the last day of class.

Grading Scheme: Final grades will be calculated as outlined below. Grades will not be curved, and grades will be rounded to the nearest full point (e.g., 89.5 will be rounded up to 90, 89.4 will be rounded down to 89).

Course Requirement	Points
Weekly Quizzes	_____ out of 100
Class Participation	_____ out of 100
Is it Abnormal Behavior? Paper	_____ out of 100
Abnormal Psychology at the Movies Paper	_____ out of 100
Research Roundtable 1	_____ out of 50
Research Roundtable 2	_____ out of 50
Midterm Exam	_____ out of 100
Final Exam	_____ out of 100
Extra Credit	_____ maximum of 20
Final Grade	_____/700 = _____ x 100 = _____

A = 93-100%	B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D+ = 67-69%	
A- = 90-92%	B = 83-86%	C = 73-76%	D = 63-66%	F = 59% and below
	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%	D- = 60-62%	

Make-up Policy: Make up exams will be allowed only in rare circumstances with a legitimate and documented excuse (e.g., doctor's note indicating illness, traffic report for accident, death of family member, school-sanctioned event). If you know about a conflict in advance, you must make arrangements with me as soon as possible but no later than one week prior to the exam to make alternate arrangements. Due dates for assignments are provided well in advance and there is ample opportunity to complete them prior to the due date, so no extensions will be given. Classroom participation activities and weekly quizzes cannot be made up.

Late Work Policy: Please do your absolute best to submit all work on time. All written assignments (i.e., papers, roundtables) are due in hard copy form at the start of class on the due date. Work submitted after this time will incur a loss of 10% of the possible points (i.e., the equivalent of one letter grade) per 24-hours that the assignment is late. For example, a paper submitted up to 24 hours after the deadline will result in 10% off, and a paper submitted between 24 and 48 hours late will result in 20% off.

Accommodations: If you anticipate barriers related to the format or requirements of a course, you should meet with the course instructor to discuss ways to ensure full participation. If disability-related accommodations are necessary, you should register with the Academic Success Center (386-822-7127; stetson.edu/asc) and notify the course instructor of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. You, the course instructor and the Academic Success Center will plan how best to coordinate accommodations.

Technology Use Policy: Cell phones, tablets, and laptops can be both a help and a distraction in the classroom. Please ensure that all cell phones are placed on silent mode and removed from your desk top at the start of class. You may use a tablet and/or laptop for taking notes in class or for searching for

information during a class activity (if needed). Please refrain from checking e-mail or visiting other websites during class time as it will interfere with your own learning and may distract those around you. If I observe you using a tablet or laptop for purposes other than participating in class, you will lose participation points for the class meeting.

Academic Integrity: Students are reminded that Stetson University has an Honor System, a central feature of which is the Honor Pledge:

“As a member of Stetson University, I agree to uphold the highest standards of integrity in my academic work. I promise that I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid of any kind on my tests, papers, and assignments. When using the ideas, thoughts, or words of another in my work, I will always provide clear acknowledgement of the individuals and sources on which I am relying. I will avoid using fraudulent, falsified, or fabricated evidence and/or material. I will refrain from resubmitting without authorization work for one class that was obtained from work previously submitted for academic credit in another class. I will not destroy, steal, or make inaccessible any academic resource material. By my actions and my example, I will strive to promote the ideals of honesty, responsibility, trust, fairness, and respect that are at the heart of Stetson's Honor System.”

Students are encouraged to review the Honor System in detail (<http://www.stetson.edu/other/honor-system/>). The Honor System applies to all students, even if they have not signed the pledge. Violations of the Honor System will be referred to the Honor Council and may result in penalties up to and including a failing grade in the course.

A Note about General Education: In order to ensure that Stetson University is meeting its goals in providing an excellent General Education, the College has established specific General Education Learning Outcomes for all courses meeting a particular area requirement in the General Education Curriculum. To monitor how well students are meeting those outcomes, instructors of those courses regularly submit work to the committees assessing each outcome. While the outcomes of these assessments are primarily for our internal use in monitoring and enhancing our curriculum, we may occasionally report the results of these assessments in published research or academic conferences. All such reports will include aggregate (not individual) data and will not include information that could identify the student or the instructor. *While the use of this information within the institution is part of normal educational practice, you may choose not to allow data derived from your own work to be used for published reports or presentations by signing an “opt out” form in the Registrar’s Office.*

Helpful Hints:

- I encourage you to utilize my office hours. You are welcome to stop by or e-mail ahead to request an appointment. If you cannot make my scheduled office hours, I am happy to arrange another time to meet.
- I strongly encourage you to attend all class meetings. Class time will be used to discuss key points, present new material not in your text, and complete activities designed to enhance your learning. Anything that appears in your text or is discussed in class is “fair game” for exams.
- E-mail is a great way to contact me. Unless otherwise indicated in class, I will respond to your e-mails within one business day. Please check your e-mail and Blackboard at least once per day in the event that I need to contact you.

- An outline for any lecture notes will be available via Blackboard. Study guides, assignment guidelines, and other handouts will be distributed in class and posted on Blackboard for reference.
- If you are experiencing difficulties with any aspect of the course (e.g., not performing as well as you'd like on tests, having trouble with writing assignments), I encourage you to contact me as early in the semester as possible so that we can work together to develop a solution.
- There are many wonderful resources at Stetson to support you in and out of the classroom (e.g., Academic Success, Writing Center, Career Development, Counseling Center). You are encouraged to take advantage of them as needed.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic(s)	Reading/Assignment Due
Thursday, Aug. 20 th	Course Overview & Introduction	
Tuesday, Aug. 25 th	Key Concepts & Overarching Themes in Abnormal Psychology	Chapter 1 Quiz Due by 9:00AM
Thursday, Aug. 27 th	Key Contributions in the History of Abnormal Psychology	
Tuesday, Sept. 1 st	Studying Psychopathology	Chapter 2 Quiz Due by 9AM
Thursday, Sept. 3 rd	Studying Psychopathology	
Tuesday, Sept. 8 th	Assessment & Diagnosis	Chapter 3 Quiz Due by 9AM
Thursday, Sept. 10 th	Assessment & Diagnosis	
Tuesday, Sept. 15 th	No Class - Values Day	
Thursday, Sept. 17 th	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 4 Quiz Due by 9AM
Tuesday, Sept. 22 nd	Obsessive-Compulsive & Related Disorders	Is It Abnormal Behavior? Paper Due
Thursday, Sept. 24 th	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder	
Tuesday, Sept. 29 th	Somatic Symptom, Factitious, & Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 5 Quiz Due by 9AM
Thursday, Oct. 1 st	Research Roundtable 1	Research Roundtable Worksheet 1
Tuesday, Oct. 6 th	Midterm Exam	
Thursday, Oct. 8 th	No Class - Fall Break	
Tuesday, Oct. 13 th	Bipolar Disorders	Chapter 6 Quiz Due by 9AM
Thursday, Oct. 15 th	Depressive Disorders	
Tuesday Oct. 20 th	Feeding & Eating Disorders	Chapter 7 Quiz Due by 9AM
Thursday, Oct. 22 nd	Feeding & Eating Disorders	
Tuesday, Oct. 27 th	Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders	Chapter 10 Quiz Due by 9AM
Thursday, Oct. 29 th	Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders	
Tuesday, Nov. 3 rd	Substance Use Disorders & Behavioral Addictions	Chapter 9 Quiz Due by 9AM
Thursday, Nov. 5 th	Substance Use Disorders & Behavioral Addictions	
Tuesday, Nov. 10 th	Sexual Dysfunctions	Chapter 8 Quiz Due by 9AM
Thursday, Nov. 12 th	Gender Dysphoria *No Class - Dr. Lindner at ABCT	Watch Bruce Jenner Interview & Make Discussion Post by 11:59PM
Tuesday, Nov. 17 th	Personality Disorders	Chapter 11 Quiz Due by 9AM
Thursday, Nov. 19 th	Personality Disorders	
Tuesday, Nov. 24 th	Personality Disorders	Abnormal Psychology at the Movies Paper Due
Thursday, Nov. 26 th	No Class - Thanksgiving Break	
Tuesday, Dec. 1 st	Research Roundtable 2	Research Roundtable Worksheet 2
Thursday, Dec. 3 rd	Final Exam Review Activity	Extra Credit Due by 11:59PM
Wednesday, Dec. 9 th	Final Exam: 1-3PM	

**This schedule is subject to revision at the instructor's discretion.
Changes to the schedule will be discussed in class and distributed to students via Blackboard.**