

PSYC 4311-Intro to Psychopathology Syllabus

Course Information:

PSYC 4311.001-Intro to Psychopathology
Spring 2026-Full Semester
In-Person, MWF 10:10-11:05 AM, COB 212

Instructor Information:

Ceselie Tobin, MS, LPC-S
Email- ctobin@uttyler.edu (best way to reach me)
On Campus Office- HPR 204

Office Hours (Zoom or In-Person): Wednesdays 9:00-10:00 AM

Course Description:

A review of psychopathology including clinical syndromes of deviance, etiology, and treatment tactics.

Learning Outcomes and Assessments:

Through the use of class lecture and discussion, readings, videos, quizzes, exams, and assignments; after taking this course you should be able to:

- Evaluate definitions of abnormal behavior and mental disorders
- Demonstrate knowledge of the historical trends in psychopathology
- Describe the signs and symptoms of specific mental disorders
- Describe theories regarding the causes of mental disorders
- Compare and contrast different disorders
- Identify which populations are more vulnerable to specific mental disorders
- Describe how culture impacts the expression of psychiatric conditions
- Describe treatment and prevention strategies for specific mental disorders
- Demonstrate an understanding of what it is like to live with a mental disorder

Textbook:

Jennings, Nolen-Hoeksema's Psychopathology (9th Edition)

ISBN- 978-1-265-31603-7

*You do NOT need the access code/online package, just the text.

Note: A student at UT-Tyler is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore. The same textbook may also be available from an independent retailer, including an online retailer.

Evaluation & Grading:

Assignments

	Points Possible
Exams (2)	400 Points
In-Class/Online Activities (6)	210 Points
Disorder Spotlights (2)	300 Points
Diagnosis Activity	60 Points
Attendance Points	30 Points

Total Points Possible **1000 Points**

Extra Credit Assignment (Optional) 50 Points

Grading Scale

- A: 900-1000 Points
- B: 800-899 Points
- C: 700-799 Points
- D: 600-699 Points
- F: 0-599 Points

Assignment Descriptions:

Exams

There will be two exams required in this course, each worth 200 points, a mid-term and a final. The exams will consist of multiple-choice, short-answer, and/or case study questions covering material presented in slides/lectures, assignments, and material from the textbook.

In-Class/Online Activities

There will be 6 graded in-class/online activities worth 35 points each. The activities will vary in format, but grading for these activities will be based on participation. In-class activities are dependent on attendance and cannot be made up if a student is absent.

Disorder Spotlights

There will be 2 Disorder Spotlights required throughout this course. The Disorder Spotlights will be brief essays, 2-3 pages in length, that focus on specific psychological disorders. Within the essay you will be required to review and discuss the disorder's symptomatology and approved treatment interventions. At least two cited, credible sources are required to help you with the information needed for the essay. The essay should be in APA format and include a list of references. Further instructions will be provided in Canvas.

Diagnosis Activity

For this assignment, you will be creating a brief presentation (in video or slide format) in which you will attempt to diagnose a character. Please select a fictional character of your choosing from any book, tv show, or movie. You will need to include reasoning to support your diagnosis, including observed symptoms and how the disorder is impacting the character's daily life. Provide a recommendation and explanation of which treatment would be best suited for this character. Diagnoses will be briefly presented to the class (5-minute presentation). Further instructions will be provided in Canvas.

Extra Credit (Optional)

There is one opportunity for extra credit during this course. If all the requirements are met for the extra credit assignment, then full points will be rewarded. If your submission for this assignment does not meet all the requirements, then no points will be rewarded. Points from this extra credit assignment will be added to your overall points for the class. The guidelines for the extra credit assignment will be posted on Canvas and discussed during class.

Course Policies:

Classroom Environment

It is essential that our course be a place where people feel comfortable expressing their thoughts without fear of harsh or judgmental responses. I expect all students to be respectful of the varied experiences and backgrounds of your classmates. You may expect the same level of respect from me. Disrespect or discrimination on any basis, including ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, class, religion, or value system, will not be tolerated.

In addition, there will be people in class who either have a mental disorder themselves or who have a friend or a family member with a mental health disorder. Mental health issues are very personal for many people - please keep this in mind as you make comments or pose questions.

IMPORTANT: The classroom is NOT a place to discuss one's own problems or to obtain help if you are going through an acute problem. I can, outside of class, help direct a student to services they might need, although the best and most appropriate resource is often the Student Counseling Center, 903-566-7254, located in the University Center, which is covered by your student services fees.

<http://www.uttyler.edu/counseling/services.html>

Attendance & Late Work

You will all start the class with 30 points for attendance in Canvas. You are allowed to miss 5 classes with no penalty. Once you surpass 5 classes, I will begin taking off 5 points per absence. Attendance will be recorded each class. Graded in-class activities will be dependent on attendance and participation. In-class activities cannot be made up. If you need to miss class or have an unexpected absence that causes you to miss a certain assignment due date, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Late work will be accepted for written assignments with the understanding that points will be deducted due to lateness (10% will be deducted each day the assignment is late). Exams cannot be taken late unless there are severe extenuating circumstances.

Utilizing AI

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misuse of AI tools that violates the guidelines specified for this course is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

Course Schedule:

Week	Topic/Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1- Jan. 12, 14, 16	Chapter 1- Looking at Abnormality Chapter 2-Theories & Treatment Chapter 3-Assessing & Diagnosing	None 😊 Welcome to Class!
Week 2- Jan. 19, 21, 23	Chapter 5-Anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive, Trauma, & Stressor-Related Disorders (pg. 106-132)	January 19- No Class/Holiday
Week 3- Jan. 26, 28, 30	Chapter 5-Anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive, Trauma, & Stressor-Related Disorders (pg. 132-157)	In Class Activity
Week 4- Feb. 2, 4, 6	Chapter 6-Somatic Symptom & Dissociative Disorders	Feb. 8- Disorder Spotlight #1 Due by 11:59 PM
Week 5- Feb. 9, 11, 13	Chapter 7-Mood Disorders & Suicide (pg. 184-212)	Feb. 13- No Class, Online Quiz Due by 11:59 PM
Week 6- Feb. 16, 18, 20	Chapter 7-Mood Disorders & Suicide (pg. 212-237)	None 😊
Week 7- Feb. 23, 25, 27	Review for Mid-Term Exam	Mon. Feb. 23- Review Activity Wed. Feb. 25- No Class- Study Day Fri. Feb. 27- Mid-Term Exam
Week 8- March 2, 4, 6	Chapter 8-Schizophrenia Spectrum & Other Psychotic Disorders	In Class Activity
Week 9- March 9, 11, 13	Spring Break	No Class- Enjoy your break!
Week 10- March 16, 18, 20	Chapter 9-Personality Disorders Chapter 10-Neurodevelopmental & Neurocognitive Disorders	In Class Activity March 22- Disorder Spotlight #2 Due by 11:59 PM
Week 11- March 23, 25, 27	Chapter 10-Neurodevelopmental & Neurocognitive Disorders	None 😊
Week 12- March 30, April 1, 3	Chapter 12-Eating Disorders Chapter 14-Substance Use Disorders	Diagnosis Activity Due March 31 by 11:59 PM
Week 13- April 6, 8, 10	Diagnosis Activity Presentations	Presentations Extra Credit Due April 12 by 11:59 PM
Week 14- April 13, 15, 17	Diagnosis Activity Presentations	Presentations
Week 15- April 20, 22, 24	Review for Final Exam	Mon. April 20- Review Activity Wed. April 22- No Class- Study Day Fri. April 24 – Final Exam

University Policies:

Withdrawing from Class

Students may withdraw (drop) from this course using the Withdrawal Portal. Withdrawing (dropping) this course can impact your Financial Aid, Scholarships, Veteran Benefits, Exemptions, Waivers, International Student Status, housing, and degree progress. Please speak with your instructors, consider your options, speak with your advisor, and visit the One-Stop Service Center (STE 230) or email enroll@uttyler.edu to get a complete review of your student account and the possible impacts to withdrawing. We want you to make an informed decision. UT Tyler faculty and staff are here for you and often can provide additional support options or assistance. Make sure to carefully read the implications for withdrawing from a course and the instructions on using the Withdrawal portal..

Texas law prohibits students from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career*. The six courses dropped includes those from other 2-year or 4-year Texas public colleges and universities. Consider the impact withdrawing from this class has on your academic progress and other areas, such as financial implications. We encourage you to consult your advisor(s) and Enrollment Services for additional guidance. **CAUTION #1:** Withdrawing before census day does not mean you get a full refund. Please see the Tuition and Fee Refund Schedule. **CAUTION #2:** All international students must check with the Office of International Programs before withdrawing. All international students are required to enroll full-time for fall and spring terms. **CAUTION #3:** All UT Tyler Athletes must check with the Athletic Academic Coordinator before withdrawing from a course. **CAUTION #4:** All veterans or military-affiliated students should consult with the Military and Veterans Success Center.

* Students who began college for the first time before 2007 are exempt from this law.

Final Exam Policy

Final examinations are administered as scheduled. If unusual circumstances require that special arrangements be made for an individual student or class, the Dean of the appropriate college, after consultation with the faculty member involved, may authorize an exception to the schedule. Faculty members must maintain student final examination papers for a minimum of three months following the examination date.

Incomplete Grade Policy

If a student, because of extenuating circumstances, is unable to complete all of the requirements for a course by the end of the semester, then the instructor may recommend an Incomplete (I) for the course. The "I" may be assigned in place of a grade *only when all of the following conditions are met:* (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all coursework or final exam due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor, and (c) the student presents these reasons before the time that the final grade roster is due. The semester credit hours for an Incomplete will not be used to calculate the grade point average.

The student and the instructor must submit an Incomplete Form detailing the work required and the time by which the work must be completed to their respective department chair or college dean for approval.

The time limit established must not exceed one year. Should the student fail to meet all of the work for the course within the time limit, then the instructor may assign zeros to the unfinished work, compute the course average for the student, and assign the appropriate grade. If a grade has yet to be assigned within one year, then the Incomplete will be changed to an F, or NC. If the course was initially taken under the CR/NC grading basis, this may adversely affect the student's academic standing.

Grade Appeal Policy

Disputes regarding grades must be initiated within sixty (60) days from the date of receiving the final course grade by filing a Grade Appeal Form with the instructor who assigned the grade. A grade appeal should be used when the student thinks the final course grade awarded does not reflect the grades earned on assessments or follow the grading scale as documented in the syllabus. The student should provide the rationale for the grade appeal and attach supporting document about the grades earned. The form should be sent via email to the faculty member who assigned the grade. The faculty member reviews the rationale and supporting documentation and completes the instruction section of the form. The instructor should return the form to the student, even if a grade change is made at this level. If the student is not satisfied with the decision, the student may appeal in writing to the Chairperson of the department from which the grade was issued. In situations where there is an allegation of capricious grading, discrimination, or unlawful actions, appeals may go beyond the Chairperson to the Dean or the Dean's designee of the college from which the grade was issued, with that decision being final. The Grade Appeal form is found in the [Registrar's Form Library](#).

NOTE: The Grade Appeal Form is different from the Application for Appeal form submitted to the Student Appeals Committee, which does not rule on grade disputes as described in this policy.

Disability/Accessibility Services

In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA), the University of Texas at Tyler offers accommodations to students with learning, physical, and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including a non-visible diagnosis such as a learning disorder, chronic illness, TBI, PTSD, ADHD, or a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment, you are encouraged to visit <https://hood.accessiblelearning.com/UTTyler/> and fill out the New Student application. The Student Accessibility and Resources (SAR) office will contact you when your application has been submitted and an appointment with the Assistant Director Student Accessibility and Resources/ADA Coordinator. For more information, including filling out an application for services, please visit the SAR webpage at <https://www.uttyler.edu/disability-services>, the SAR office located in the Robert Muntz Library, LIB 460, email saroffice@uttyler.edu, or call 903.566.7079."

Military Affiliated Students

UT Tyler honors the service and sacrifices of our military-affiliated students. If you are a student who is a veteran, on active duty, in the reserves or National Guard, or a military spouse or dependent, please stay in contact with your faculty member if any aspect of your present or prior service or family situation makes it difficult for you to fulfill the requirements of a course or creates disruption in your academic progress. It is important to make your faculty member aware of any complications as far in

advance as possible. Your faculty member is willing to work with you and, if needed, put you in contact with university staff who are trained to assist you. The Military and Veterans Success Center (MVSC) has campus resources for military-affiliated students. The MVSC can be reached at MVSC@uttyler.edu or via phone at 903.565.5972.

Students on an F-1 Visa

To remain in compliance with Federal Regulations requirements you must do the following:

- Traditional face-to-face classes: Attend classes on the regular meeting days/times.
- Hybrid Classes: Attend all face-to-face classes convened by the instructor according to the schedule set for your specific course.
- Online course: Only one online course can count toward your full-time enrollment. Students are expected to be fully engaged and meet all requirements for the online course.

Academic Honesty and Academic Misconduct

The UT Tyler community comes together to pledge that "Honor and integrity will not allow me to lie, cheat, or steal, nor to accept the actions of those who do." Therefore, we enforce the Student Conduct and Discipline policy in the Student Manual Of Operating Procedures (Section 8).

FERPA

UT Tyler follows the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) as noted in University Policy 5.2.3. The course instructor will follow all requirements to protect your confidential information.

Absence for Official University Events or Activities

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for University Events or Activities as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Religious Holidays

This course follows the practices related to Excused Absences for Religious Holy Days as noted in the Catalog.

Absence for Pregnant Students

This course follows the requirements of Texas Laws SB 412, SB 459, SB 597/HB 1361 to meet the needs of pregnant and parenting students. Part of the supports afforded pregnant students includes excused absences. Faculty who are informed by a student of needing this support should make a referral to the Parenting Student Liaison. NOTE: Students must work with the Parenting Student Liaison in order to receive these supports. Students should reach out to the Parenting Student Liaison at parents@uttyler.edu and also complete the Pregnant and Parenting Self-Reporting Form.

Campus Carry

We respect the right and privacy of students who are duly licensed to carry concealed weapons in this class. License holders are expected to behave responsibly and keep a handgun secure and concealed. More information is available at <http://www.uttyler.edu/about/campus-carry/index.php>.

CEP Mission

The mission of the CEP is to prepare competent and passionate professionals in the fields of education, psychology, and counseling; to advance knowledge and expertise; and to impact these fields locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

CEP Vision

The CEP will be a global leader in responding to needs in the fields of education, psychology, and counseling, with a focus on the East Texas region, by creating innovative academic and scholarly pathways and partnerships.