

PSYC 4311-Intro to Psychopathology Syllabus

Course Information:

PSYC 4311.001-Intro to Psychopathology

Fall 2026-Full Semester

Asynchronous Format

Instructor Information:

Chelsea Menshausen, MS

Email- cmenshausen@uttyler.edu

Office Hours (Zoom): TBD

Zoom Link to Office Hours: Information available on Canvas

Course Description:

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

Online Course: This course is 100% online. Your ability to function within the Canvas system will facilitate your success in this course. Online learning requires students to be very self-disciplined. Be sure you understand and are prepared to comply with all required class assignments and deadlines. For this course, refer to the syllabus for all assignments and due dates.

Student-Instructor Interaction: I check emails daily and, in most cases, can reply to students within 24 hours on weekdays. If possible, I will try to respond over the weekend, but I cannot guarantee that I will be able to get back to you before Monday morning. I also have virtual office hours TBD.

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

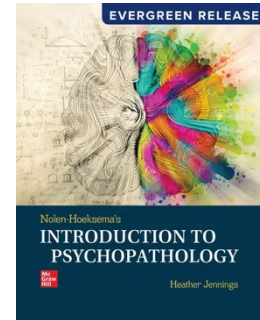
Textbook:

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: You do not have to buy your textbook from the university bookstore. You can also buy it from other stores.



Evaluation and Grading: Course evaluation is based on performance on quizzes, discussion board responses, an assignment, and exams.

Late Work: I understand that life events may interfere with class. I drop your lowest quiz grade and critical thinking response grade for that reason. I will accept late work up to 48 hours past the deadline, with a 10% reduction in the grade for each day that it is late. For example, if you submit an assignment 1 day late, the highest score you could earn is a 90%. Exceptions to the acceptance of late work include the Final Exam. I will not be accepting any late work on the final exam or the extra credit assignments as I have a deadline for entering in your final grades.

Critical Thinking Response (20 points)

The purpose of the critical thinking responses is to allow to apply the concepts learned in class to the real world. You should use your book to provide evidence to back up your responses. If you are citing a concept or theory, please include the page number or chapter that it is mentioned in your textbook.

For example, "In chapter 1, the textbook defines cognitions as thought processes like attention, interpretation of events, and beliefs that influence behavior and emotion." or "Becks cognitive therapy has become one of the most widely used therapies for many disorders." (page 18)

These responses will be located in Canvas (under the "Modules" tab, and then click on the critical response for that week (see schedule below). You can also access it under the "Assignments" tab. You may use your book and any notes you have. For the critical thinking responses, there are 6 available opportunities for responses, but your lowest grade will be dropped. Therefore, only 5 critical response scores will go towards your final grade. There is no word count required for this assignment. However, responses should be thorough enough to fully answer all parts of the question. (approximately .5 - 1 page in length).

Quizzes (25 points)

Quizzes are open note and will typically consist of multiple choice questions (may also include other formats such as short answer or matching) and will be similar to those that

will be on the exam. The purpose of the quizzes is to give you an idea of what the exam will look like and give you an opportunity to evaluate your mastery of the material. These quizzes will be located in Canvas (under the “Modules” tab, and then click on the quiz for that week (see schedule below). You may use your book and any notes you have. The quizzes will be automatically graded by Canvas right after you take them. For the quizzes, **you are allowed two attempts, and your highest score will be counted.** You are allowed one hour to complete each quiz. There are 6 available opportunities for quizzes, but your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Therefore, only 5 quiz scores will go towards your final grade.

Case Report Assignment (15 points)

The goal of this assignment is to critically evaluate and diagnose a character from a movie or TV show, applying the psychological principles that have been provided throughout this class. I hope this assignment develops your ability to integrate theoretical knowledge with practical case analysis skills to effectively diagnose an individual. Examples of case studies will be provided later on to give you a framework/basis of understanding for the assignment.

1. Choose a character/watch a movie or show.
 - Select a character that has traits or is displaying behaviors that are likely aligned with a psychological disorder (or multiple disorders).
 - The movie/show can be from any genre, but please make sure the character exhibits clear signs of a mental health disorder that can be analyzed (e.g. personality traits, behavioral patterns, symptoms, experiences).
2. Provide a character description.
 - Take notes as you watch the movie or show to gain a basic description of the character, including their name, age, occupation, and relevant background information.
 - Pay close attention to scenes that clearly portray diagnostic criteria, coping mechanisms, interpersonal relationships, etc.
 - Include a brief summary of the character's role in the movie.
3. Analysis of symptoms
 - Identify and describe the symptoms, behaviors, and/or traits exhibited by the character. Use specific examples from the movie/show to illustrate these points.
 - Discuss how these align with DSM-5/5-TR diagnostic criteria.
 - Consider alternative explanations for the character's behavior where applicable (e.g., environment, trauma, various stressors).
4. Diagnosis (or diagnoses)
 - Based on your analysis, provide a diagnosis. Explain why this diagnosis is accurate/most fitting, citing specific DSM criteria.
 - Discuss the differential diagnoses, explaining why other potential diagnoses were ruled out.
5. Summary
 - Provide a summary of your findings.

- Provide some recommendations for treatment and how you think they might benefit/what would change.

Exams (40 points – 2 at 20 points each)

There will be two exams (**not cumulative**), each worth 20 points. The exams will consist of a combination of multiple-choice, short-answer, and/or essay questions covering material presented in PowerPoints, online lectures, video, assignments, short answer posts, and material from the textbook.

Class Exam Protocol:

- Exams are open note, but please **take them on your own**.
- Exams must be taken in the allotted time period.
- The exam will be timed. You will have two hours to complete it.
- The exam must be taken in one sitting. You cannot do part of it and then come back to do the other part later.
- Do not download or print out the exam.
- Do not distribute the exam, in any manner, to any other person.
- Do not take the exam in the same room with another person.
- Canvas will monitor how you take the exam.

Grading Summary:

Case Study Discussions 20 points (6 available, 4 points each)- lowest grade drops

Quizzes 25 points (6 available, 5 points each)-lowest grade drops

Case Report Assignment 15 points

Exam #1 Midterm 20 points

Exam #2 Final 20 points

TOTAL 100 points

Grading Scale: A: 90-100, B: 80-89, C: 70-79, D: 60-69, F: Below 60 ** Note: if you are a graduate student, C and below is considered “failing.”

OPTIONAL: Students may earn up to 5 bonus course points in this course. See “Extra Credit” section for more information. Bonus point participation forms will become available in Canvas and due by Sunday, 12/6, 11:59 p.m.

Extra Credit:

Extra Credit Options:

1. Extra credit paper on TBD topic – this topic will be an announcement later in the semester regarding an extra credit assignment. It will be a 3-5 page (double spaced and APA 7 format) paper on a topic relevant to Abnormal Psychology, TBD. It will be worth 5 course points.

2. Participating in research studies online or in person. One hour research participation will earn 1.25 course bonus points, up to a maximum of 4 hours (5 course points). See information in canvas under “Extra Credit” for more information.

Week 1: August 24th, 2026	Chapter 1- Looking at Abnormality Chapter 2-Theories & Treatment Chapter 3-Assessing & Diagnosing	Critical Thinking Response #1 due by 11:59 PM Sunday, August 30th, 2026
Week 2: August 31st, 2026	Chapter 5-Anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive, Trauma, & Stressor-Related Disorders (pg. 106-138)	Critical Thinking Response #2 Due by 11:59 PM Sunday, September 6th, 2026
Week 3: September 7th, 2026	Chapter 5 – Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, Trauma, & Stressor-Related Disorders (pg. 139-157)	Quiz #1 due by 11:59 PM Sunday, September 13th, 2026
Week 4: September 14th, 2026	Chapter 6 – Somatic Symptom & Dissociative Disorders	Quiz #2 Due by 11:59 PM Sunday, September 20th, 2026
Week 5: September 21st, 2026	Chapter 7 – Mood Disorders & Suicide (pg. 184-212)	Critical Thinking Response #3 due by 11:59 PM Sunday, September 27th, 2026
Week 6: September 28th, 2026	Chapter 7 – Mood Disorders & Suicide (pg. 212-237)	Quiz #3 Due by 11:59 PM Sunday, October 4th, 2026
Week 7: October 5th, 2026	Midterm Exam (Chapters 1-3, 5-7) Due by 11:59 PM Sunday, October 11th, 2026	
Week 8: October 12th, 2026	Chapter 8 – Schizophrenia Spectrum & Other Psychotic Disorders	Critical Thinking Response #4 due by 11:59 PM Sunday, October 18th, 2026
Week 9: October 19th, 2026	Chapter 10 – Neurodevelopmental & Neurocognitive Disorders	Quiz #4 Due by 11:59 PM Sunday, October 25th, 2026

Week 10: October 26th, 2026	Chapter 9 – Personality Disorders Chapter 11 – Disruptive, Impulse-Control, & Conduct Disorders	Critical Thinking Response #5 due by 11:59 PM Sunday, November 1st, 2026
Week 11: November 2nd, 2026	Chapter 12 – Eating Disorders	Quiz #5 AND optional <u>Essay Extra Credit</u> due by 11:59 PM Sunday, November 8th, 2026
Week 12: November 9th, 2026	Chapter 14 – Substance Use & Gambling Disorders	Case Study #6 due by 11:59 PM Sunday, November 15th, 2026
Week 13: November 16th, 2026	Case Report Assignment	due by 11:59 PM Sunday, November 22nd, 2026
Week 14: November 23rd, 2026	Thanksgiving Week- Enjoy the break! :)	
Week 15: November 30rd, 2026	Chapter 16 – Mental Health and the Law Last Day to turn in Extra Credit Assignment	Quiz #6 & Optional <u>Sona Extra Credit</u> due by 11:59 PM Sunday, December 6th, 2026
Week 16: December 7th, 2026	Final Exam (Chapters 8-10, 12, 14)	due by 11:59 PM Wednesday, December 9th, 2026