**Syllabus**

**Course Information:**  
*Advanced Psychopathology and Diagnosis*  
Psyc 5308.001 (Monday 2:00 – 4:40 pm in BRB 1030)

Course Instructor: Dennis R. Combs, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor of Psychology  
Licensed Psychologist (Texas, Clinical)  
Office: BEP 248C  
Office Phone: 565-5880  
Email: Dcombs@uttyler.edu

Office Hours: Monday 12-2; Tuesday 10-11; other times by appointment

**Course Description:** Examines psychopathology and diagnosis. Attention given to the causes of abnormal behavior patterns, the labeling process, the impact of culture, psychiatric nomenclature, and treatment procedures. Biological, psychological, and social constructs in diagnosis will be emphasized.

**Student Learning Outcomes and Assessments:**

1) Understand the principles of the diagnostic process with emphasis on the DSM system (CACREP Section iv, K.1)
2) Understand the major categories of mental disorders along with the criteria for major disorders seen in clinical practice (CACREP Section iv, K.2)
3) Understand how medical and substance abuse conditions can impact diagnosis, course, and treatment (CACREP Section iv, K.3)
4) Understand how culture impacts the diagnostic process along with cultural differences in mental disorders (CACREP Section iv, K.4)
5) Within the broader mental health system, understand how diagnosis facilitates treatment during inpatient, outpatient, and crisis situations (CACREP Section iv, K.5)
6) Using clinical cases, apply the DSM system in terms of deriving diagnoses, completion of the multiaxial system, and how this system facilitates communication and treatment in mental health settings (CACREP Section iv, L.1 and L.2)
7) Using clinical cases, discuss how life events, crises, and stressors may affect diagnosis and treatment (CACREP Section iv, L.3)

**Required Texts:**


Selected Articles posted on Blackboard 9

*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.

**Course Evaluation:**

Course evaluation is based on performance on two examinations, a mid-term and a final examination, and quizzes during the semester. The final will be comprehensive. Exams will cover
lecture notes, book chapters, and all assigned readings. Quizzes can be in class, take home, or clinical cases.

The mid-term examination will count 40% of the final grade. The final examination will count 50% of the grade. Quizzes will count 10% of your grade. A description of each test will be provided several weeks prior to the test as a study guide. There will be no paper required. It is expected that you attend class and follow the readings.

**Official Course Grading Scale:**

A = 90 - 100  
B = 80 - 89  
C = 70 - 79  
D = 60 - 69  
F = Below 59

Final Averages of over .5 of a point will be rounded to the next higher grade point. For example, a final average of 79.5 would be rounded to a grade of 80. However, a grade of 79.4 would remain a grade of 79. Final grades are not open to negotiation or extra points for other assignments. Changes will be made only if a clerical error is found.

**University Policies: Excused Absences, Academic Dishonesty, Grade Forgiveness, and Accommodations for Disabilities**

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness**
If you are repeating this course for a grade replacement, you must file an intent to receive grade forgiveness with the registrar by the 12th day of class. Failure to do so will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates will receive grade forgiveness (grade replacement) for only three course repeats; graduates, for two course repeats during his/her career at UT Tyler.

**Disability Services**
If you have a disability, including a learning disability, for which you request disability support services/accommodation(s), please contact the Disability Support Services office so that the appropriate arrangements may be made. In accordance with federal law, a student requesting disability support services/accommodation(s) must provide appropriate documentation of his/her disability to the Disability Support Services counselor. In order to assure approved services the first week of class, diagnostic, prognostic, and prescriptive information should be received 30 days prior to the beginning of the semester services are requested. For more information, call or visit the Student Services Center located in the University Center. The telephone number is 566-7079 (TDD 565-5579). Additional information may also be obtained at the following UT Tyler Web address: http://www.uttyler.edu/disabiliteservices.

**Student Absence due to Religious Observance**
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**Social Security and FERPA Statement:**
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The
electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

Student Standards of Academic Conduct
Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

(i) “Cheating” includes, but is not limited to:

- copying from another student’s test paper;
- using during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test;
- possession during a test of materials which are not authorized by the person giving the test, such as class notes or specifically designed “crib notes”. The presence of textbooks constitutes a violation if they have been specifically prohibited by the person administering the test;
- using, buying, stealing, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program;
- collaborating with or seeking aid from another student during a test or other assignment without authority;
- discussing the contents of an examination with another student who will take the examination;
- divulging the contents of an examination, for the purpose of preserving questions for use by another, when the instructor has designated that the examination is not to be removed from the examination room or not to be returned or to be kept by the student;
- substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take a course, a test, or any course-related assignment;
- paying or offering money or other valuable thing to, or coercing another person to obtain an unadministered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or information about an unadministered test, test key, homework solution or computer program;
- falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other academic work offered for credit;
- taking, keeping, misplacing, or damaging the property of U. T. Tyler, or of another, if the student knows or reasonably should know that an unfair academic advantage would be gained by such conduct; and,
- misrepresenting facts, including providing false grades or resumes, for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit or injuring another student academically or financially.

(ii) “Plagiarism” includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another’s work and the submission of it as one’s own academic work offered for credit.

(iii) “Collusion” includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty.

College of Education and Psychology Mission Statement:
The mission of the College of Education and Psychology is to provide a positive environment that fosters the acquisition of knowledge and skills. The mission is individually and collectively realized through a community of scholars that contributes to knowledge through scholarly inquiry; organizes knowledge for application, understanding and communication; and provides leadership and service. Additionally, the College is committed to affirming and promoting global perspectives, cultural diversity, and respect for individual differences as a means of enhancing learning, service, and scholarship.

Vision:
The College of Education and Psychology is nationally recognized and respected for its academic programs and opportunities. It is a center of academic excellence, scholarly inquiry, and public service. The College prepares leaders to meet the critical challenges of the 21st Century, to make significant contributions to local and global communities, and to work toward individual and cultural equity.

### Tentative Class Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>Introductions and Assignments</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/1</td>
<td><strong>No class - Labor Day Holiday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychopathology, part 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/15</td>
<td>Introduction to Psychopathology, part 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/22</td>
<td>Neurocognitive Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/29</td>
<td>Substance Use Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/6</td>
<td>Anxiety Disorders I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/13</td>
<td>Anxiety Disorders II</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>10/20</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mid-Term Examination</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Mood Disorders (Depression/Bipolar)</td>
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<td>11/3</td>
<td>Schizophrenia</td>
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<td>11/10</td>
<td>Somatoform/Dissociative Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/17</td>
<td><strong>No Class, Dr. Combs out of Town</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/24</td>
<td><strong>No Class, Thanksgiving Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/1</td>
<td>Empirically Supported Treatments</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12/8</strong></td>
<td><strong>Final Examination</strong></td>
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* Instructor may alter schedule as needed.*
Weekly Readings (posted on Blackboard 9)

**Introduction to Psychopathology, part 1:**

**Introduction to Psychopathology part 2:**
1. Article: What is Normal?
2. DSM-V pages 5-24

**Neurocognitive Disorders**
2. DSM-V Neurocognitive Disorders chapter

**Substance Use Disorders**
2. DSM-V substance use chapter

**Anxiety Disorders I: Panic Disorder and Phobias**
2. DSM-V anxiety and related disorders (Pgs 189-234)

**Anxiety Disorders II: GAD, OCD, and PTSD**
2. Continuation of DSM-V Anxiety Chapter (pgs. 189-234); Review Criteria for OCD (pg 237) and PTSD (pg. 271)

**Mood Disorders (depression and bipolar)**
2. DSM-V Depressive Related Disorders chapter/ Review Criteria for Bipolar I and II (pgs 123-139)

**Schizophrenia**
2. DSM-V Psychotic Disorders Chapter

**Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders**
2. DSM-V Somatoform Chapter- do not read Dissociative Chapter.

**Empirically Supported Treatments**