



EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Psychology

PSYC 4320 Abnormal
Psychology

Text: Whitbourne, S.K. (2020). *Abnormal psychology: Clinical perspectives on psychological disorders, 9th Edition*. McGraw-Hill Higher Education. ISBN [10]: 1260500195; ISBN [13]: 9781260500196. **Or,** Whitbourne, S.K. (2016). *Abnormal psychology: Clinical perspectives on psychological disorders, 8th Edition*. McGraw-Hill Higher Education. ISBN: 978-0077861988; 978-1259253867.

Course Description: Provides a critical review of personality development and disintegration and the concepts underlying diagnosis, therapy, and institutional care.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of this course, students will: 1) Have a basic understanding of broad groups and specific forms of psychopathology, from an integrated, empirically-based and real-world perspective; 2) Understand the application of research design and the scientific method to assessment and diagnosis, including use of DSM-5 diagnostic criteria; 3) Have a basic understanding of the differences between biological, cognitive, developmental, environmental, socio-cultural and intra-personal components of psychopathology; 4) Gain an understanding of the major theoretical explanations for psychopathology; 5) Have a basic understanding of the role of the brain and the nervous system in psychopathology; and, 6) Have a basic understanding of major types of clinical and psychopharmacological treatments for psychiatric disorders. This course will integrate material from the text, journal articles, internet resources, and other multimedia. Students are expected to read assigned materials before each class session and to contribute to class discussion.

Grading Policy:

- Class Participation 15%
- Weekly Assignments 15%
- Exam I, II & III 20% Each [Total of 60%]
- Article Review 10%

Class Participation: Students are expected to attend class “virtually” and contribute to class discussions, complete homework and engage in participation activities, and to read assigned materials in a timely manner. Questions and individual perspectives are encouraged and provide an opportunity for discussion. This course is intended to be interactive; therefore, class participation counts for a significant amount of your overall grade. Several times throughout the course, students will be asked to write a short reflection paper or engage in a class activity. These papers/activities will contribute toward your overall participation grade.

Weekly Assignments: Several types of assignments will be due throughout the semester. Type of assignment will vary but will include journal entries, video responses, and internet resource assignments. Instructions and templates are available for each assignment, on D2L. ***All assignments are to be turned in “electronically,” by submitting a PDF or MS WORD file to the Electronic Dropbox on D2L. All assignments must be submitted on time. Late penalties of up to 10% per day will be assessed for work not turned in on time.***

Extra Credit Research Opportunity: You may also participate in psychological research if you desire to earn extra credit toward your final grade. Research credit may be obtained via participation in research approved by the ETSU Institutional Review Board and by the Department. Each study you participate in will be assigned a point value based on the average time it is estimated for completion of the relevant tasks and/or the type of task (e.g., lab-based versus online participation). For example, one-half hour of exposure garners the equivalent of one-half credit, and one hour of research participation equates to one full credit. Each research credit is worth 5 points, added to your lowest Exam grade, or another assignment. A maximum of 20 points of any type of extra credit, including SONA extra credit (e.g., 4 research hours), will be accepted and applied to your grade.

- ***NOTE: To find current research studies to participate in for extra credit, please access the SONA Research System of the Department of Psychology at: <http://etsu.sona-systems.com/>**

Examinations: There will be three examinations, each of which will count for 20% of your total grade for the course. Exams may consist of multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions. Exams will be administered online via D2L. Exams will be available over a several-day period, for your test-taking convenience. Although each Exam may be attempted two times, there will be a time limit for each exam – so advance preparation is essential. There will be no makeup exams. If you have an emergency and need to miss an exam on the date it is given, contact me immediately for alternative arrangements.

Research Article Review: Each student will be expected to complete a review of a scientific research article. The article you choose to review will be based on a reference/resource utilized for your paper and will be focused on an empirical study pertaining to Abnormal Psychology. Articles chosen for review must be from a psychological or psychiatric journal, not a trade magazine (e.g., Psychology Today). When reviewing a study, prepare a summary of the study, a review of the strengths and limitations of the study, comment on the overall premise of the study, the design and methodology, and the findings. Discuss implications of the findings for treatment or prevention of disorders and future research.

- Article Review Format – Research paper must be written in APA-format. Paper must be typed, double-spaced with 1” margins, a minimum of **TWO** pages, plus a title page and APA-style reference list (so, 4 pages total, at least). Consult the APA Publication Manual, 6th Edition for style tips and guidance, or feel free to ask me or the course Teaching Assistant. For Internet resources, be sure to use APA format for recording URL links and date retrieved. Please utilize the electronic resources below for helpful guidance. ***Please refer to the comprehensive instruction sheet that is available to assist students in preparing their article review.***

NOTE: Check out these sites for APA style assistance (References & Article Review Formatting):

- <http://www.apastyle.org/>
- https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html

Grading Scale:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| A = 94-100% | C+ = 77-79% |
| A- = 90-93% | C = 74-76% |
| B+ = 87-89% | C- = 70-73% |
| B = 84-86% | D+ = 67-69% |
| B- = 80-83% | D = 60-66% |

Academic Honesty: Basically, 1) Follow the rules and don't be disrespectful or disruptive or I can ask you to leave; 2) No plagiarism or other forms of cheating; 3) Attend class in a timely manner; 4) No electronic devices.

- Please see ETSU Student Policies & Procedures
{<https://catalog.etsu.edu/content.php?catoid=36&navoid=1567>}

Course & Syllabus Changes: I reserve the right to change the syllabus or components of the course, including readings, ordering of chapters, assignments, and due dates, as examples. Hopefully, this will not be necessary, and any changes will be communicated to students as soon as possible.

Accommodations: It is the policy of ETSU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law and the University's commitment to equal educational opportunities. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations, for example arrangement for examinations or seating placement, should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Faculty accommodation forms are provided to students through Disability Services in Nell Dossett Residence Hall, Third Floor, telephone 439-8346.

Mental Health: Students often have questions about mental health resources, whether for themselves or a friend or family member. There are many resources available on the ETSU Campus, including: ETSU Counseling Center (423) 439-3333; ETSU Behavioral Health & Wellness Clinic (423) 439-7777; ETSU Community Counseling Clinic: (423) 439-4187.

- **If you or a friend are in immediate crisis, call 911.**
- ETSU Mental Health Help Line: (423) 439-4841 (Press 2)
- Available 24 hours per day is the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

OFFICIAL SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THE COURSE

Course Schedule

| Date | Chapter Topic [Source Materials/Slides/Readings] | Assignment Due [Notes] |
|---------------|--|--|
| 08/24 | Introduction & Review of Syllabus Chp. 1 – Understanding Abnormality and Research Methods | ~ |
| 08/31 | Chp. 2 – Classification & TX Plans | ~ |
| 09/02 | ~ | *1 st Journal Entry Due [09/02] |
| 09/07 | Chp. 3 – Assessment | ~ |
| 09/09 | ~ | *Internet Resource HW Due [09/09] |
| 09/14 | Chp. 4 – Theoretical Perspectives | ~ |
| 09/16 | ~ | *Class Participation I [09/16] |
| 09/21 | Examination One | Online Exam {09/21-09/25} |
| 09/28 | Chp. 7 – Mood Disorders & Suicide | ~ |
| 10/05 | Chp. 8 – Anxiety Disorders | ~ |
| 10/07 | ~ | *2 nd Journal Entry Due [10/07] |
| 10/12 | Chp. 9 – Dissociative Disorders Chp. 6 – Schizophrenia | ~ |
| 10/19 | Chp. 14 – Personality Disorders | ~ |
| 10/21 | Examination Two | Online Exam {10/19-10/23} |
| 10/26 | Chp. 5 – Developmental Disorders | ~ |
| 10/28 | ~ | *Class Participation II [Due 10/28] |
| 11/02 | Chp. 11 – Sexual Disorders | ~ |
| 11/04 | ~ | ~ |
| 11/09 | Chp. 13 – Cognitive Disorders | ~ |
| 11/11 | ~ | *3 rd Journal Entry Due [11/11] |
| 11/16 | Chp. 10 – Eating and Impulse Disorders Chp. 12 – Substance-Related Disorders | ~ |
| 11/18 | ~ | *Class Participation III [Due 11/18] |
| 11/23 | Fall Break & Thanksgiving | ~ |
| 12/02 | ~ | *Article Review Due [12/02] |
| 11/30 ~ 12/04 | Final Examination | Online Exam {11/30-12/04} |