

# ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY 213-001

Fall 2016, Kinard 308, TR 3:30-4:45, 3 Credit Hours  
Winthrop University

**Instructor:** Dr. Heather Anschuetz-Jeffers

**Office hours:** Tu/Th 2:30-3:30

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**Required Text:** Sue, D., Sue, D. W., Sue, D., & Sue, S. (2016). *Understanding abnormal behavior* (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.

## Course Description

This course will provide an overview of the main concepts, theories, diagnostic criteria, and current empirical findings in the field of abnormal psychology. These objectives will be assessed through examinations, assignments, and class discussions.

## Course Objectives

Students will work toward achieving the following objectives throughout the semester:

- Learning various means for assessing psychopathology.
- Understanding the diagnostic criteria and related symptoms for a broad range of psychological disorders.
- Understanding the major causes for these disorders and relevant treatment strategies.

## Course Goals

- **Goal 1: Knowledge Base of Psychology.** Students will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.
- **Goal 2: Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology.** Students will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.
- **Goal 3: Values in Psychology.** Students will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline.
- **Goal 4: Sociocultural and International Awareness.** Students will recognize, understand, and respect the complexity of sociocultural and international diversity.

## Course Requirements:

### Attendance (10pts)

Attendance will be taken at 10 random points in the semester. Attendance credit will be applied when calculating your final grade. In addition, attendance is strongly recommended, as lectures will help to clarify text readings and there will be some supplemental material provided during lecture included in your exams. Students are responsible for obtaining any lecture or in-class material missed due to absence.

## Assigned Readings

With the exception of the first week of lecture, you will be expected to come to class prepared, having read the assigned chapter(s) for that particular week. Class discussion and participation is expected and will be facilitated/enhanced by your having read assigned materials prior to lecture.

## **Assignments and Exams:**

### **Exams** (300pts total)

There will be four exams given over the course of the semester (100pts each). Exams will cover both lecture and text material. You will be allowed to drop your lowest exam score. Because of this, there will be **NO MAKE UP exams**. If you fail to attend or cannot make a scheduled exam date, this will automatically be considered your one dropped exam grade. If you have the unusual circumstance of having **MORE THAN TWO** university excused absences that fall on an exam date, an exception may be made assuming that appropriate documentation is provided.

**Note:** The content focused on in lecture will be more heavily emphasized on exams. However, you will be expected to read assigned chapters in your textbook as listed in the schedule below to supplement lecture content and will be held responsible for knowing chapter content for exams, whether we cover it in class or not.

### **Final Project - Fictional Case Study** (100pts)

You will be required to construct a fictional case study as if you are a psychologist conducting clinical assessment of a new patient. It is to be considered the culmination of your work in this course, as you are to use your understanding of the disorders and related clinical assessment knowledge you have acquired throughout the course. You are to provide relevant background information for your fictional "patient" as well as the clinical information you obtained in order to arrive at a diagnosis. At the end of your paper you will list the disorder(s) you have diagnosed your patient with. You should also include what your proposed treatment plan would be based on your findings. You will be evaluated on how well you are able to demonstrate competency in your understanding of the diagnosis and treatment of the disorder(s) you have selected based on the information you provide, as gleaned from class lectures and your textbook. Papers should be approximately **4 pages** double-spaced, stapled, omitting any folders or plastic covers.

**\*\*\*A template will be provided outlining the required format for this assignment.**

### **Extra Credit**

You may earn up to **18 points** of extra credit (added to the total points possible) in two possible ways:

#### **1) Research participation**

You may participate in research projects that are sponsored by Psychology Department faculty and students. Information about how to volunteer for research will be provided later in the semester. Each experiment lasts from ½ hour to 2 or more hours. You will get 6 extra credit points for each hour (or portion of an hour) that you participate.

**WARNING:** If you sign up for an experiment and you do not show up or cancel, you will be penalized that many credits. For example, if you sign up for a 1 hour experiment and you miss it or do not cancel you will have 6 points subtracted from your extra credit point total.

#### **2) Interest papers**

You may write a brief paper (2-3 pages typed) that applies course concepts to real-world issues or personal experiences. This might include writing about events happening in the news or current events that tie in with what we've been covering, or writing about various personal experiences that relate to something we've been covering. You will receive 6 extra credit points for each paper completed.

**\*\*\*All extra credit assignments are due no later than the last day of lecture. All extra credit points will be added to the student's total points earned in the course.**

## Blackboard

Blackboard will be used to post grades, study guides, and other relevant class material and handouts.

## Course Grading

3 Highest Exams (100 pts each)	300 pts possible
Final Project	100 pts possible
Attendance	10 pts possible
Extra Credit	18 pts possible

A = 93.5 - 100%
A- = 89.5 - 93.4%
B+ = 86.5 - 89.4%
B = 83.5 - 86.4%
B- = 79.5 - 83.4%
C+ = 76.5 - 79.4%
C = 73.5 - 76.4%
C- = 69.5 - 73.4%
D+ = 66.5 - 69.4%
D = 63.5 - 66.4%
D- = 59.5 - 63.4%

Grades are based on the following equation:

$(\text{Total Points Earned}/410) \times 100 = \text{Final Grade}$

## Students with Disabilities

Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, please contact the Office of Accessibility, at 323-3290. Once you have your official notice of accommodation, please inform me as early as possible in the semester.

## Student Conduct

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to an environment of academic integrity and respect for the educational process and safety and well-being of others. Adherence to the Student Conduct Code will be expected; violations of this code will be handled in keeping with the procedures outlined in the Student Handbook and reported to the Dean of Students. The Student Conduct Code can be found at:

<http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/studentconduct/StudentHandbook.pdf>

## Schedule of Assigned Readings and Exams

Week 1	Course requirements and overview Abnormal Behavior in a Historical Context • Chapter 1	Aug 23 Aug 25
Week 2	Models of Abnormal Behavior • Chapter 2	Aug 30 Sept 1
Week 3	Assessment and Classification • Chapter 3	Sept 6 Sept 8
Week 4	Research • Chapter 4	Sept 13 <b>Sept 15 - Exam I</b>
Week 5	Mood Disorders • Chapter 8	Sept 20 Sept 22
Week 6	Mood Disorders/Suicide • Chapter 8 & 9	Sept 27 Sept 29
Week 7	Anxiety Disorders • Chapter 5	Oct 4 Oct 6
Week 8	Trauma and Stress-Related Disorders • Chapter 6 - (pp. 165-178)	<b>Oct 11 - Exam II</b> Oct 13
Week 9	Eating Disorders • Chapter 10	Oct 18 Oct 20
Week 10	Personality Disorders • Chapter 15	Oct 25 Oct 27
Week 11	Substance-Use Disorders • Chapter 11	Nov 1 <b>Nov 3 – Exam III</b>
Week 12	Dissociative Disorders • Chapter 7 - (pp. 212-225)	<b>Nov 8 – Election Day - OFF</b> Nov 10
Week 13	Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders • Chapter 12	Nov 15 Nov 17
Week 14	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK</b>	<b>Nov 22 – OFF</b> <b>Nov 24 – OFF</b>
Week 15	Legal and Ethical Issues • Chapter 17	Nov 29 <b>Dec 1 – Final Project Due</b> <b>Extra Credit Due</b>
Week 16	<b>Final Exam</b>  <b>** <u>Friday at 3 p.m.</u> **</b>	<b>Dec 9 - Exam IV</b>

**Subject-To-Change Notification:** Revisions may be made to this schedule as circumstances require. You will be informed of any changes either via university email or, when appropriate, as part of an in-class announcement.