

ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

PSY 240

Online

Instructor:

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(Otherwise I may mistake it for spam and delete it. ☹)

UM Office: Flipse 514

Online Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:00 – 1:00 PM [tentative]

Contact me via email, in person, or phone

Required text:

Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2015). *Abnormal psychology: An integrative approach* (7th ed.). Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Cengage Learning.

Also available as an e-book from the publisher

For this course you need to get a copy of this edition of this textbook.

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to research and theory regarding description and etiology of mental health disorders. Major emphasis will be on the categorization of mental disorders based on the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual-Fifth Edition (DSM-5)*. Ideas about treating mental disorders will also be discussed.

Course Goals:

1. Students will be presented with the basic diagnoses for mental health disorders given in the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual-Fifth Edition (DSM-5)* and thereby have an opportunity to learn about the variety of mental health issues.
2. Students will be presented with the strengths and limitations of DSM's approach to diagnosis.
3. Students will be given an opportunity to learn the basis of a variety of scientifically validated treatments for mental health disorders.
4. Students will be exposed to integrated theory and research about the causes of mental health disorders.
5. Students will be expected to gain further understanding of the scientific method as applied in psychology and further develop their critical thinking skills

Prerequisites:

All students must have successfully completed 3 college credits in psychology prior to the start of the course.

Grading:

Grades will be based on three tests (50%) and quantity and quality of discussion board participation (50%). The course grades are based on 98 is an A+, 91 an A, 89.5 an A-, etc. These are absolute cut-offs (e.g., an 89.499999 is a B+ not an A-). Of course, you are expected to follow the University honor code on all tests and assignments.

Tests: Each test will be 1/6th of your course grade. The tests will not be cumulative. You will, however, be using material from the first module throughout the course. Tests will be multiple choice and computer scored. Strict adherence to the honor code is expected during all tests. No copying from someone else, no use of “crib” sheets, electronic devices, no outside contact, no compromising time limits, etc.

Test 1 is planned to be at the end of module 2, test 2 at the end of module 5, and test 3 at the end of module 8.

Discussion Board Assignments: There will be discussion board assignments related to every module. Many, but not all, of the assignments will consist of videos which portray the different disorders discussed in class. The videos are all on the internet. Exactly what should be discussed for each specific assignment is clarified in each module. You must discuss **all** the assignments for each module.

I hope you find these assignments enjoyable and very interesting. They give you the opportunity to see how a disorder affects a person and to really think about the material in a way studying for a test does not

You should write in clear, complete sentences. Be very succinct. When commenting on others students' posts be direct and clear, but also polite and compassionate.

You will receive a grade of between 0 and 100 for each module. The average of all the written assignments will count 50% of the total course grade.

Discussion board assignments are due before the end of the pertinent module and before the next module begins. Tardiness is not tolerated. Try to do them a little early rather than waiting for the last minute.

Make-Up Policy:

If you miss a test for **ANY** reason, you will receive a zero out of one hundred points (0%) on that test. Make-up tests generally will NOT be allowed. You must have written and verifiable documentation of an extreme emergency in order to be given a make-up test and it must be made up within 7 calendar days of your return to school.

Holy Days Policy:

The University of Miami, although a secular institution, is determined to accommodate those students who wish to observe religious holy days. Classes missed due to observances of religious holy days will count as excused absences only if you provide written notice of your intended absence(s) to me no later than the two weeks in advance of the test. Missed tests normally will have to be made up before the test date for the

class as a whole. Discussion board assignments will still be due with the rest of the class.

Honor Code:

Everyone is expected to adhere strictly to the honor code during the tests and for the discussion board assignments. No copying, no use of “crib” sheets during tests, no outside contact, no collusion, no collaboration, no plagiarism, etc. Cheating in any form on a test or assignment will result in grade of zero on that test or assignment, an F in the course, and/or being reported to the honor council. The discussion board assignments should be each individual student's own original work and distinctly unique from that of other students and any other sources online or otherwise.

PROPOSED COURSE SCHEDULE:

<u>Module</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Textbook Chapters</u>
1	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology	1, 2, 3
2	Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive, & Trauma/Stress- Related Disorders	5
Test 1		
3	Depression, Bipolar, and Suicide	7
4	Physical and Health Psychology, Somatic Symptom, and Dissociative Disorders	9, 6
5	Schizophrenic Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders	13
Test 2		
6	Gender, Sex, Paraphilic, and, Personality Disorder	10, 12
7	Eating, Substance-Related, Addictive and Impulse Control Disorders	8, 11
8	Neurodevelopmental and Neurocognitive Disorders	14, 15
Test 3		