



PSY 280, Section 1: Abnormal Psychology

Fall 2019 Course Syllabus

Basic Details and Contact Information:

Class Time/Room: Mon/Wed/Fri 10:20 – 11:10 AM; 146 Giltner Hall

Course Prerequisite: PSY 101

Course Website: There is a D2L site for this course.

Required Text: Comer, R. J., & Comer, J. S. (2018). *Abnormal Psychology* (10th ed.). New York, NY: Worth Publishers. **(You may purchase online access to the book for a lower cost – see details on D2L site)**

There will be a few additional readings that will be made available on the D2L website.

Instructor: Dr. Jae A. Puckett

Pronouns: they/them (“Do you know Dr. Puckett? *They* teach Abnormal Psychology.”)

Office: Psychology Building, Room 105C

Email: pucket26@msu.edu (note that this email is slightly different from my last name)

Office Hours: 11:30 – 12:30 on Mondays in my office (Psych Building, room 105C); and by appointment in person or over Zoom

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Malu Castro; Email: castrokr@msu.edu; Office Hours: **TBD**

Undergraduate Assistants:

Emma Israels; Email: Israelse@msu.edu; Office Hours: **TBD**

Brendan McWilliams; Email: mckill50@msu.edu; Office Hours: **TBD**

Contacting Instructor/TA/UAs: Email is the best way to reach us. **Please put PSY 280 in the subject line** to ensure that your email is answered promptly. Emails should be directed to the TA for the course, who will answer your questions or reach out to me if need be.

Course Overview:

This course examines the range of common psychological disorders (with a focus on adults), their characteristic symptoms, and possible causes. We will also discuss treatments for these mental health issues, but this will not be the primary focus of the class. The course will include information related to basic conceptualizations of “abnormal behavior,” historical perspectives on psychopathology, research methods and assessment, and emerging issues in the mental health field. We will use readings, class discussions, film clips and activities to further your understanding of common psychological disorders.

Course Requirements and Grading Information:

Readings: You should complete required readings prior to the class period. This will help you to stay on top of taking notes and participating in class.

Attendance: We will not take attendance in this class. However, it is to your benefit to attend all class periods. Class lectures will include additional information that is not covered in your book and although basic lecture slides will be made available, these will be simplified and will not include the full information/notes. Exams will cover lecture material that is not available in the book or the PowerPoint slides. Exams will also include information from guest lectures and speakers. Therefore, if you must miss class, I would strongly encourage you to get notes from a classmate. It will be your responsibility to get notes from a classmate and the instructor is not responsible for you securing these notes. We will make time on the first day of class for you to meet 1-2 of your peers so that you have someone to reach out to in the case that you need to miss class. Please arrive on time for class.

Exams: There will be four exams given in this course. Each exam will count for 100 points. Exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Exams during the semester will be essentially non-cumulative, but will refer to general principles from previous sections. The exams will cover the readings and class lectures, with a greater emphasis on material covered in class. An exam study guide will be distributed to students, at the latest one class period before each exam, and there will be a short period in the class prior to the exam to answer any clarifying questions, etc. **If you miss an exam, your grade will automatically be a zero as there will not be an opportunity to make up the exam.** Extreme circumstances, such as serious illnesses or injury, may be considered for makeup exams. However, you should send a request by email explaining your circumstances by the scheduled exam time and submit a doctor's note when you request to make up your exam. Failing to do so BEFORE the exam may result in your being unable to take the exam.

You must have your MSU student ID with you in order to take the exam. If you do not, you will receive a zero on the exam. **If you are late to an exam, you will not be allowed to take the exam if a student has already finished their exam and left the room. Anyone cheating during an exam will receive a zero on the exam.**

Paper: Students will need to complete one paper in this course, which will be worth 50 points. For this paper, you will need to choose a blog to read/follow from a list provided. This list of blog options will be made available on D2L. The paper is meant to provide you with an additional opportunity to learn about someone's personal experience. This paper will be due by November 1st at 5:00 PM. You can turn in the paper ahead of time, but it will not be graded until after the due date. Papers will be submitted to screen for plagiarism. Any copied papers will receive a 0 and you will be unable to redo the assignment. **The paper should be 2 pages long, double spaced, 12 point times new roman font, and include the following:**

- A description of the person, their blog, and the disorder they are speaking about
- Analyze how their description of their experiences align to the course material
- Discuss how this disorder has impacted their lives
- Has this person been stigmatized because of having a mental illness? If they discuss this in the blog, how has this influenced their experiences or how others have treated them? If they do not directly discuss this, then describe how you think they might experience stigma.

Total Points:	% Total Points	Grade:
405 - 450	90-100%	4.0
383 - 404	85-89.9%	3.5
360 – 382	80-84.9%	3.0
338 - 359	75-79.9%	2.5
315 - 337	70-74.9%	2.0
293 - 314	65-69.9%	1.5
270 - 292	60-64.9%	1.0
< 270	Under 60%	0

Extra Credit: You may obtain 5 extra credit points by completing *one* of the following: **1) Completing 5 hours of SONA research participation.** Instructions for this will be available on the D2L site. Or **2) Completing a 5-page written assignment** in which you analyze 5 cases and decide on the likely diagnoses in each case. You will need to write a 1-page summary for each case, in which you describe your rationale for choosing the diagnoses and why you did not choose other diagnoses. A handout with more information will be made available on the D2L website.

CLASS POLICIES

1. Limits to Confidentiality: Students should be aware that University employees, including instructors, may not be able to maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues based on external legal obligations or that relate to the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices if you share it with me: •Suspected child abuse/neglect, even if this maltreatment happened when you were a child, • Allegations of sexual assault or sexual harassment when they involve MSU students, faculty, or staff, and • Credible threats of harm to oneself or to others. • These reports may trigger contact from a campus official who will want to talk with you about the incident that you have shared. In almost all cases, it will be your decision whether you wish to speak with that individual. If you would like to talk about these events in a more confidential setting you are encouraged to make an appointment with the MSU Counseling Center

2. Academic Assistance:

Disability Accommodations: Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Requests for accommodations by persons with disabilities may be made by contacting the Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities at 517-884-RCPD or on the web at rcpd.msu.edu. Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a Verified Individual Services Accommodation ("VISA") form. Please present this form to me at the start of the term and/or two weeks prior to the accommodation date (test, project, etc.). Requests received after this date may not be honored.

Assistance from TA/UA's: The TA and UA's are available to meet with you during office hours to provide additional assistance in the course. If you would like to meet with them, please reach out to them directly to set up a meeting.

3. **Academic Integrity:**

Article 2.3.3 of the Academic Freedom Report states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." In addition, the Psychology Department adheres to the policies on academic honesty as specified in General Student Regulations 1.0, Protection of Scholarship and Grades; the all-University Policy on Integrity of Scholarship and Grades; and Ordinance 17.00, Examinations. (See [Spartan Life: Student Handbook](#) and Resource Guide and/or the MSU Web site: www.msu.edu.)

According to MSU Policies:

1.00 PROTECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP AND GRADES The principles of truth and honesty are fundamental to the educational process and the academic integrity of the University; therefore, no student shall:

- 1.01 claim or submit the academic work of another as one's own.
- 1.02 procure, provide, accept or use any materials containing questions or answers to any examination or assignment without proper authorization.
- 1.03 complete or attempt to complete any assignment or examination for another individual without proper authorization.
- 1.04 allow any examination or assignment to be completed for oneself, in part or in total, by another without proper authorization.
- 1.05 alter, tamper with, appropriate, destroy or otherwise interfere with the research, resources, or other academic work of another person.
- 1.06 fabricate or falsify data or results.

Therefore, you are expected to complete your own assignments for this course. You are expected to develop original work and may not submit work that you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements of the current class. If you violate MSU's academic integrity policies, you will not receive any credit for a given assignment and may potentially receive a failing grade in the course.

4. **Invitation:** If you are struggling in the class, please come and seek me out sooner rather than later. The earlier we address what is going on, the more likely it is that you can recover and get back on track. My goal is to make it possible for all students to have a successful educational experience in this class.

5. **Attendance and Missed Exams:**

Students whose names do not appear on the official class list for this course may not attend this class. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to get notes from another student.

In the event that you miss an exam, you will receive a 0 for this assignment. This is a strict policy and there are very few exceptions for this policy. If you are experiencing a medical emergency that results in your missing the exam, you should contact the instructor before the exam (or as soon as reasonably possible) to arrange for a makeup exam. If this occurs, you must provide written documentation from a doctor's office verifying your report. Failing to do so may result in your being unable to take the exam.

If you experience a loss and need to miss a number of classes related to this or miss an exam,

you can contact the registrar for a Grief Absence Request.

If you must miss an exam due to a university sanctioned event that you are required to attend or are an athlete and must miss class for university-approved events or competitions, you must provide appropriate documentation of this in order to make up an exam. Athletes must present a letter signed by the director of the Student-Athlete Support Services and the faculty representative of the Athletic Council with the dates and locations of the events. You must **make appropriate arrangements at least 1 week in advance.**

If you need to miss class due to observance of a religious holiday, you will be allowed to make up an exam but **it is your responsibility to make arrangements at least 1 week in advance.**

6. Classroom Behavior:

An academic classroom is a professional environment. As such, you are expected to be respectful of your peers and the instructor. You will get the most out of this class if you attend regularly, take notes, participate – be an active learner. Side conversations and telephone calls are not permitted during class. **All electronic devices are to be silenced.** If there is an emergent situation that requires a response from you (i.e., you notice an emergency call/text on your phone), please feel free to leave the classroom to address it.

Article 2.III.B.4 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) for students at Michigan State University states: "The student's behavior in the classroom shall be conducive to the teaching and learning process for all concerned." Article 2.III.B.10 of the SRR states that "The student and the faculty share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships based on mutual trust and civility." General Student Regulation 5.02 states: "No student shall . . . interfere with the functions and services of the University (for example, but not limited to, classes . . .) such that the function or service is obstructed or disrupted. Students whose conduct adversely affects the learning environment in this classroom may be subject to disciplinary action.

7. Intellectual property.

As members of a learning community, students are expected to respect the intellectual property of course instructors. All course materials presented to students are the copyrighted property of the course instructor and are subject to the following conditions of use:

1. Students may **not** record lectures or any other classroom activities.
2. Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions, including receiving a penalty grade in the course.

8. Sensitivity to Individual Differences:

During class discussions, students are expected to participate and to treat other students with respect. We will at times be discussing controversial issues in class. Please remember that other students may have different opinions and experiences. That said, I will not tolerate spoken or written comments that arise during the semester that intend to show disrespect for any person or group, based on any element of identity—whether it is race, ethnicity, age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, social class, ability, etc.

Diversity and Inclusion

MSU welcomes a full spectrum of experiences, viewpoints, and intellectual approaches because they enrich the conversation, even as they challenge us to think differently and grow. However, we believe that expressions and actions that demean individuals or groups compromise the environment for intellectual growth and undermine the social fabric on which the community is based.

9. Turnitin:

Consistent with MSU's efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, instructors may use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student's work with multiple sources. The tool compares each student's work with an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a "similarity score." The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, the instructor must make a complete assessment and judge the originality of the student's work. All submissions to this course may be checked using this tool.

Students should submit papers to Turnitin Dropboxes without identifying information included in the paper (e.g., name or student number), the system will automatically show this information to faculty in your course when viewing the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin.

Student submissions will be retained in the Turnitin repository for comparison with other student papers in this class and in future classes.

Note: This is the *tentative* schedule that we will follow. However, it is **subject to modification**. Minor changes will be announced during class time. If major changes ensue, a revised schedule will be posted or distributed.

Wk	DATE	TOPIC	READING
Week 1	August 28 (Wednesday)	Introductions, syllabus review	
	August 30 (Friday)	Abnormal Psychology – Historical perspectives	Ch. 1 up to “Recent Decades and Current Trends” on page 13
Week 2	September 2 (Monday)	NO CLASS	
	September 4 (Wednesday)	<i>Abnormal Psychology – Historical perspectives (Continued)</i>	Ch. 1, page 13-21
	September 6 (Friday)	<i>Abnormal Psychology – Historical perspectives (Continued)</i>	
Week 3	September 9 (Monday)	<i>Abnormal Psychology – Historical perspectives (Continued)</i>	
	September 11 (Wednesday)	Research in Abnormal Psychology	Ch. 2
	September 13 (Friday)	Models of Abnormal Behavior	Ch. 3
Week 4	September 16 (Monday)	<i>Models of Abnormal Behavior (Continued)</i>	
	September 18 (Wednesday)	Panel Interview with Therapists	
	September 20 (Friday)	<i>Models of Abnormal Behavior (Continued)</i>	
Week 5	September 23 (Monday)	EXAM 1	

	September 25 (Wednesday)	Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment	Ch. 4
	September 27 (Friday)	Anxiety, OCD, and Related Disorders	Ch. 5 – up to page 135 (Panic Disorder heading)
Week 6	September 30 (Monday)	<i>Anxiety, OCD, and Related Disorders (continued)</i>	Ch. 5 – start on page 135 (Panic Disorder heading)
	October 2 (Wednesday)	<i>Anxiety, OCD, and Related Disorders (continued)</i>	
	October 4 (Friday)	Disorders of Trauma and Stress	Ch. 6 – up to page 172 (Dissociative Disorders heading)
Week 7	October 7 (Monday)	<i>Disorders of Trauma and Stress (continued)</i>	Ch. 6 – start on page 172 (Dissociative Disorders heading)
	October 9 (Wednesday)	Interview with a Therapist	
	October 11 (Friday)	Stigma and Mental Illness	
Week 8	October 14 (Monday)	NAMI Speakers: In Our Own Voice Program	
	October 16 (Wednesday)	Exam 2	
	October 18 (Friday)	Depressive and Bipolar Disorders	Ch. 7 – up to page 211 (Bipolar Disorders heading)
Week 9	October 21 (Monday)	<i>Depressive and Bipolar Disorders (continued)</i>	Ch. 7 – start on page 211 (Bipolar Disorders heading)
	October 23 (Wednesday)	Treatments for Depressive and Bipolar Disorders	Ch. 8
	October 25 (Friday)	<i>Treatments for Depressive and Bipolar Disorders (continued)</i>	

Week 10	October 28 (Monday)	Suicide	Ch. 9
	October 30 (Wednesday)	Treatment Responses to Suicidality	
	November 1 (Friday)	Eating Disorders Blog Paper Due by Today at 5:00 PM (turn in via D2L – papers will NOT be accepted via email)	Ch. 11
Week 11	November 4 (Monday)	<i>Eating Disorders (continued)</i>	
	November 6 (Wednesday)	Schizophrenia and Related Disorders	Ch. 14
	November 8 (Friday)	<i>Schizophrenia and Related Disorders (continued)</i>	
Week 12	November 11 (Monday)	Treatments for Schizophrenia and Other Severe Mental Illness	Ch. 15
	November 13 (Wednesday)	EXAM 3	
	November 15 (Friday)	Substance Use and Addictive Disorders	Ch. 12
Week 13	November 18 (Monday)	<i>Substance Use and Addictive Disorders (continued)</i>	
	November 20 (Wednesday)	Gender Dysphoria	Gender Dysphoria reading on D2L
	November 22 (Friday)	Guest Lecture TBD	
Week 14	November 25 (Monday)	Personality Disorders	Ch. 16
	November 27 (Wednesday)	<i>Personality Disorders (continued)</i>	

	November 29 (Friday)	NO CLASS	
Week 15	December 2 (Monday)	<i>Personality Disorders (continued)</i>	
	December 4 (Wednesday)	Interview with a Therapist	
	December 6 (Friday)	Emerging Issues in the Mental Health Field Wrap Up Discussion LAST DAY OF CLASS	TBD; will be posted to D2L
<p><u>Exam: Friday, Dec 13, 2019</u> <u>7:45am - 9:45am in 146 Giltner Hall</u></p>			