



PSY 280, Section 002: Abnormal Psychology

Fall 2020 Course Syllabus

Basic Details and Contact Information:

Class Time: Mon/Wed/Fri 10:20 – 11:10 AM; Online; ***MOST classes will be asynchronous!***
We will occasionally have live sessions at the time that the course is scheduled, but these will also be recorded for anyone unable to attend at the scheduled time. The syllabus details the dates of these live meetings.

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; all meetings will take place virtually and there will be no in-person meetings

Email: puckett26@msu.edu (note that this email is slightly different from my last name); you should allow 48 hours for me to respond

Office Hours: 9:00-10:00 AM Mondays via Zoom room and by appointment

Office hours will be held via Zoom or telephone calls. A link will be available on the D2L page for a Zoom meeting room. There will be a waiting room enabled, so when you join, you may need to wait to be seen if another student is currently being helped. Alternatively, you can email me to set up a time to meet directly.

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

Corbin Standley: corbinjs@msu.edu; Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 AM

Undergraduate Assistants:

Shelby Stamann: stamann1@msu.edu; Office Hours: **TBD**

Grace Sweeten: sweeteng@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 module. This will help you to engage with the course materials.

Attendance: We will not take attendance in this class and I will not monitor your viewing of course materials or attendance for the live sessions. However, it is to your benefit to review all course materials, including readings and videos, as well as the live sessions. 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 reviewed in the videos. Quizzes will cover lecture material that is not available in the book or the PowerPoint slides that may be reviewed via the video lectures and module materials.

Module Assignments: Each week, there will be brief assignments available for you to complete on D2L to engage you in learning the materials. Each week, these will count for 5 points. You'll have a week from Monday each week to complete these assignments. Across the 16 weeks, you will be able to accumulate up to 80 points from these assignments. There will not be opportunities to make up these assignments and any missed assignments will be recorded as a 0.

Quizzes: There will be quizzes every other week, covering the content over the 2 week period. You may use your notes and your book on these quizzes, but you should not work with others on the assignments. Each quiz will count for 50 points and there will be 8 quizzes for a total of 400 points. Most of your grade in the course will come from these quizzes. The quizzes will cover information from the book, lecture slides and videos, and any module materials posted to D2L. There will not be any opportunities to make up these quizzes and a missed assignment will automatically be recorded as a 0. They will be available for a 24 hour period and will be released at 9:00 AM the Fridays they are released on.

Paper: Students will need to complete one paper in this course worth 100 points. For this paper, you will need to choose a blog to read/follow from a person living with a mental illness. The paper provides you with an additional opportunity to learn about someone's personal experience. This paper will be due by October 23rd 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 3 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.

Honors Option: If you are an honors student and interested in this option for the class, you will write a more extended version of the class paper (4 pages instead of 3 pages). The details about this assignment will be made available on D2L.

To Recap, Your Grades Are Based on:

Assignments:	Due Date:	Points:
Weekly module activities	Within a week of release (by 9:00 AM Monday after release)	5 points each week, total of 80 points
Quizzes (every other week)	Within 24 hours of release	50 points each, total of 400 points
Paper	October 23 rd at 5:00 PM	100 points

Grading Scale:

Your points will be added across all assignments and your total score will be translated to a grade as outlined below. There will be no extra credit possible for the course.

Total Points:	% Total Points	Grade:
522-580	90-100%	4.0
493-521	85-89.9%	3.5
464-492	80-84.9%	3.0
435-463	75-79.9%	2.5
406-434	70-74.9%	2.0
377-405	65-69.9%	1.5
348-376	60-64.9%	1.0
0-347	Under 60%	0

CLASS POLICIES

There are a lot of policies below and I think these are important to read through for transparency and to help you be on the same page as myself/university requirements. Please read them and reach out if you have questions about any of them. Before you do though, I do want to mention that we are likely in for a challenging semester with COVID-19. Please know that your well-being is important to me. If you become ill, are encountering significant hardships with housing/employment stability, taking care of a sick family member, or other possible challenges, I am available to help you find assistance and resources. There will be a resources section on the D2L page that also may be of assistance to you. Sometimes I may not know a resource right off hand, but if you reach out, we can set up a meeting and talk through how to navigate the course during challenging times and get connected to resources and supports to help you through.

1. **Reach out if you are struggling.** Read the paragraph above again and if you run into challenges, do reach out if you'd like help navigating the course or have questions about resources/supports. If you are struggling in the class, please 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.

2. **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

3. **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.).

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.

4. **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.

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 assignments or quizzes, you will receive a 0. If you are experiencing a medical emergency that results in your missing the assignment, you should contact the instructor before the exam (or as soon as reasonably possible) to arrange for a makeup. 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 a quiz, you can contact the registrar for a Grief Absence Request (more info available at: <https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/GriefAbsence.aspx>).

If you must miss a quiz due to a university sanctioned event that you are required to attend, 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 assignments 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 go through all of the online materials in the modules, attend the live sessions, take notes, participate – be an active learner.

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 or share the lectures from the class. These will be available to you on the D2L site, but you should not download these for use outside of the class and should not share them with anyone else.
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 and via our online forum, students are expected to participate and to treat other students with respect. We will at times be discussing controversial issues. 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.

10. Recordings of Course:

Meetings of this course may be recorded. The recordings may be available to students registered for this class. This is intended to supplement the classroom experience. Students are expected to follow appropriate University policies and maintain the security of passwords used to access recorded lectures. Recordings may not be reproduced, shared with those not in the class, or uploaded to other online environments. Doing so may result in disciplinary action. If the instructor or another University office plan other uses for the recordings beyond this class, students identifiable in the recordings will be notified to request consent prior to such use. Related Policies:

Institutional Data Policy:

<https://tech.msu.edu/about/guidelines-policies/msu-institutional-data-policy/>

Student Privacy Guidelines and Notification of Rights under FERPA

<https://reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/Notices/PrivacyGuidelines.aspx>

11. Staying Home or Self-Isolating when Appropriate:

Students who need to quarantine themselves, have been sick with COVID-19 [symptoms](#), tested positive for COVID-19, or have been potentially [exposed](#) to someone with COVID-19 should follow CDC guidance to [self-isolate or stay home](#). If this is the case, I will make accommodations as needed to ensure that this does not put you at a disadvantage in the course.

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.

Week 1	September 2-4
Topics:	Introductions and syllabus review; Beginning discussion of historical perspectives on abnormal psychology
Readings:	Chapter 1 of course textbook, up to “Recent Decades and Current Trends” on page 13
Format:	<i>Synchronous on September 2 for class overview</i> Asynchronous module on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points)
Week 2	September 7-11
Topics:	Historical perspectives on abnormal psychology
Readings:	Chapter 1 of course textbook page 13-21
Format:	Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points) Quiz 1 (50 points)
Week 3	September 14-18
Topics:	Research in Abnormal Psychology
Readings:	Chapter 2
Format:	Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points)
Week 4	September 21-25
Topics:	Models of Abnormal Psychology
Readings:	Chapter 3
Format:	<i>Synchronous on September 25 for class review period</i> Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points) Quiz 2 (50 points)
Week 5	September 28-October 2
Topics:	Models of Abnormal Psychology
Readings:	Chapter 3
Format:	Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points)
Week 6	October 5-9
Topics:	Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment
Readings:	Chapter 4
Format:	Asynchronous modules on D2L

Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points) Quiz 3 (50 points)
Week 7	October 12-16
Topics:	Anxiety, OCD, and Related Disorders
Readings:	Chapter 5
Format:	Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points)
Week 8	October 19-23
Topics:	Disorders of Trauma and Stress
Readings:	Chapter 6
Format:	<i>Synchronous on October 23 for class review period</i> Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points) Quiz 4 (50 points)
Week 9	October 26-30
Topics:	Depressive and Bipolar Disorders
Readings:	Chapter 7
Format:	Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points)
Week 10	November 2-6
Topics:	Depressive and Bipolar Disorders Treatment
Readings:	Chapter 8
Format:	Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points) Quiz 5 (50 points)
Week 11	November 9-13
Topics:	Suicide
Readings:	Chapter 9
Format:	Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points)
Week 12	November 16-20
Topics:	Gender Dysphoria
Readings:	Available on D2L
Format:	<i>Synchronous on November 20 for class review period</i> Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points) Quiz 6 (50 points)
Week 13	November 23-27 (no classes on the 27 th)

Topics:	Eating Disorders
Readings:	Chapter 11
Format:	Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points)
Week 14	November 30 – December 4
Topics:	Substance Use & Addictive Disorders
Readings:	Chapter 12
Format:	Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points) Quiz 7 (50 points)
Week 15	December 7-11
Topics:	Schizophrenia
Readings:	Chapter 14 & Chapter 15
Format:	<i>Synchronous on December 11 for class review period</i> Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points)
Final Exam Time	<u>Friday, Dec 18 (note – we will NOT have a final exam – I will simply be posting module materials and a quiz)</u>
Topics:	Wrap up for the Semester module and Exam 8 released at 7:45 AM
Readings:	None
Format:	Asynchronous modules on D2L
Assignments:	D2L activities (5 points) Quiz 8 (50 points)