

Abnormal Psychology (PSY 280)
Michigan State University
Summer 2021: Online, First Session (May 17 – July 1, 2021)

Contact Information

Instructor	Brian Brutzman, M.A. BCBA	Office Hours via Zoom	Monday - Friday by appointment
Email	brutzman@msu.edu		
Pronouns	He/Him/His		

Overview

This course will provide detailed coverage of the problems, disorders, and varieties of atypical behavior as expressed in adults (primarily). We will emphasize the concepts and methods of an integrative, sometimes known as biopsychosocial, perspective on psychopathology as they illuminate the biological, genetic, familial, and social-cultural factors influencing the onset and maintenance of psychological disorders. We will give special attention to the contributions of neuroscience to this biopsychosocial perspective. Descriptive psychopathology, as typified in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – Fifth Edition* (the DSM-5) will be evaluated with respect to the integrative perspective. We will review a range of psychological disorders and will emphasize those that are the most common and have the strongest evidentiary base.

Please note: Abnormal psychology and behavior is a fascinating subject but please remember that “normal” is a subjective term. When we look at others it is easy to assume normal and abnormal behaviors. **This class will not make you a psychologist and will not qualify you to formally diagnose mental health problems, disorders, or behaviors.** Please do not diagnose your family, friends, classmates, or anyone else based on what you learn in this class. That said, if you or someone you know is struggling, please reach out to someone you trust. You can also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or contact the Crisis Text Line by texting the word TALK to 741-741. Both are free and confidential and are answered by trained professionals.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will clearly understand the difference between the training and professional roles of clinical psychologists and psychiatrists.
2. Students will understand and recognize the differences between science and pseudoscience and between clinical science and “pop” psychology as these apply to the subject matter of Abnormal Psychology.
3. Students will become knowledgeable about psychological disorders and symptoms as presented in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – Fifth Edition* (DSM-5) (American Psychiatric Association, 2013)
4. Students will be able to use an integrative psychopathology perspective to understand risk and protective factors influencing the expression and course of disorders, continuities and discontinuities between normal and disordered development, and the interplay among biological and psychosocial factors in disordered behavior.

5. Students will become conversant with the treatment strategies used with individuals who have psychological disorders.

Required Textbook

Ray, W. J. (2018). *Abnormal Psychology* (2nd Ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.

- This textbook is available in a hardcover, loose-leaf, and e-book format and can be purchased or rented.
- ISBN (hardcover) 9781506333359 (\$115.00 list price from publisher)
ISBN (loose-leaf) 9781506378282 (\$86.00 list price from publisher)
ISBN (e-text) 9781506333373 (\$69.00 list price from publisher)
- **If you choose to use the first edition of this text**, you will find that the chapters are ordered differently, relevant page numbers differ between the two editions, and there is new content in the second edition. **If you choose to use the third edition of the text**, similar issues could arise. It will be your responsibility to discover and manage any differences.
- [Link to textbook publisher for free student resources](#). You do not need to have purchased the e-version of the text to have free access to these resources. I cannot emphasize enough how much material will be covered in this course and how much detailed information you must learn to do well in the course. *SAGE Edge* is an online learning tool for students. It was specifically developed by the publisher for your textbook. You are not required to access this material, but I highly recommend that you do.

Class Format and Workload

This is an **accelerated online course**. We will be covering the same material that is normally covered over the course of an entire semester in seven weeks, so it can be easy to fall behind if you are not on top of your assignments. The **accelerated** nature of this course is the first aspect to consider in deciding whether this is the right class for you now. In estimating how much work is involved in a course, a typical rule of thumb is that, in full semester course, you should plan on spending three hours for each credit hour of the course. PSY 280 is a three-credit course, suggesting an approximate workload of nine hours per week. Since this is an accelerated course, you should assume that this course could conceivably **require 18 hours per week of your time**. This would include reading the text, completing course activities, and studying for exams. Some of you will not need 18 hours and some of you will need more.

You must also consider whether an online course is the right type of learning experience for you. It is not right for every type of learner. Some of you may be familiar with online courses; for others, this might be the first online course you have taken. Please take the time to read this section to familiarize yourself with the procedures that are followed in online courses. This course will be held entirely online through the **Desire2Learn (D2L)** course management system. There will be no face-to-face classes or tests. After reading through all this material carefully, consider also whether an online course is the right course for you now.

Use this link to see a video demonstration of MSU's course management software system, Desire2 Learn (D2L): [Video Introduction to D2L](#)

Because this course is completely online, you need to make sure that you have consistent access to high-speed broadband Internet throughout the course. Vacations and summer projects that take you out of the country don't work with accelerated summer courses, face-to-face or online. The instructor cannot make accommodation for your vacation or out-of-the-country project. Remember each week of an accelerated session is equivalent to two weeks of a regular semester. **This course is not self-paced.**

This course requires a high-speed internet connection. It also requires various software programs to see and hear all the course material. You need to be on a computer that allows downloads of free browser plugins so that you can watch movies and listen to lectures. This means that many public library computers are not appropriate unless you have verified that they have the necessary software. If there is a problem during an exam, please report it as soon as possible to the **MSU D2L Helpline at 1-844-678-6200 or (517) 432-6200**. They will log the problem and, in turn, report it to the instructor. Technical problems should be reported immediately (within 6 hours). You may also report the problem to the instructor (although he is not available 24/7 like the Help Line). If there is a system-level problem, hearing about it from more than one student allows the Help Line to discover what has gone wrong. If it is just a problem with your computer then they can help troubleshoot that issue, too. Make sure you call the Help Line.

Keep the Hotline Distance Learning help numbers by your computer in case there is a problem.

Any concerns regarding the D2L system should be directed to the MSU Help Line (517) 432-6200 or 1-844-678-6200 (24 hours, 7 days a week).

Learn how to clear the cache and cookies on your browser – that resolves many problems.

Before you begin an exam:

1. Clear your cache and cookies by going into the Tools tab.
2. Choose “Clear Private Data” and check two boxes, “Cache” and “Cookies.”
3. Click on “Clear Private Data Now.”
4. 4. Log into D2L and begin your exam.

Communication Policy

If you have questions during the course:

1. First, check the syllabus. Many of the most frequently asked questions are already answered in the syllabus.
2. Next, check the FAQ discussion board in D2L. Another student may have had the same question earlier in the course and you won't have to wait for your answer.
3. If your question is not in the syllabus or FAQ, then post it to the FAQ discussion board in D2L if it is a question that may interest other students.

4. Email the instructor directly if the question is about something related specifically to your or your situation.

Email is the best way to reach me. I will respond to emails within 24 hours during the week (Monday through Friday). During exam periods I can get back to you immediately. Messages received over the weekend will receive a response by the following Monday evening. Please keep the following in mind when contacting me:

- Put PSY 280 in the subject line to ensure that your email is answered promptly.
- A clear, concise, polite email is more likely to receive a clear, concise, and polite response.

Attendance

Students whose names do not appear on the class list may not participate in this course. This class relies on persistent engagement and reflection. Therefore, students must complete assignments in the week they are given. It is your responsibility to understand when and how you are able to unenroll from a course. Refer to the [Office of the Registrar](#) for important deadlines.

Course Material

Every student enrolled in PSY 280 is required to read the orientation information for this course. Click on the “Contents” folder at the top part of the D2L home page for PSY 280-730. Then click on “Getting Started.” Even if you have taken the training course for prior online courses, you are required to take it again for this course.

The material in “Getting Started” has the essential information you will need to complete the course. At the end of this folder is a short quiz that you must take. The quiz tests your basic knowledge of the D2L system. You will need to click on the Day One Orientation quiz link to access this quiz. Please note: You cannot begin the course until you get 85% of the answers correct. If you do not get a score of 85% on your first try, you can keep taking the quiz until you do. However, every time you re-take the quiz, you will need to rereview the D2L course orientation. Your score on the quiz is not included in your grade. We have you take the orientation course and the quiz so that you are comfortable navigating the D2L system. Learning about D2L before you begin will help avoid later problems.

The password that you will need to know when you take the quiz is: quizkey

D2L tracks all student login information. It keeps a record of when you log in to D2L and when you log out. It also records when you begin an exam and when you submit it. This helps us to resolve problems that might arise with the D2L system. You should know, however, that the instructor cannot view student activity except in the course content area. That is, we cannot view anything you put in the “My Content” area.

Assignments

There are seven (7) weeks in which to cover 14 chapters from the course text. We will cover two chapters per week. We will cover all the chapters in the Ray (2018) text except for chapters 9 and 16.

In general, the course week runs from **Monday (12:00am) until Sunday (11:50pm)**. You have two chapters and their associated activities to cover each week. All times are in Eastern Daylight Time. Think of the flow of weekly activity as follows:

1. **Review the learning objectives for the chapter.** Read the chapter and review the PowerPoint lecture modules associated with the chapter. Make liberal use of the publisher's resources to assist with your comprehension and memory of the course content. ([Link to textbook publisher for free student resources](#)).
2. **Make a post in the discussion forum** and respond to at least two other classmates' posts. These discussion posts should follow the prompts given in D2L related to the textbook and lecture content for that week.
3. **Take the chapter test.** This activity will consolidate your learning from the chapter's contents and help prepare you for the upcoming exams. Your two lowest chapter test scores will be dropped from your final grade for the course.
4. **Review the week's content to prepare for the next exam.**

The deadlines for these activities will be posted on the D2L calendar and in the course syllabus. The deadlines will be consistent for weeks 1 through 6, but there will be differences for week 7. Be on the alert for the deadline differences during the first and last week of the course. You will also need to incorporate time to prepare for the three exams into your study routines. These occur during Weeks 3, 5, and 7.

There are three types of assignments that will contribute to your overall grade for the course. You need to pay attention to the due dates and give yourself plenty of time to complete all of your assignments. There are absolutely no opportunities to make up this work if you miss a due date. No explanation or excuse will be accepted. I suggest you complete all tasks well in advance of the due date to avoid disappointment.

1. **Discussion forum posts:** Each week for the first six weeks of the course, you will be responsible for posting in the discussion forum. Your participation in these forums will be worth **5 points per week** and will count as 20% of your course grade. This allows you to interpret and reflect on what you have learned from the readings and lecture as well as to share your experiences with your classmates. Discussion forums will open at **12:00am** on Monday. Students should create a post (3 points) and comment on two other classmates' posts (2 points) by **11:59pm on Friday** of each week.

You are expected to post promptly and show initiative; contribute to the learning community; make your post relevant; express yourself clearly and respectfully; and use appropriate style, grammar and citations. Prompts will be included to guide the discussion as relevant to that week's content. Discussion forum posts should be five to seven sentences in length responding to these prompts using information from the text and the lectures.

2. **Chapter Tests:** There are 14 chapter tests and each is worth **20 points**. The chapter test scores are weighted so that your total score for the 14 chapter tests accounts for 20% of your course grade. Note that your two lowest chapter test scores will be dropped and will not contribute to your final grade for the course. The chapter test instructions and due dates

are posted on D2L. Each chapter test has 20 questions from each chapter of the course text that we covering. Each chapter test become available as soon as you complete the pretest associated with that chapter. **You can only take the chapter test once.** Once you begin a chapter test you will have 60 minutes to complete it. Be sure you have the time available and that you have a reliable internet connection before opening a chapter test.

Your grade for the assignment will be the score you have earned at the end of 60 minutes or at the deadline for completion of the test, whichever comes first. You may use books and notes to complete the chapter test but you may not work jointly with other students from the class. The chapter tests are generally due at 11:59 pm on the Sunday following our completion of the chapter in class. The exception to this pattern is that the Week 7 chapter test will be due at 11:59 pm on Wednesday of that week. Please verify these dates on the syllabus and on the D2L calendar for the course. You must manage your time very carefully during the final week of the course.

The method used to administer chapter tests and exams in PSY 280 enhances exam security during online testing. It is called “single-question, no backtrack.” In this type of exam, questions are delivered one at a time. A student answers each question and then submits his/her answer. Then the next question is presented. **It is not possible to go back to previous questions.** This method requires a different strategy than you might ordinarily use for test taking. You may have learned to answer all the questions that you know and then go back to the ones you left blank. This strategy is not possible in a single-question, no backtrack testing method. Since these chapter tests and exams are open-book/note many students find that those questions about which they had doubts are the ones that they want to look up in the book. However, please note that you do not have enough time to look up every single question on the chapter tests and exams. If single-question no backtrack (open book testing) sounds like a method with which you will be comfortable, then the online version of PSY 280 class is probably a good fit for your assessment style. If it doesn't fit your style, you might wish to wait and take a face-to-face section of the course.

3. **Exams:** There will be 3 non-cumulative examinations. All exams are open book and will be timed using the same single-question, no backtrack format as the chapter tests. All exams will consist of multiple-choice questions that will include information covered in course readings, PowerPoint presentations, lectures, and any additional materials found in course content (e.g., videos or audios). Each of the 3 exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions; you will have ninety minutes (1.5 hours) to complete each. The exam scores are weighted so that each exam counts for 20% of your final course grade.

Examinations will be available online for 31 hours. You can take the exam anytime during the 31-hour window of opportunity. However, the exam will close at the announced time, so you must start the exam at least 90 minutes prior to the posted closing time for the exam. If you are in the middle of your exam when the closing time is reached, the exam will close and you will only get credit for the questions you have completed at the closing time.

- a. Exam I will be available at 5:00 pm on the Sunday that **ends** Week 3 of the summer semester. It closes 31 hours later at 11:59 pm on the Monday of Week 4.

- b. Exam II will be available at 5:00 pm on the Sunday that **ends** Week 5 of the summer semester. It closes 31 hours later at 11:59 pm on the Monday of Week 6.
- c. Exam III (the non-cumulative final exam) will be available at 5:00 pm on Wednesday of Week 7. It closes 31 hours later at 11:59 pm on the Thursday of Week 7. Note that this schedule differs from the schedule for the first two exams.

You must start your exams before 10:29 pm on the closing day if you wish to make use of the full 90 minutes available for the exam. All D2L times are based on the time at MSU (Eastern Daylight Time). Make sure you convert the time to your own time zone. You still have 31 hours but the time frame will be slightly different depending on your location. D2L will do the time zone conversions for you. Go to the pull-down arrow by your name and select "Account Settings." Go to "Time Zone." Choose your continent and time zone and then scroll down and click on the "Save and Close" button. D2L closings are precise. When an exam lists a closing time, the exam will no longer be available after that time.

Because of the generous amount of time allotted for each exam, **there are no makeup exams**. There are only two exceptions to this rule: students who have a significant illness or who have a serious family problem (e.g., death, funeral). Students will be required to documentation of such incidents by email if they request a makeup exam. Students who do not provide adequate documentation will receive a grade of zero for that exam.

Grading

The D2L gradebook for this course is organized on a percentage basis with different components of the course weighed for their contribution to your final grade. The D2L gradebook is set up to automatically update your grade each time you complete an assignment. You can always check your grade by going to the PSY 280-730 D2L home page, clicking on the "Assessment" tab, and selecting "Grades" from the drop-down menu.

Final Grade Weighting

Assignment Type	% of Grade	Notes
Exams	60%	20% for each of three non-cumulative exams.
Discussion Forums	20%	You must post during each of the first six weeks.
Chapter Tests	20%	There are 14 chapter tests. Your lowest two chapter test scores will be dropped.

Final Grading Scale

Final course grades are dependent upon a straight percentage of points earned during the semester and the weighting of those points. There is no "curve", which means that no one in the course is statistically required to do poorly and everyone in the course is eligible to earn a 4.0 for the semester.

Grade	Percentage	Grade	Percentage
4.0	90 – 100%	2.0	67 – 71.9%
3.5	85 – 89.9%	1.5	62 – 66.9%

3.0	79 – 84.9%	1.0	57 – 61.9%
2.5	72 – 78.9%	0.0	< 57%

If your grade in this course is very important to you, do everything in your power to get as many points as possible. I will not raise students' grades at the end of the semester simply because they are close to the cut point for earning a higher grade. Please do not ask. It is a violation of university standards to allow an individual student an opportunity to raise a grade by doing some additional work at the end of the semester unless that opportunity is available to everyone in the class. Please do not ask me to do this either as there are no extra credit options in this course.

Errors in Recording or Reporting your Grades

If you believe that a score is in error or has been omitted from the D2L gradebook, please email me as soon as you become aware of the error. On the subject line of this email please write "PSY 280 gradebook error." D2L tracks all student login information. It keeps a record of when you log in to D2L and when you log out. It also records when you begin an activity and when you submit it. This helps us to resolve problems that might arise with the D2L system. If you tell us that you completed an activity and it is not recorded in the D2L system, we will be able to access the D2L log to see when you accessed the activity. These instructions above do not replace the requirement that you communicate with the D2L Help Line (1-800- 500-1554 or 517-355-2345) if you encounter a problem while completing a time-limited quiz or test.

Appealing a Test Question

The instructor cannot let you see online exams after you have taken them. This is to minimize chances of academic dishonesty, that is, it prevents students from posting questions on various websites (which is cheating). However, if you are concerned that a question on the exam was scored incorrectly, you have one week from the time the exam was given to contest that question(s). However, for the final exam, you must appeal immediately because grades are submitted soon after you take that exam. What do you do if you think that your answer was correct but it was marked wrong? **You must follow this procedure for your appeal to be considered:**

- Email the instructor with the subject line: "PSY 280 Question Appeal."
- Explain why your choice is the best answer.
- Document your explanation. Provide textbook pages, slide numbers from lectures, etc. If the instructor finds that a question has been keyed incorrectly then he will change it for all students at the same time.

Academic Honesty

[The Spartan Code of Honor](#) states, "As a Spartan, I will strive to uphold values of the highest ethical standard. I will practice honesty in my work, foster honesty in my peers, and take pride in knowing that honor is worth more than grades. I will carry these values beyond my time as a student at Michigan State University, continuing the endeavor to build personal integrity in all that I do." In addition, Article 2.III.B.2 of the [Student Rights and Responsibilities \(SRR\)](#) states that "The student shares with the faculty the responsibility for maintaining the integrity of scholarship, grades, and professional standards." The Department of Psychology 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](#)).

Therefore, unless authorized by the instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including homework, lab work, quizzes, tests and exams, without assistance from any source. You are expected to develop original work for this course; therefore, you may not submit course work you completed for another course to satisfy the requirements for this course. Students who violate MSU academic integrity rules may receive a penalty grade, including a failing grade on the assignment or in the course. Contact your instructor if you are unsure about the appropriateness of your course work. (See also the [Academic Integrity](#) webpage.)

Limits to Confidentiality

Essays, journals, and other materials submitted for this class are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. In addition, most personal disclosures are kept in confidence. However, 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 to protect the health and safety of MSU community members and others. As the instructor, I must report the following information to other University offices (including the [MSU Police Department](#)) 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 involving MSU students, faculty, or staff.
- 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](#).

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

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.

Commercialized Lecture Notes

[The Code of Teaching Responsibility](#) requires that students receive the written consent of the instructor to sell or otherwise commercialize class notes and materials. Specifically, the Code of Teaching Responsibility states, "Instructors may allow commercialization by including permission in the course syllabus or other written statement distributed to all students in the class."

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 record lectures or any other classroom activities and use the recordings only for their own course-related purposes.
2. Students may share the recordings with other students enrolled in the class, provided that they also use the recordings only for their own course-related purposes.
3. Students may not post the recordings or other course materials online or distribute them to anyone not enrolled in the class without the advance written permission of the course instructor and, if applicable, any students whose voice or image is included in the recordings.
4. Any student violating the conditions described above may face academic disciplinary sanctions, including receiving a penalty grade in the course.

Disruptive Behavior

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.

Religious Accommodations

If you need to miss a class or need accommodations regarding homework assignments due to religious observances, practices, or holidays, inform the instructor **in advance** so that such accommodations can be made.

Disclaimer

On the next page is a general indication of when we will cover the topics in the course. However, as the instructor, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule according to the pace of the course and the needs of the students. This also includes making any changes that I deem necessary to the details and/or policies listed in this syllabus. **Check D2L regularly to keep up with the topics. You will be given notice of any changes. Also, please know that you are responsible for keeping track of all assignments and exams. The instructor will not remind you about upcoming deadlines.**

Course Schedule

Week	Day	Date	Reading	Topic	Assignments Due
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1	MON	5/17	Syllabus Ch. 1-2	Introduction to PSY 280 Overview of psychopathology; Neuroscience approaches	12:00am: Week one materials available upon completion of orientation checklist and quiz 11:59pm: Orientation checklist and quiz due
	FRI	5/21			11:59pm: Discussion forum 1
	SUN	5/23			11:59pm: Ch. 1-2 tests
2	MON	5/24	Ch. 3-4	Research Methods; Assessment and Classification	12:00am: Week two materials available
	FRI	5/28			11:59pm: Discussion forum 2
	SUN	5/30			11:59pm: Ch. 3-4 tests
3	MON	5/31	Ch. 5-6	Childhood Disorders; Mood Disorders/Suicide	12:00am: Week three materials available
	FRI	6/4			11:59pm: Discussion forum 3
	SUN	6/6			5:00pm: Exam I (Ch. 1-6) available 11:59pm: Ch. 5-6 tests
4	MON	6/7	Ch. 7-8	Stress & Trauma; Anxiety Disorders and OCD	12:00am: Week four materials available 11:59pm: Exam 1 closes
	FRI	6/11			11:59pm: Discussion forum 4
	SUN	6/13			11:59pm: Ch.7-8 tests
5	MON	6/14	Ch. 10-11	Eating Disorders; Sexuality Disorders	12:00am: Week five materials available
	FRI	6/18			11:59pm: Discussion forum 5
	SUN	6/20			5:00pm: Exam II (Ch. 7,8,10,11) available 11:59pm: Ch. 10-11 tests
6	MON	6/21	Ch. 12-13	Substance Use Disorders; Schizophrenia	12:00am: Week six materials available 11:59pm: Exam II closes
	THUR	6/24		Week 7 opens early	12:00am: Week seven materials available
	FRI	6/25			11:59pm: Discussion Forum 6
	SUN	6/27			11:59pm: Ch. 12-13 tests
7*	MON	6/28	Ch. 14-15	Personality Disorders; Neurocognitive Disorders	

WED	6/30			5:00pm: Exam III (Ch. 12-15) available 11:59pm: Ch. 14-15 tests
THUR	7/1			11:59pm: Exam III closes

*Note carefully that Week 7 closes on Wednesday, 6/30 @ 11:59 pm.