



PSY 280: Psychological Disorders (Spring 2026)

Psychological Disorders

Psy 280, Section 001: Spring 2026

Monday/Wednesday, 8:30-9:50 am ET in Holden Hall, Rm G8

[Weekly Schedule](#)

Instructor: Prof. Buchanan

Student-Faculty Connection (office) Hours: Tuesdays 2-3 pm ET and by appointment

[Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 234 667 5022

Password: Thrive!

Teaching Assistant: Kristen Johnson

Open Office Hours (Virtual): Mondays & Wednesdays 8am-8:30am ET and by appointment

[Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 325 288 7199

Passcode: 014658

Email: MSUPsych280@gmail.com

Put “Psy 280” in the subject line to ensure it is answered promptly.

Please see the email policy later in this syllabus.

Course Goals & Objectives

This course will provide a broad overview of various psychological disorders and challenging behaviors. The primary emphasis will be on adult psychopathology and the social, cultural, and biological influences on mental health. This course is intended to be an introduction to psychopathology. I encourage you to take advanced courses on related topics for an in-depth examination of particular disorders, populations, or treatment methods.

Our online course materials include extra sections on substance abuse, childhood and adolescence, aging and neurocognitive disorders, and psychology and the law. We will not formally cover these topics, and you will not be tested on these chapters, but I encourage you to skim through the material, watch videos, etc from these chapters.

Course Materials:

Revel

The **Revel** version of **Nevid/Rathus/Greene’s, *Psychological Disorders: Science, Self, and Society, 12e*** is **required** for this course. It includes an electronic version of the textbook, study materials, test

preparation, and activities. There will be hundreds of class points related to assignments and quizzes that are exclusively available on Revel. **You cannot pass this class without accessing Revel and doing the homework for each chapter on time.** Access to a computer or mobile electronic device (tablet or smartphone) with internet access is necessary to complete your Revel assignments.

Things to know about REVEL

- Always access REVEL through our D2L classroom site. If you do not enter through our class D2L, your points will not be logged and you will not get credit.
- Review [Get started with Revel for your LMS](#)
- Always use your MSU email if asked.
- If you are deciding whether or not to stay in this class, you can get free access to Revel for 14 days before making a final decision.
- After you register with Revel, you can add an option to print a version of the textbook at a discount.
- If you encounter any issues with Revel, you must contact Pearson directly. The Revel platform is not part of the MSU system and the professor/TA cannot resolve any issues that you may have on their website.

First steps if there is a problem

- Try using a different browser (Google Chrome or Firefox work best) or a different device.
- If the issue still isn't resolved, [clear your cache and cookies](#).
- If the issue still isn't resolved, [update your browser settings](#).
- [Properly set-up your pop-up blockers](#).
- If you still need help, [contact 24/7 tech support](#).

Accessing Revel Throughout The Semester:

- Always access REVEL through our D2L classroom site. If you do not enter through our class D2L, your points will not be logged and you will not get credit.
- D2L will show your total points earned from Revel assignments. You can go to Revel to see how you did on an individual Revel assignment.
- It can take a few hours for Revel scores to update in D2L. Be patient.

Online Tools for this Class:

Revel: See above for how to register and log in to Revel and see below for what you will be required to do in Revel each week.

Desire2Learn (D2L): Class emails will be sent through D2L. Be sure to set your D2L settings so D2L emails go to your main MSU email--otherwise you could miss time-sensitive information about our class.

Google Drive: There will be documents that you will access on Google Drive through D2L. You must access Google Drive with your MSU account. Requests to access documents from non-MSU accounts will be denied.

Zoom: Please create your MSU zoom account at [zoom.msu.edu](https://zoom.us/join) and install it on your devices. This will allow you to attend Student-Faculty Connection (Office) Hours.

Course Requirements:

Revel: Do Revel activities several times a week to ensure you are keeping up with the assignments and readings. All assignments are due on Sunday by 11:59 EDT on the date listed, but I encourage you to do them as we work on each section every week. The goal is to work on each chapter several times

throughout the week so that you are done before the deadline.

Late submissions will be accepted for credit, but your maximum points will automatically be reduced by 50% if they are late. The material is available for you to study and review throughout the semester, even after the deadline has passed.

Each chapter has a variety of sections that allow you to earn points for class credit. The number of points will vary based on the number of topics in a chapter. When you log in and select a chapter, it will show you the chapter activities and the total number of points possible for that chapter.

Ways to earn Revel Points:

- **Module Quizzes** appear at the end of each major section of a chapter quizzes. Each question is worth 1 point and you get two tries to get the right answer.
- **Video Quizzes** appear after some videos and are worth 2 points each.
- **Chapter Quizzes** appear at the end of a chapter. These questions are worth 1 points each and you only get one chance to answer correctly. The goal of the chapter quizzes is to see how well you have remembered the material for the entire chapter.
- **Concept Check** are worth 1 point and you get two tries to get the right answer.
- You are not graded on journal prompts, writing assignments, case studies or shared writing prompts.

Tips for Using Revel to Succeed in This Course

- Always access Revel through our D2L classroom.
- Use your MSU email when you register for Revel and access content on Google Drive.
- Do a little work in Revel every day.
- Track your performance in Revel throughout the semester.
- Highlight important sections in the chapter so you can easily refer to them later on in the semester.
- Consider listening to the audio while you read.

Lectures/Revel: Please note that there will be material in lectures that will not be covered in the text (and vice versa). Exams will cover material from both. To be successful in this course, you are strongly encouraged to attend/watch all lectures (lecture outlines are provided on D2L), read the corresponding chapter in the textbook (online), and go through all the Revel material (study aids, quizzes, and videos). Although some of the Revel material is not graded, doing all of the exercises results in a substantial increase in how much you will learn and how you will do on the exams.

Exams: There will be 5 exams. Only the best four exams will be counted for your grade. If you have taken the first 4 exams and are satisfied with your grade, you will not need to take the final exam. **If you miss an exam for ANY reason, you will need to take the final exam to make up the missed exam. If you miss two exams, you will receive a zero on one and can take the final exam to make up the other.** The first 4 exams will not be cumulative. The final/make-up exam will be cumulative.

You will be able to start the first 4 exams 10AM EDT on the scheduled exam day (see below). You will have 24 hours to complete the exams. You must complete the exam within 100 minutes and submit your exam by 10:00 AM EDT the following day.

The final exam will be open for 48 hours ending at the scheduled final exam day and ending time

scheduled by MSU (see below). You will be able to start the final exam at any time during this 48-hour period. You must complete the exam within 100 minutes and submit your exam by 11:59PM EDT on the date listed in the schedule.

Exams are online on D2L. They will be “open book,” meaning you can use any of our class materials (but not materials from other websites or resources) during the exam. Exams may include multiple choice, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, etc. Any material from the lecture, Revel, videos, and related materials may be included on exams.

Disputing items on an exam: If you get an answer wrong on the exam or quiz and believe your answer should be re-considered, you must fill out the **Item Dispute Form** within one week of the grades being returned. After one week, no changes will be made. The item dispute form is available at this [link](#) and on D2L.

Illness & Emergencies:

If you are ill or have an emergency, do not panic! This class is designed to foster your success, even when life gets in the way.

- I will not take attendance or offer extra credit that requires you be in class to participate. Any important class announcements will be on the class announcements page.
- Videos of all the lectures are available on D2L for you to watch at any time.
- Lecture-related exam questions about will only include information that was also covered in the lecture videos to ensure that no one is penalized if they must miss class due to an emergency. Exams will also cover Revel material.
- Exams will be online via D2L.
- Student-Faculty Connection (office) Hours will be online via zoom.

Grading procedures:

- 1)** Course material and grades will be posted to the class website on Desire2Learn (<https://d2l.msu.edu>). You are responsible for any and all items posted on the course website. Please check it often for new material, class announcements, changes, etc.
- 2)** Total points earned (+ any extra credit points earned) will be divided by the total points for the class (which will vary based on the Revel assignments). This percentage will be translated into your final grade (see chart below). As such, you are not being graded on a curve; it is possible for every student in the class to receive an A=4.0.
- 3)** I **automatically round any percentage ending in a 4.5 or a 9.5**. For example, an 84.5 would become an 85% and 89.5 would become a 90%.
- 4)** Grading example based on 1075 total points in the class.

Exam 1 = 103/125 points	Exam 3 = 111/125 points	Final exam = 108/125 points
Exam 2 = 105/125 points	Exam 4 = 115/125 points	Revel points = 470/575

*Exam 1 will be dropped because it was the lowest score, so total exam points = 439/500.

Student’s total points for the class = 439 + 470= 909. If the student had done extra credit, those points would be added to the student’s total points.

This number is divided by the total points for the class =1075 (total exam points possible [500] + total Revel points possible [575]). **Note:** Total points here may be different from the total points in a given semester.

909/1075 = .845 (multiply by 100 = 84.5% (which rounds to 85% automatically) = 3.5 based on the MSU grading scale below.

- 5) Note: Given the many points you can easily earn with Revel, I will not provide extra credit points and will not “give” extra points to help you earn a higher grade at the end of the semester.**

MSU Grading Scale:

4.0 = 90-100%	2.0 = 70-74%
3.5 = 85-89%	1.5 = 65-69%
3.0 = 80-84%	1.0 = 60-64%
2.5 = 75-79%	0.0 = below 60%

Email Requirements & Communication Guidelines:

Before emailing, Ask yourself:

- 1. Might this information be on the syllabus, D2L or Revel?**
 - a. Read the syllabus thoroughly and review it throughout the semester.
 - b. Read the syllabus again before emailing.
 - c. If information is on the syllabus, D2L or Revel and you email us, we will remind you to review the resources you have.
- 2. Is my question about a technical issue with D2L or Revel?** If so, call/email/chat with either the D2L or the Revel/Pearson helpdesk. After you speak with them, feel free to update us on the issue and solution if it might impact your ability to complete something on time, impacts your grade or may affect more students. Do not email the professor first (or only) because only Revel/Pearson or D2L can help with technical issues.
- 3. Does my question require a lengthy or complicated response?** If so, attend student-faculty connection (office) hours, do not email the question.
- 4. Are you urgently asking a question about something a few hours before it is due (e.g., an exam)?** If so, you can email, but it is unlikely that we will see it in time to help.
- 5. Does the question ask us to calculate your grade for you, request extra points for a better grade, or request special treatment “just because”?** If so, **do not email** the question.
 - a. Do email if you need us to review an item that you believe was graded incorrectly.

Guidelines When Sending an Email to a Professor, TA or UA:

1. Use “PSY 280” in the subject line so it is clear that you are a student in the class, help us identify your email and reply quickly. This also helps to prevent e-mails from going directly to the junk folder.
2. After “Psy 280” add something in the subject line that helps identify your need or request (e.g., Psy 280: Question on dyssomnias; Psy 280: Attending your office hours tomorrow).
3. Address the e-mail properly (e.g., Dear Professor or Dr. X).
4. Proofread your e-mail for grammar, spelling, and clarity.
5. Sign your e-mail with your full name as it is listed in D2L so we know who you are and can connect your question to your work in the class.
6. Expect 48-72 hours for a response, then send a reminder email.
7. Please be polite.

How to Use Student-Faculty Connection (Office) Hours:

Far too few students come to office hours, or only come when they are worried about their grade.

Don't be afraid of office hours. Faculty have them just for the chance to talk with you! Be sure to read the items in the first week of class on how to use office hours! They can be great to talk about the class material, getting into graduate school, getting advice about careers in psychology and related fields, ideas for research projects, connections for internships, etc. Come visit, we want to talk with you!

Other Important Communication Tips:

- Check D2L regularly and have D2L emails forwarded to your regular MSU email account!
During the course, we will email you with announcements and reminders.
- Make sure to open the class announcements page regularly.
- D2L's class calendar can be tricky—it pulls in some material automatically and doesn't 'see' other items (like Revel assignments). Follow the syllabus and weekly D2L content. Do NOT trust the D2L calendar for the work you need to do.

Living Through Michigan Winters:

After heavy snowfall, I may not be able to get to campus. I will do my best to email the class by 8am ET if I realize I cannot make it to class unexpectedly. Typically, my email will provide instructions on next steps (e.g., whether or not you should watch a posted lecture on D2L, join me on zoom, or we will make up the material in the next class period, etc).

Limits to Confidentiality:

Please be aware that class materials are generally considered confidential pursuant to the University's student record policies. However, all University employees, including instructors, cannot maintain confidentiality when it conflicts with their responsibility to report certain issues based on external legal obligations or health and safety considerations 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 or not. 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 (<http://www.counseling.msu.edu/students>).

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. **If you already have a VISA**, please let me know what accommodations are required as soon as possible, and **give me a copy of your VISA**. I will do my best to make the appropriate arrangements.

If you require testing accommodations, you must contact me and present your VISA **at least two weeks before the exam date**. If your only test accommodation is for extended time, this will be built into your online testing.

Things to know (for any class):

Recording Lectures/Taking Pictures of Slides: Do not take pictures of slides, audio record, or video record any portion of the lecture without written permission from the presenter. You may not share/post any class materials, recordings, slides or quotes publicly, privately, electronically, or via any other medium without written permission from the author/speaker. Impermissible use of class recordings and lecture notes or other material may violate the rights of other students and the MSU Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy (<https://ossa.msu.edu/srr>).

Disturbing the Class & Cell Phones: Rude behavior is unacceptable and disturbing class is unfair to your classmates. Please turn off cell phones, etc., before entering the classroom. If you arrive late for class, please enter quietly, do not let the door slam closed, and do not disturb your classmates.

Food/Drinks: Follow all posted guidelines for foods/drinks in the classroom. I do not mind students eating/drinking in class as long as you are quiet, clean up after yourself, take any trash with you and dispose of it in the hallway trash bin.

Cheating/Plagiarism: Don't do it! Academic integrity is one of your greatest resources. If you cheat or are academically dishonest in any way, you will receive a failing grade for the course and I will pursue university-wide action, including expulsion. Learn more about academic integrity and misconduct [here](#).

Important class dates

No Class: 1/19-MLK Holiday

Exam 1: Exam 1 opens in D2L on Wed 2/4 at 10AM ET. Students will have 100 minutes to take the exam and must complete the exam by 10AM EDT on 2/5.

Exam 2: Exam 2 opens in D2L on 2/25 at 10AM ET. Students will have 100 minutes to take the exam and must complete the exam by 10AM EDT on 2/26.

No Class: 3/2 & 3/4 -Spring Break

Drop Day: 3/9 Last Day to Drop w/no grade:

Exam 3: Exam 3 opens in D2L on 4/1 at 10AM ET. Students will have 100 minutes to take the exam and must complete the exam by 10AM EDT on 4/2.

Exam 4: Exam 4 opens in D2L on 4/22 at 10AM ET. Students will have 100 minutes to take the exam and must complete the exam by 10AM ET on 4/23

Final exam: Cumulative Final Exam opens in D2L on Tues 4/28 at 2:45pm ET and closes on Thursday 4/30 at 2:45pm ET. The exam will be available for 48 hours and ends at the scheduled time according to the MSU final exam testing schedule. Students will have 100 minutes to take the exam and must complete the exam by 2:45pm ET on Thu 4/30.

NOTE: Below is a *tentative* schedule. A specific topic may change for a given week or day. Topics on D2L and Revel follow the order below. You can follow topic by topic here and D2L has links to all of the class materials for the entire semester topic by topic.

Psychological Disorders (Psy280):		
<i>Tentative schedule</i>		
Wk	Meeting Dates	Topics, Readings & To Dos
1	1/12 & 1/14	<p style="text-align: center;">Introductions, Course Overview & Defining Abnormality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Review the syllabus (in Syllabus & Course Documents content folder) <input type="checkbox"/> Access Revel: See link in D2L to register (In Revel content folder) <input type="checkbox"/> Review the Revel welcome information (in Revel content folder) <input type="checkbox"/> Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ask a Professor: How to Get the Most Out of College Office Hours <input type="checkbox"/> Using Office Hours Effectively <input type="checkbox"/> Emailing Professors <input type="checkbox"/> Lecture: Course overview <input type="checkbox"/> Lectures (2): Defining Abnormal behavior (Videos) <input type="checkbox"/> Revel: Introduction to Psychological Disorders and Methods of Research (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 1/18 @ 11:59pm
2	1/19- No Class 1/21	<p style="text-align: center;">Research & Perspectives on Abnormal Behavior and Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lectures (3): Multidimensional Models of abnormal behavior (D2L Video) <input type="checkbox"/> Revel: Contemporary Perspectives on Psychological Disorders and Methods of Treatment (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 1/25 @ 11:59pm
3	1/26 & 1/28	<p style="text-align: center;">Classification, Assessment, & Diagnosis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lectures (2): Classification, Assessment, & Diagnosis (D2L Video) <input type="checkbox"/> Revel: Diagnostic Classification and Assessment of Psychological Disorders (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 2/1 @ 11:59pm

4	2/2 & 2/4 2/4 Exam 1	<p style="text-align: center;">Stress, Adjustment, & Trauma-Related Disorders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lecture (1): Stress & Trauma-Related Disorders (D2L Video) □ Revel: Stress-Related Disorders (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 2/8 @ 11:59pm <p>Exam 1 opens in D2L on Wed 2/4 at 10AM ET. Students will have 100 minutes to take the exam and must complete the exam by 10AM EDT on 2/5.</p> <p>Exam Topics: Introductions, Research and Defining Abnormality, Perspectives on Abnormal Behavior and Treatment, and Classification, Assessment, & Diagnosis.</p>
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5	2/9 & 2/11	<p style="text-align: center;">Stress, Adjustment, & Trauma-Related Disorders (Continued)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive & Related Disorders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lecture: Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders (D2L Video) □ Revel: Anxiety Disorders and Obsessive–Compulsive and Related Disorders (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 2/22 @ 11:59pm
6	2/16 & 2/18	<p style="text-align: center;">Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive & Related Disorders (cont.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lecture: Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders (D2L Video) □ Revel: Anxiety Disorders and Obsessive–Compulsive and Related Disorders continued (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 2/22 @ 11:59pm
7	2/23 & 2/25 2/25 Exam 2	<p style="text-align: center;">Dissociative Disorders, Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lecture: Dissociative Disorders (D2L Video) □ Lecture: Somatoform Disorders (D2L Video) □ Revel: Dissociative and Somatic Symptom Related Disorders and Psychological Factors Affecting Physical Health (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 3/1 @ 11:59pm <p>Exam 2 opens in D2L on 2/25 at 10AM ET. Students will have 100 minutes to take the exam and must complete the exam by 10AM EDT on 2/26.</p> <p>Exam Topics: Stress, Adjustment, & Trauma-Related Disorders, Anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive & Related Disorders, Dissociative Disorders, Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders</p>
8	3/2 & 3/4	Spring Break-No Class
9	3/9 - 3/11 3/9 Drop Day	<p style="text-align: center;">Mood Disorders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lecture: Mood Disorders (D2L Video)

10	3/16 & 3/18	<p style="text-align: center;">Mood Disorders (cont.) & Suicide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lecture: Suicide (D2L Video) □ Revel: Mood Disorders and Suicide (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 3/22 @ 11:59pm
11	3/23 & 3/25	<p style="text-align: center;">Personality Disorders and Impulse-Control Disorders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lecture (1): Personality Disorders (D2L Video) □ Revel: Personality Disorders and Impulse-Control Disorders (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 3/29 @ 11:59pm
12	3/30 & 4/1	<p style="text-align: center;">Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lectures (3): Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders (D2L Video) □ Revel: Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 4/5 @ 11:59pm <p>4/1 Exam 3 Exam 3 opens in D2L on 4/1 at 10AM ET. Students will have 100 minutes to take the exam and must complete the exam by 10AM EDT on 4/2.</p> <p>Exam Topics: Mood Disorders, Suicide, Personality & Impulse Control Disorders, and Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders</p>

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13	4/6 & 4/8	<p style="text-align: center;">Eating Disorders & Obesity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lectures (2): Eating Disorders & Obesity (D2L Video) □ Revel: Eating Disorders and Sleep–Wake Disorders Part 1 (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 4/19 @ 11:59pm
14	4/13 & 4/15	<p style="text-align: center;">Eating Disorders & Obesity (cont.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sleep-Wake Disorders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lectures (3): Sleep-Wake Disorders (D2L Video) □ Revel: Eating Disorders and Sleep–Wake Disorders Part 2 (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 4/19 @ 11:59pm
15	4/20 & 4/22	<p style="text-align: center;">Disorders Involving Gender & Sexuality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lectures (3): Gender Dysphoria and Sexual Disorders (D2L Video) □ Revel: Disorders Involving Gender and Sexuality (reading & assignments) – Due by Sunday 4/26 @ 11:59pm <p>4/22 Exam 4 Exam 4 opens in D2L on 4/22 at 10AM ET. Students will have 100 minutes to take the exam and must complete the exam by 10AM ET on 4/23.</p>

		Exam Topics: Eating Disorders & Obesity, and Disorders, Sleep-Wake Disorders, & Disorders Involving Gender and Sexuality
16	Final Exam	Cumulative Final Exam opens in D2L on Tues 4/28 at 2:45pm ET and closes on Thursday 4/30 at 2:45pm ET. The exam will be available for 48 hours and ends at the scheduled time according to the MSU final exam testing schedule. Students will have 100 minutes to take the exam and must complete the exam by 2:45pm ET on Thu 4/30. Topics: Everything covered in this class this entire semester Note: Taking the final cannot lower your grade, but it does have the potential to help your grade! The class only uses the top 4 of the 5 exams for the class. If you want a higher grade, you can take the final to try to get more points. If you are already happy with your grade, you do not need to take the final!