

**PSYCHOLOGY 280: SECTION 2  
ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY  
FALL 2017**

TUESDAY, THURSDAY 10:20-11:40 AM  
BESSEY HALL, ROOM 108

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**Required Text:**

Kring, A.M., & Johnson, S.L. (2016). *Abnormal Psychology: The Science and Treatment of Psychological Disorders* (13<sup>th</sup> ed.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

eBook /WileyPLUS code cards should be available at bookstores. Otherwise, you can view/download the "How to get your PSY 280 course materials (MSU Dr. Moser)" file in the "Content"/"WileyPLUS" section of D2L for this course to find directions for ordering online book/eBook/looseleaf book.

**Resources:**

Class resources will be available on D2L. To start, you can find a copy of this syllabus under "Content"/"Syllabus".

In addition, you will have access to WileyPLUS Learning Space, an easy to use web-based study aid that includes materials created to reinforce and/or enhance your learning. Some of these materials I will use in class, such as clinical case videos.

**Course Overview:** This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the study and treatment of 'abnormal' behaviors, thoughts, and emotions, and their associated psychological 'disorders'/psychopathology. First, we will cover the foundations of the study of abnormality and psychopathology through a look at its history and evolution, which will help to frame our discussions of current viewpoints on and various assessment and treatment strategies for abnormality and disorder. We will then cover the major categories of psychological disorders as defined by the current diagnostic system (Diagnostic and

Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – 5th Edition), highlighting anxiety and depressive disorders. We will also learn about abnormality and psychological disorders across the lifespan, from childhood to late life. We will end the class by discussing ethical and legal issues related to abnormal behavior and psychological disorders.

*Disclaimer:* As it happens with most if not all courses, students receive education on a particular topic through the lens of their instructor. This course is no exception. Therefore, I feel it is important that you know a little about my lens. I am a clinical psychophysicologist who specializes in the study of anxiety (and to a lesser extent, depression). Therefore, I think about abnormality and psychological disorders in terms of multiple response systems (subjective experience and physiological reactivity), with a particular focus on the brain. And, as is typical, I will spend more time on the things I know best – that is, anxiety and depression. If you have any questions or concerns about this approach, please feel free to bring them up during class or office hours.

**Format and Expectations:** Class meetings will be a mix of formal lecture, class discussion, and case presentations (sometimes with video). Regular attendance and participation in class discussion is expected. Specifically, I will be using the [TopHat](#) classroom service this semester to facilitate more in-class participation and active learning (see Evaluation/Exams section below for further details). To do well in this course, it is essential that you attend every class session and do the required readings. Your active participation in class, informed by the reading, will be expected. Lectures will *complement* readings and thus doing both will maximize your ability to fully grasp the material. Success on the exams will be *much more likely* if you have *both* attended class meetings and read the book. If absent, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a friend (i.e., neither the instructor nor the TAs will meet with you to give you notes or go through entire lectures with you; office hours are to be used for getting help with making your way through the material, reviewing exams, etc.). In general, questions should first be directed to your TAs via e-mail. The TAs will help you to the best of their ability. Should your questions or concerns require the instructor's attention, the TA will forward your case on to the instructor.

**Evaluation/Exams:** Grades will be based on scores on three exams, each worth 100 points, and your TopHat participation.

As four exams are to be given (i.e., three exams and a cumulative final), your three best scores will serve as your three exam grades. Thus, your lowest exam score will be dropped, which could be one you decide not to take at all. As an example, if you received a 4.0 on the first three exams, you could elect not to take the final. Exams are designed to test your understanding of basic terminology, your grasp of concepts, your knowledge of evidence associated with these concepts (e.g. research results), and your ability to integrate these topics. Exam questions will be drawn from *lectures only*. That is, I will not expect you to know material from the text I have not covered in class. They will be comprised of multiple-choice questions, so please bring a number 2 pencil. *The final exam will be cumulative, meaning that it can include anything covered in lectures from the entire semester.*

TopHat participation will involve you subscribing to the TopHat service. You should have received an email regarding how to do this. It is a paid subscription, but not exorbitant, and can be used for any other class using TopHat. It is a web- and app-based platform and thus can be used on computers, smartphones and tablets. You will be expected to enroll in TopHat and bring a device to class so that you can participate in every active learning

exercise. I will use TopHat throughout lectures to probe learning and critical thinking as well as to promote discussion by using multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, and discussion questions. Your TopHat participation grade will be determined based on the number of answers you submit out of 50 questions, most of which will be scored based solely on whether you submitted an answer or not whereas the remaining answers will be scored for correctness.

**Your final grade in this class will be determined as follows:**

<b>85% of Final Grade: Exams</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>300 points</b>
<b>15% of Final Grade: TopHat</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>50 points</b>
<b>100% of Final Grade</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>350 points</b>

- **90-100% = 4.0**
- **85-89% = 3.5**
- **80-84% = 3.0**
- **75-79% = 2.5**
- **70-74% = 2.0**
- **65-69% = 1.5**
- **60-64% = 1.0**
- **59% or less = 0.0**

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit (worth an additional 3% on your final grade in the course) may be obtained one of two ways. You may 1) complete 6 hours of SONA research participation (instructions for SONA participation are available on D2L in Content/SONA Participation) or 2) complete a written assignment in which you analyze six cases and decide on the likely diagnosis(es) for each case. In a 1 page summary FOR EACH CASE, describe your rationale for choosing those specific diagnoses (the paper should thus be at least 6 pages total). Specifically, explain why you chose the diagnosis you did, and why you did not choose other, related diagnoses. Because you will need to know diagnostic criteria for most/all of the disorders we cover to complete this assignment, details for this assignment will be provided in November.

**Make-up policy:** There are very few acceptable reasons for missing an exam. Therefore, in order to take a late exam you may either: a) arrange with me and a TA well in advance to take the exam prior to the deadline; b) contact me at least 24 hours before the deadline and receive my permission to take the exam late. Failure to secure permission from me at least 24 hours in advance is *extremely likely* to result in your receiving zero points for the exam. Before making up an exam, you must provide written documentation corroborating your excuse (e.g. physician's note written on official stationery with a phone number that I can call to confirm, the documented death of a family member <http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/regulations/selected/grief-absence-policy> ).

Please keep in mind that in requesting a make-up exam, you are effectively asking me to judge whether your situation is more valid or serious than that of other students who also have difficult circumstances but took the exam at its scheduled time. Fairness to all is always very hard to achieve. For this reason, I grant make-ups only rarely. Two acceptable reasons are detailed below.

Observing a Major Religious Holiday: You may make up course work missed to observe a major religious holiday only if you make arrangements at least 1 week in advance with the instructor.

Participation in a Required Activity: To make up course work missed to participate in a required activity for another course or a university-sanctioned event, you must provide the instructor with adequate advanced notice and a written authorization from the faculty member of the other course or from a university administrator.

**Academic Dishonesty:** 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 (See Spartan Life: Student Handbook and Resource Guide at <http://splife.studentlife.msu.edu/>).

Therefore, unless authorized by your instructor, you are expected to complete all course assignments, including exams, without assistance from any source. Students who violate MSU rules are likely to receive a penalty grade, including but not limited to a failing grade on the assignment or in the course.

**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](http://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.

If you require testing accommodations (additional time, less disruptive room, etc.) you must contact me and present your VISA **at least two weeks before the exam date** to schedule an alternative exam. Typically, I will schedule for you to take the exam during special exam sessions offered by the Psychology Department. Those exams occur in small group settings and are offered every Wednesday and Thursday at 3:00pm in Giltner 346. You will need to bring a valid student ID with you to make use of this service. If you are unable to make either of those times, or that option does not meet your VISA accommodations, you may be able to schedule to take your exam at the RCPD office. In either case, the exam must be scheduled well in advance, so you need to adhere to the two-week prior notification requirement.

**SCHEDULE\***

<b><i>Date</i></b>	<b><i>Topic</i></b>	<b><i>Reading</i></b>
8/31	Intros, syllabus review, and overview	
9/5	Historical overview	<b>Chapter 1</b>
9/7	Current paradigms	<b>Chapter 2</b>
9/12	Diagnosis & Assessment	<b>Chapter 3</b>
9/14	Assessment & Research Methods	<b>Chapter 4</b>
9/19	Research Methods	
9/21	<b>Exam #1</b>	
9/26	Anxiety Disorders	<b>Chapter 6</b>
9/28	Anxiety Disorders	
10/3	Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders	<b>Chapter 7</b>
10/5	Trauma-Related Disorders	
10/10	<b>SPR: Mood Disorders</b>	<b>Chapter 5</b>
10/12	<b>SPR: Mood Disorders</b>	
10/17	Mood Disorders & Suicide	
10/19	<b>Exam #2</b>	
10/24	<b>NSF: Eating Disorders</b>	<b>Chapter 11</b>
10/26	Substance Use Disorders	<b>Chapter 10</b>
10/31	Substance Use Disorders	
11/2	Schizophrenia	<b>Chapter 9</b>
11/7	Schizophrenia	
11/9	Disorders of Childhood	<b>Chapter 13</b>
11/14	<b>Exam #3</b>	
11/16	Disorders of Childhood	
11/21	Disorders of Childhood	
11/23	<b>THANKSGIVING: NO CLASS</b>	
11/28	Personality Disorders	<b>Chapter 15</b>
11/30	Personality Disorders	
12/5	Legal & Ethical Issues	<b>Chapter 16</b>
12/7	Legal & Ethical Issues	
12/14	<b>FINAL EXAM: 10AM – 12PM</b>	

\* **Notes:** Chapters should be read prior to coming to class on the day(s) they are being covered. This is a tentative schedule of the semester's topics. Changes to a specific week's or day's topic/reading will be announced in class.