

**Abnormal Psychology
PSY 3021(3): Section 1
Spring 2024**

M W 1:30-2:40

Location: Taylor 105

Final Exam: April 29th 1:30-4:00 p.m.

Instructor: Kim W. Schaeffer, Ph.D.

Office Location: Culbertson 212

Office Hours: M: 7:00-10:30 AM; W: 7:00-9:30 AM; F: 7:00-10:30 AM

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PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life

Course Description

Study of etiology, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of various forms of abnormal behavior from various psychological perspectives. Prerequisite(s): One of PSY 1003, PSY 3008, FCS 1500, or consent of instructor.

Course Learning Outcomes in PSY 3021: Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Evaluate a psychiatric/psychological CASE STUDY (similar to those presented at major teaching hospitals), hypothesize a DSM-V DIAGNOSIS, and defend your hypothesis.
- Consider the most likely CAUSE(S) and best TREATMENT(S) of the more prevalent mental disorders and differentiate it/them from the hypothesized causes and treatments of the other major perspectives (including, behavioral, biological, cognitive, and humanistic/existential). Include historical perspectives.
- Summarize major ETHICAL and LEGAL issues in the field of psychology.
- Illustrate an understanding of DIVERSE/CULTURE variables and their involvement with mental health disorders.
- Effectively help a SUICIDAL friend and summarize the major correlates of suicidal behavior.
- Work productively as a POSITIVE and ENCOURAGING team member. This includes helping those who are having difficulty understanding concepts and assuring relatively equal input among group members (including soliciting less talkative members for their input).

Reading in PSY 3021

Employers want employees who are good critical thinkers. According to Diane Halpern (2003), there are 4 aspects to critical thinking: (a) a critical thinking attitude, e.g., not accepting claims at face value; (b) the capacity to implement specific critical thinking skills, e.g., deductive reasoning, hypothesis testing, understanding probability; (c) the facility to apply these critical thinking skills to new situations; and (d) the skill to think about one's own thinking, or metacognition. We will use a significant portion of our class time for activities that will enhance your critical thinking skills. It is imperative that you read and study the reading assignment before coming to class.

Working in Teams in PSY 3021

Employers want employees who work well in teams. In order for us to improve our critical thinking and become even better team members, in-class peer collaboration will be a major portion of our course. (Please note: you will not be assigned any team activities that will require you to meet with your peers outside of class.) In-class teamwork includes analysis of case studies, quizzes, and a variety of critical thinking activities that relate to abnormal psychology. Toward the end of the semester you evaluate the "helpfulness" of your team members and assign them a grade that will contribute to their final grade.

In-Class Case Studies

Diane Halpern (1998) warns us that we are "in danger of having all of the answers but still not knowing what the answers mean." For example, regarding our work, at the end of the course we might know all the DSM-V diagnostic criteria for schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, substance-induced, and medical condition variants of these disorders, but we might not be able to differentiate one disorder from the other in real-time. What do these disorders look like in real life settings? Therefore, you will be presented with several case studies throughout the semester much like those given at major teaching hospitals (the only difference is that the patient won't be present). After the case is read, you will individually and in your team hypothesize the DSM-V diagnosis. The case study can be in reference to any diagnosis that was included in the reading assignment for that day's class or earlier classes in the semester. In other words, the case studies will be comprehensive.

Super Synthesis Spreadsheet

You will construct a spreadsheet that will keep on giving and giving (e.g. state boards or licensing exams!). The spreadsheet is found on Canvas. After reading each chapter, you will list the essential diagnostic criteria, and the most likely causes (etiology) and best treatments for all disorders discussed.

Course Credit Hour Information

In the interest of providing sufficient time to accomplish the stated Course Learning Outcomes, this class meets the PLNU credit hour policy for a 3 unit class delivered over 15 weeks. It is anticipated that students will spend a minimum of 37.5 participation hours per credit hour on

their coursework. For this course, students will spend an estimated 112.5 total hours meeting the course learning outcomes. The time estimations are provided in the Canvas modules.

Required Textbook

Comer, R. J. & Comer, J. S. (2019). *Fundamentals of abnormal psychology* (9th ed.). New York: Worth. (Note: no supplementary materials are required)

How Grades Will Be Earned (A = 93-100; A- = 90-92.99; B+ = 88-89.99; B = 84-87.99; B- = 80-83.99; C+ = 77-79.99; C = 70-76.99; C- = 65-69.99; D+ = 62-64.99; D = 55-61.99; D- = 50-54.99; F ≤ 49.99%)

5% or 10% or 15% or 20% Individual Multiple-Choice RATs (preannounced 10 item quizzes)

5% or 10% or 15% or 20% Team Multiple-Choice RATs (same RAT as individual)

5% or 10% Team Member Helpfulness (peer-graded)

5% Super Synthesis Spreadsheet (late: 10% reduction per day, none accepted after Final)

15% Group Case Study and other Application Exercises (each exercise worth 10 points)

30% Test 1-3

15% Comprehensive Final (approximately 50% emphasizes chapters 11, 12, 15, and 16)

Managing Your Life and This Course

During Case Study or Quiz days, if you arrive late to class you will not be able to take the individual quiz. If you cannot take a major test due to extreme circumstances, please ask me for permission to take the test at another time before the exam. Most people need to miss a class due to illness, flight delays, and so on. Therefore, a few safety valves are built into the course.

Safety Valve One: If 90% or more of the class completes the IDEA course evaluation within 5 days of availability the lowest individual case study and group case study will be dropped.

Safety Valve Two: tbd

Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Canvas automatically deducts 10% from late assignment plus an additional 10% per day.

State Authorization

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that Point Loma Nazarene University is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, Point Loma Nazarene University is not authorized to enroll online (distance education) students. If a student moves to another state after admission to the program and/or enrollment in an online course, continuation within the program and/or course will depend on whether Point Loma

Nazarene University is authorized to offer distance education courses in that state. It is the student's responsibility to notify the institution of any change in his or her physical location. Refer to the map on [State Authorization](#) to view which states allow online (distance education) outside of California.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an “F” grade

Use of Technology

In order to be successful in the online or hybrid environment, you'll need to meet the minimum technology and system requirements; please refer to the *Technology and System Requirements* information.

Additionally, students are required to have headphone speakers, microphone, or webcams compatible with their computer available to use. Please note that any course with online proctored exams requires a computer with a camera (tablets are not compatible) to complete exams online.

Problems with technology do not relieve you of the responsibility of participating, turning in your assignments, or completing your class work.