



## Course Syllabus: PSY321-3 Spring 2019

**Abnormal Psychology**  
Point Loma Nazarene University  
Department of Psychology

### Course Information

Wednesday Evenings: 4:00-6:30 pm  
Semester Units: 3  
Classroom: Liberty Station, Room 204A

### Instructor Information

Instructor: Stephanie Salo, PsyD, *Adjunct Professor of Psychology*  
Office: Culbertson Hall (*office hours by appointment only*)  
Phone: (858) 247-2566  
E-mail: ssalo@pointloma.edu

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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 AND CATALOG DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as an introduction to psychopathology, the study of abnormal psychology, and exploration of the major psychological disorders. As described in the Catalog, this course is: "The study of etiology, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of various forms of abnormal behavior from various psychological perspectives. Prerequisite(s): One of [PSY 103](#), [PSY 308](#), [FCS 150](#) or consent of instructor."

### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course is designed to introduce you to major psychological disorders and their possible causes, providing perspectives from different psychological paradigms, including but not limited to: psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic/existential, and biological. You will learn to analyze several case studies and accurately define the key diagnostic features of relevant psychological disorders as listed in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). This course will give you the language to explain some of the cultural, ethical, and legal issues regarding diagnosis in the field of psychology. You will be able to identify the various empirically supported therapeutic treatments for psychological disorders. Finally, you will be able to formulate an opinion regarding the value of diagnosing mental illness when taking into consideration the benefits, limitations, critiques, and implications of diagnosis and classification.

### REQUIRED TEXT

Comer, R.J. & Comer, J.S. (2018). *Abnormal Psychology*. (10th Edition). New York: Worth Publishers.

### RECOMMENDED TEXTS

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Desk Reference to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*. (5<sup>th</sup> Edition). Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing.

## (RECOMMENDED TEXTS CONTINUED)

American Psychiatric Association (2014). *DSM-5 Clinical Cases*. Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing.

## COURSE DESIGN

A combination of lecture, discussion, and case studies will be used to clarify concepts and apply topics to life concerns and enhance learning. You will be evaluated based on your engagement, knowledge, and ability to apply the material to simulated scenarios and patient-presenting concerns. Lectures will highlight selected topics from the required readings as well as to supplement this material with examples and recent developments in the field. **Students are responsible for all assigned readings, whether or not discussed in class.** Most readings will come from the textbook, *Abnormal Psychology*.

## ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Assignment by Points:	Grading scale:	
• Critical Response Papers.....90	A = 93-100	C = 73-76
• Participation.....90	A- = 90-92	C- = 68-72
• Quizzes.....100	B+= 87-89	D+= 62-67
• Case Studies.....120	B = 83-86	D = 56-61
• Character Analysis.....100	B- = 80-82	D- = 51-55
• Exams 1-3.....300	C+= 77-79	F = 0-50
• Final Exam .....200		

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Homework assignments and reflections may require you to submit reflections or responses using Canvas. For more information, see the Canvas Guides: <https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides>

**A. Reading Quizzes (10%)** Students are expected to read the assigned texts before class. For most non-exam weeks there will be a 10-point multiple-choice/short answer online quiz due before class.

**B. Critical Responses and Case Studies (21%)** There will be three 30-point response papers due throughout the semester, requiring 1-2 paragraphs in response to several prompts about the assigned readings. There will also be six 20-point case studies to enhance your knowledge of specific disorders. Descriptions of the response papers, case studies, and grading rubrics for all are listed online. All papers are to be computer generated, 12-point font, single spaced, and referenced using APA style.

**C. Unit Exams (50%)** There will be a total of four examinations, including the Final. Exams 1-3 will each consist of 50 multiple choice questions and short answer questions. The final exam will be cumulative and consist of 100 multiple choice questions as well as multiple case study questions.

**D. Character Analysis (10%)** Written and oral presentation of an analysis and case study of a known character from a book, movie, or television series.

**E. Participation (9%)** In-class participation is required and figured into your final grade. This will vary from lecture responses, group discussions, and other forms of weekly participation. For your benefit, the benefit of your classmates, group discussions, and for enjoyment of the course, please participate!

## **ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND REPORTING**

### **Class Absences/Attendance**

It will be difficult to succeed in this course if you do not attend class. If you must miss class, you will not be able to make up the participation points. If you miss turning in an assignment or are unable to take a quiz due to extreme sickness or "excused" absence, it is your responsibility to contact me **before class** to alert me of your absence, and to arrange how you can make-up this quiz or turn in the assignment. **Your quiz, reflection, or case study must be completed/submitted within 5 working days (i.e., due the following Wednesday).** No credit will be given for quizzes or assignments after 5 days, no exceptions.

## **PLNU ATTENDANCE POLICY AND REPORTING**

Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If you are absent for more than 10% of class meetings the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. (*That would be after your second unexcused absence in this class.*) If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date, or after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See Academic Policies in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.

### **What is an "Unexcused" Absence?**

1. "There are no allowed or excused absences except when absences are necessitated by certain University-sponsored activities and are approved in writing by the Provost" (Catalog).
2. In addition, I will excuse legitimate illness only with MD note. No exceptions please.
3. Routine Medical, Dental, and Mental Health appointments ARE NOT excused absences.

Please notify me, preferably by email, prior to the start of the class you will miss to notify me of an absence (unexcused or excused) that explains the general nature your absence.

## **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by email at [DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu). I will coordinate with the DRC regarding your specific accommodations.

## **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.

## **FINAL EXAM POLICY**

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination on its scheduled day. The final examination schedule is posted on the Class Schedules site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

## OFFICE HOURS

I want you to succeed in this class! If you have any questions about lecture, readings, or discussions, please do not hesitate to contact me or to schedule an appointment with me. Feel free to talk with me after class, during a break, or call or email me to arrange a time to talk by phone. You may also email me with your available times and telephone number.

**Cell phone:** (858) 247-2566 (no calls or texts between 9pm and 7am please)

**E-mail:** [ssalo@pointloma.edu](mailto:ssalo@pointloma.edu)

## ELECTRONIC INTERFERENCE

Because I have taught learning, memory, and cognition, I would be remiss if I did not discourage practices that will likely interfere with your ability to learn in this class. Based on several research studies, the use of electronics in class, such as laptops and phones, have been demonstrated to impair attention, learning, and retention, and can also distract others around you. Hand-writing notes improves synthesis of information (complex learning), and increases long-term memory retention and recall, and can improve your grade by half of a letter grade. Therefore, I request that you do not use laptops or phones during lecture and group discussion time. If you feel you need to use a laptop, please talk with me about your need for an exception.

## COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Note: *This syllabus is not a contract. The Professor reserves the right to modify the syllabus to accomplish the learning objectives of the course.*

### **Week 1: Wednesday, January 9th, 2019**

Lecture: *Introduction/Overview of the Course*

*"How to Succeed in this Course" and "Abnormal Psychology Past and Present"*

### **Week 2: Wednesday, January 16th**

**Assignment due before this class:** Read Textbook Chapters 1 and 2 and take **Online Quiz #1**

**Lecture:** *"Research, Views of Psychopathology, and Theoretical Models of Abnormality"*

### **Week 3: Wednesday, January 23rd**

**Assignment due before this class:** Textbook Chapters 3 and 4 and take **Online Quiz #2**

**Lecture:** *"Evaluation, Case Formulation, Diagnosis, & Treatment"*

Example of Case Study

### **Week 4: Wednesday, January 30th**

**Assignment due before this class:** Textbook Chapter 5, Case Study 1, and take **Online Quiz #3**

**Lecture:** *"Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Related Disorders"*

Character Analysis Example

### **Week 5: Wednesday, February 6th**

**Assignment due before this class:** Textbook Chapter 6 and **Critical Response Paper #1**

**Lecture:** *"Disorders of Trauma and Stress"*

Identify Character for Presentation

### **Week 6: Wednesday, February 13th**

**Assignment due before this class:** take **Online Quiz #4**

**Exam I (covers Weeks 1-5)**

**Lecture:** *"Depressive and Bipolar Disorders, Part 1"*

**Week 7: Wednesday, February 20th**

**Assignment due before this class:** Textbook Chapters 7 and 8, Case Study 2, and take **Online Quiz #5**  
Character Analysis Presentations (5-6)

Lecture: *"Depressive and Bipolar Disorders, Part 2" and "Suicide"*

**Week 8: Wednesday, February 27th**

**Assignment due before this class:** Textbook Chapters 9 and 10, Case Study 3, and take **Online Quiz #6**  
Character Analysis Presentations (5-6)

Lecture: *"Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms" and "Eating Disorders"*

**Week 9: Holiday—Wednesday, March 6th**

**NO CLASS!! Spring Break**

**Assignment due before next class:** Textbook Chapters 11 and 12 and *Critical Response Paper #2*

**Week 10: Wednesday, March 13th**

**Assignment due before this class:** *Critical Response Paper #2*

Character Analysis Presentations (5-6)

Lecture: *"Substance Use and Addictive Disorders"*

**Week 11: Wednesday, March 20th**

**Assignment due before this class:** take **Online Quiz #7 and** Case Study 4

**Exam 2 (covers Weeks 6-10)**

Lecture: *"Disorders of Sex and Gender"*

**Week 12: Wednesday, March 27th**

**Assignment due before this class:** Textbook Chapters 13 and 14, Case Study 5, and take **Online Quiz #8**  
Character Analysis Presentations (5-6)

Lecture: *"Schizophrenia and Psychosis"*

**Week 13: Wednesday, April 3rd**

**Assignment due before this class:** Textbook Chapters 15 and 16, Case Study 6, and take **Online Quiz #9**  
Character Analysis Presentations (5-6)

Lecture: *"Schizophrenia and Psychosis, Part 2" and "Personality Disorders"*

**Week 14: Wednesday, April 10th**

**Assignment due before this class:** Textbook Chapters 17 and 18, and take **Online Quiz #10**  
Character Analysis Presentations (5-6)

Lecture: *"Life Span Problems: Disorders Common Among Children, Adolescents and of the Elderly"*

**Week 15: Holiday—Wednesday, April 17th—No Class!**

**Assignment due before next class:** Textbook Chapter 19 and Critical Response Paper #3

**Week 16: Wednesday, April 24th**

**Exam 3 (covers Weeks 11-15)**

Lecture: and *"Law, Society, and the Mental Health Profession"*

**Week 17: \*\*Friday\*\* May 3rd at 4:30pm**

Final Exam! Cumulative reflection of the entire course with special emphasis on Week 16.