



Course Syllabus: PSY3021-1 Spring 2020

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 203

Instructor Information

Instructor: Stephanie Salo, PsyD, *Adjunct Professor of Psychology*

Office: Culbertson Hall (*office hours by appointment only*)

Phone: (858) 247-2566

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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, it is the: "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](#), [CHD 1050](#) 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, biological, cognitive-behavioral, and humanistic/existential theories. 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.

OPTIONAL TEXTS

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

(OPTIONAL 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:	
• Participation.....30	A = 94-100%	C = 74-76%
• Critical Response Paper.....50	A- = 90-93%	C- = 70-73%
• Quizzes.....100	B+= 87-89%	D+= 67-69%
• Case Studies.....120	B = 84-86%	D = 64-66%
• Character Analysis.....100	B- = 80-83%	D- = 60-63%
• Exams 1-2.....200	C+= 77-79%	F = 0-59%
• Final Exam200		

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

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

A. Reading Quizzes 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 Response and Case Studies There will be one 50-point response paper due requiring 1-2 paragraphs in response each to several prompts about assigned readings. There will also be six 20-point case studies to enhance your knowledge of specific disorders. Descriptions of the response paper, case studies, and grading rubrics for all will be listed online. The paper is to be computer generated, 12-point font, single spaced, and referenced using APA style.

C. Unit Exams There will be a total of three examinations, including the Final. Exams 1-2 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 Written and oral presentation of an analysis and case study of a known character from a book, movie, or television series.

E. Participation In-class participation is required and figured into your final grade. This will vary from lecture responses, group discussions, and other forms of regular 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%, 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. 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 and individual work, without the use of unauthorized collaboration or aids (e.g., notes, cheat sheets, or devices), and giving appropriate credit to the ideas or work 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 appeared to occur 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 will be approved, unless an alternative day or method is agreed upon by consensus of the class and the professor.

OFFICE HOURS

As an adjunct professor, I do not hold official office hours. However, 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 your available times and a telephone number.

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

E-mail: ssalo@pointloma.edu

ELECTRONIC INTERFERENCE

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. Handwriting notes improves synthesis of information (complex learning), increases long-term memory retention and recall, and has been shown to improve your grade by up to half of a letter grade. Therefore, I request that you do not use phones during lecture and group discussion time. If you feel you need to use a laptop, please be considerate of those around you by using them only to reference lecture PowerPoints.

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 15th, 2020

Lecture: *Introduction/Overview of the Course*

“How to Succeed in this Course” and “Abnormal Psychology Past and Present”

Week 2: Wednesday, January 22nd

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

Lecture: *“Research in Abnormal Psychology” and “Models of Abnormality”*

Week 3: Wednesday, January 29th

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

Lecture: *“Clinical Evaluation, Assessment, Case Formulation, Diagnosis, & Treatment”*

Example of Case Study

Week 4: Wednesday, February 5th

Assignment due before this class: Textbook Chapters 5 and 6 and take **Online Quiz #3**

Lecture: *“Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Related Disorders” and “Disorders of Trauma and Stress”*

In Class: Case Study 1 (group discussion)

Week 5: Wednesday, February 12th

Assignment due before this class: **Textbook Chapters 7 and 8 take Online Quiz #4**

Lecture: *“Depressive and Bipolar Disorders and Their Treatments” (Part 1)*

In Class: Character Analysis Example, Identify Character for Presentation

Week 6: Wednesday, February 19th

Assignment due before this class: Textbook Chapter 9 and take **Online Quiz #5**

Lecture: *“Treatments for Depressive and Bipolar Disorders” (Part 2) and “Suicide”*

In Class: Case Study 2 (group discussion)

Week 7: Wednesday, February 26th

Assignment due before this class: Review for Exam 1

Exam I (covers Weeks 1-6)

Lecture: “*Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms*”

Week 8: Wednesday, March 4th

Assignment due before this class: Textbook Chapters 10 and 11, and take *Online Quiz #6*

Lecture: “*Eating Disorders*” and “*Substance Use and Addictive Disorders*”

In Class: Case Study 3 (group discussion)

Week 9: Wednesday, March 11th

Spring Break! No Class

(Assignments: Read Chapter 12 and Work on Critical Response Paper)

Week 10: Wednesday, March 18th

Assignment due before this class: Textbook Chapters 12 and 13 and *Critical Response Paper*

Lecture: “*Sexual Disorders and Gender Variations*”

In Class: Case Study 4 (group discussion)

Week 11: Wednesday, March 25th

Assignment due before this class: Textbook Chapter 14, and *Online Quiz #7*

Lecture: “*Schizophrenia, Psychosis, and Related Disorders*” and “*Treatments*” (Part 1)

Week 12: Wednesday, April 1st

Assignment due before this class: Textbook Chapters 15 and 16, and *Online Quiz #8*

Lecture: “*Treatments of Schizophrenia, Psychosis, and Related Disorders*”

In Class: Case Study 5 (group discussion)

Week 13: Wednesday, April 8th

Assignment due before class: Review for Exam 2

Exam 2 (covers Weeks 7-12)

Lecture: “*Personality Disorders*”

Week 14: Wednesday, April 15th

Assignment due before this class: Textbook Chapters 16 and 17 and *Online Quiz #9*

Lecture: “*Life Span Problems: Disorders Common Children, Adolescents, and Among the Elderly*”

In Class: Case Study 6 (group discussion)

Week 15: Wednesday, April 22nd

Assignment due before next class: Textbook Chapters 18 and 19 and *Online Quiz #10*

Assignment due before next class: *Character Presentations (Group 1)*

Lecture: and “*Law, Society, and the Mental Health Profession*”

Week 16: Wednesday, April 29th

Assignment due before next class: *Character Presentations (Group 2)*

Final Review

Week 17: Monday, May 4th

Final Exam at 4:30-7:00pm! Cumulative exam of the entire course with special emphasis on Weeks 13-15