

## SYLLABUS: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY--FALL 2020

**Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU)**  
Psychology Department

### **Course Information: Abnormal Psychology 3021-2**

Monday Evenings: 4:30-7:00 pm

Semester Units: 3

Classroom: Online/Remote

*Final Exam:* December 2, 4:30-7:00 pm

### **Instructor Information**

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

Office Hours: By Zoom or phone (*only by appointment*)

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

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

### **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.”

### **STATE AUTHORIZATION**

State authorization is a formal determination by a state that PLNU is approved to conduct activities regulated by that state. In certain states outside California, PLNU 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 PLNU 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.

### **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.

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

### 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 16 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.

### 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:

· Discussions.....	100	A = 93-100	C = 73-76
· Quizzes.....	100	A- = 90-92	C- = 70-72
· Case Studies.....	100	B+= 87-89	D+= 67-69
· Character Analysis.....	100	B = 83-86	D = 63-66
· Exams 1-2.....	200	B- = 80-82	D- = 60-62
· Final Exam .....	200	C+= 77-79	F = 0-59

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

Homework assignments and reflections will require you to submit responses using Canvas. For

more information, see the Canvas Guides:

<https://community.canvaslms.com/community/answers/guides>

1. **Reading & Lecture Quizzes** Students are expected to read the assigned texts and view lecture videos before class. For most non-exam weeks there will be a 10-point multiple-choice/short answer online quiz due before class.
2. **Discussions and Case Studies** There will be frequent discussions on relevant class materials and case studies requiring 1-2 paragraphs in response to several prompts about assigned readings. Case studies are meant to enhance your knowledge of specific disorders using patient examples. Descriptions of the discussions and case studies will be found in weekly modules, and grading rubrics for all are listed on CANVAS.
3. **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, including multiple case study questions.
4. **Character Analysis** A written paper analyzing a known character from a book, movie, or television series will be your final project. This is designed as way to apply your knowledge (learned over the course) to a fictional persona.
5. **Participation** In-class (Zoom) participation is strongly encouraged. Because most lectures will be provided ahead of time, class time will focus on learning more about specific diagnoses and applying your learning to real-life examples. For your learning benefit, the benefit of your classmates, and for greater enjoyment of the course, please participate!

### **INCOMPLETES AND 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. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

### **PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY**

Regular and punctual attendance at all **synchronous** class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If you are absent for more than 10% of class sessions (virtual or face-to-face), your professor will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20%, you may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. In some courses, a portion of the credit hour content will be delivered **asynchronously** and attendance will be determined by submitting the assignments by the posted due dates. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog. If absences exceed these limits but are due to university excused health issues, an exception will be granted.

### **Asynchronous Attendance/Participation Definition**

A day of attendance in asynchronous content is determined as contributing a substantive assignment, discussion, or submission by the posted due date. Failure to meet these standards will result in an absence for that day. For this class, assignments will be due by the start of class (Wednesdays at 4:30pm).

### **PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

While all students are expected to meet the minimum standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic adjustments, modifications or auxiliary aids/services. At PLNU, these students are requested to register with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), located in the Bond Academic Center ([DRC@pointloma.edu](mailto:DRC@pointloma.edu) or

619-849-2486). The DRC's policies and procedures for assisting such students in the development of an appropriate academic adjustment plan (AP) allows PLNU to comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and benefits of PLNU programs and activities. After the student files the required documentation, the DRC, in conjunction with the student, will develop an AP to meet that student's specific learning needs. The DRC will thereafter email the student's AP to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester. The AP must be implemented in all such courses.

If students do not wish to avail themselves of some or all of the elements of their AP in a particular course, it is the responsibility of those students to notify their professor in that course. PLNU highly recommends that DRC students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester about the applicability of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not desire to take advantage of some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

### **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.

### **OFFICE HOURS**

As an adjunct professor, I do not hold regular 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 by email or call to schedule an appointment.

### **USE OF TECHNOLOGY**

In order to be successful in the online 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 compatible with their computer available to use. If a student is in need of technological resources please contact [student-tech-request@pointloma.edu](mailto:student-tech-request@pointloma.edu).

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

### **SPIRITUAL CARE**

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If you have questions, would like to meet with the chaplain, or have prayer requests, you can contact the [Office of Spiritual Development](#).

## **COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS**

*Please see "Modules" on CANVAS for the overall course schedule and assignments with due dates.*