

COURSE SYLLABUS
PSYCHOLOGY 3021-2

PSY 3021-2 Abnormal Psychology

Fall, 2023

Mon./Wed., 8:30-9:35 PM

Semester Units: 3

Instructor: Daniel L. Jenkins, Ph.D.

Classroom: T314

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Psychopathology! When was the last time someone referred to you as “crazy”? Did they mean you are a risk-taker, a wild person, or did they mean you are seriously out of touch with reality? But aren't we all a bit crazy, with different levels of madness? When does it become a serious problem, and when does one need to seek help for their personal problems? These are some of the questions we will be asking in this course.

In this class, we will explore the various theories and ideas that exist to explain behavior that deviates. The course will include historical information, theories of psychopathology, as well as nosological concepts. The classification system emphasized will be from the American Psychiatric Association's DSM-5TR.

Fortunately, the disorders of the mind tend to fall into identifiable syndromes or groups. It is imperative to identify (diagnose) the problem correctly if an appropriate treatment is to be prescribed. Can you imagine going to your automobile mechanic with a water pump problem and he incorrectly changes your car's alternator? If this happened to you, not only your confidence in the mechanic would be damaged, but also you would still have a problem with your water pump. Likewise, if you, as a clinician, misdiagnose a person and treat them for academic inhibition when they really have depressed mood with suicidal ideation, you open yourself up for multimillion-dollar lawsuits. With increased responsibilities as a professional come increased risks. In some ways it is safer to be an auto mechanic than a clinician in one of the “helping professions.”

As described in the college catalog, this course is:

Study on etiology, assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of various forms of abnormal behavior from various psychological perspectives.

COURSE DESIGN

A combination of lecture, class discussion, and video presentations will be used to cover course material. The purpose of the lecture sessions will be to highlight selected topics from the required readings and to supplement this material with related, but more recent

developments in the field. Students are responsible for all assigned readings, whether or not they are discussed in class. Class discussions are intended to clarify concepts, inspire critical thinking skills, and apply topics to life concerns. Selected videos are intended to expose the student to actual psychopathology.

To help meet the requirements for seat time, students will complete weekly practice quizzes and practice tests in Canvas. Practice quizzes and tests will be due the night before a test or quiz will be taken in class. Use these practice exams to assess your level of preparedness for the test or quiz that will count toward your final grade. Please see either the syllabus course outline or the Canvas module schedule for dates and times of these assignments.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

1. *Diagnosis*
 - A. To know the basic characteristics of most mental disorders (i.e., the disorders in your assigned readings and/or those discussed in class) listed in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (5th ed.) (DSM-5TR).
 - B. To propose the most likely DSM-5TR diagnosis for individuals based on the presentation of their case history.
2. *Etiology*

To know the major hypotheses of the causes of the mental disorders based on the psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, biological, and/or sociocultural perspectives.
3. *Treatment*

To know the effective treatments of the psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, biological, and sociocultural perspectives.
4. *Ethical/Legal*

To know major ethical and legal issues in the field of abnormal psychology.
5. *Intellectual Sophistication*

To be able to differentiate between fad terminology (e.g., Co-dependency) and the terminology of the DSM-5TR.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

For the student to satisfactorily complete the course, he/she must:

1. *Successfully complete all examinations.* Testing consists of five midterm exams, each worth 100 points. All exams will be multiple-choice. Ten quizzes (ten points each) will cover the reading material that has been assigned. Dates of examination are listed in the Class Schedule in bold print. Practice quizzes and tests will also be required but will not count toward your final grade. These practice tests and quizzes will be due the night before a quiz or test will be taken in class.
2. The *Diagnostic Research Paper* is due on Dec. 4, 2023. It must be written in APA style and be a minimum of 8 pages. The length of the paper has been reduced to encourage careful attention to the details, particularly your references.

Select a particular disorder and provide a complete description of symptoms, any historical information, preferred mode of treatment, etc. Be as complete as possible within the limit of eight pages.

In order to receive an “A” you must integrate textbook, proper APA style, proper grammar, submit on assigned date and, if desired, have thoughtful spiritual/integration of your insights and conclusions.

3. Participate in a “*psychopathology role play*.” This assignment should prove entertaining for the entire class. Your goal is to select a particular disorder and imitate it in front of the class. You may video-tape a situation where symptoms of the disorder would become evident (e.g., a social phobia) or you can demonstrate the symptoms before a live audience (the class).
4. Actively participate in *class discussions*. Each student will be judged according to his/her willingness to discuss issues and venture an opinion. One will not be graded on articulateness, but on the willingness to risk an interchange of ideas. Although this requirement is, admittedly, a subjective grade on the part of the professor, it is required with the hope that students will risk and grow as persons within the classroom (and not just accrue book knowledge). However, the extent that each student has kept current with the readings will be made obvious by his/her contributions or lack thereof.
5. *Attend every class*. The professor will make it a point to determine who is not present at each class session. After three unexcused absences, beginning with the fourth absence, five points will be deducted from your Final Total for each absence. In this class this deduction usually has a substantial impact on the final grade. “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, p. 37).

Points will be totaled for all activities across the semester and grades assigned according to the Psychology Department standards.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Comer, R.J. & Comer, J.S. (2022). *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology* (10th ed.). New York: Worth. (ISBN: 1-319-24721-0)

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

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 accommodations. At Point Loma Nazarene University, these students are requested to file documentation during the first two weeks of the semester with the Academic Support Center (ASC), located in the Bond Academic Center. This policy assists the University in its commitment to full compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 (a) prohibits discrimination against students with special needs and guarantees all qualified students equal access to and

benefits of PLNU programs and activities. Once the student files documentation, the ASC will contact the student's instructors and provide written recommendations for reasonable and appropriate accommodations to meet the individual learning needs of the student.

OFFICE HOURS

The best way to schedule an appointment is to call my voice mail. You can send an e-mail as well if you do so several days in advance.

Voice Mail: 619-347-3457 (Cell Phone)
Fax: 619-849-7019 (Culbertson)
e-mail: djenkins@pointloma.edu

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

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY STATEMENT

It is assumed that each student will do his/her own work in this class and that credit is given to the appropriate sources when quoting directly or making use of another's ideas in paraphrase. This assumes that no cheating will occur on examinations or plagiarizing will occur in the writing of papers. Because integrity is an important Christ-like characteristic, as well as an academic necessity, appropriate actions will be taken for any infractions that may occur.

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.

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 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.

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.

Final Examination 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. If you find yourself scheduled for three (3) or more final examinations on the same day, you are authorized to contact each professor to arrange a different time for one of those exams. However, unless you have three (3) or more exams on the same day, no requests for alternative final examinations will be granted

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Assessment and Grading

Grades will be based on the following:

A	B	C	D	F
A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Less than 59
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

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

COURSE OUTLINE

Please note that this schedule may be revised during the semester.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Aug.		
	Unit 1: Abnormal Psychology in Clinical Practice	<i>All reading refers to Comer unless otherwise specified.</i>
28	Introduction. syllabus & course overview. A brief history of abnormality. Do you diagnose?	Read chapter 1
30	Theoretical perspectives of psychopathology	Read chapter 2
Sep.		
04	Labor Day – Take a break from your labors	
06	More theoretical perspectives	Quiz 1 on chapters 1& 2
11	Psychological testing and diagnostic dilemmas	Read chapter 3
13	The DSM Classification System	Quiz 2 on chapter 3
18	Exam 1 on chapters 1, 2 & 3	Bring brain and laptop to class
	Unit 2: Anxiety & Mood	
20	Anxiety Disorders I	Read chapter 4
25	Anxiety Disorders II	Quiz 3 on chapter 4
27	Dealing with Stress	Read chapter 5
Oct.		

02	PTSD, Adjustment Disorders, and Dissociation	Quiz 4 on chapter 5
04	Depression & disorders of Mood	Read chapter 6
09	Depression & Suicide	Read chapter 7a (pp. 211-221) Quiz 5 on chapter 6
11*	Exam 2 on chapters 4, 5, 6 & 7a	
	Unit 3: Problems of Mind and Body	
16*	Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms	Read chapter 8
18*	Eating Disorders I	Read chapter 9
23*	Eating Disorders II	Quiz 6 on chapter 9
25	Substance-Related Disorders I	Read chapter 10
30	Substance-Related Disorders II	Quiz 7 on chapter 10
Nov.		
01	Exam 3 on chapters 8, 9, & 10	
	Unit 4: Sex and Psychosis	
06	Sexual dysfunctions and sexual abuse.	Read chapter 11
08	Paraphilic Disorders	Quiz 8 on chapter 11
13	Schizophrenia Presentations	Read chapter 12
15	Other psychotic disorders. Presentations	Quiz 9 on chapter 12
20	Exam 4 on chapters 11 & 12	
22	Thanksgiving Break – No Classes	
	Unit 5: Life-Span Problems	
27	Personality disorders I Presentations	Read chapter 13
29	Personality disorders II Presentations	Quiz 10 on chapter 13
Dec.		
04	Disorders of Childhood I Presentations	Read chapter 14 Diagnostic Research Paper Due
06	Disorders of Childhood II Presentations	
	Final Exam: Wednesday 7:30-10:00 AM	
	Test 5 on chapters 13 & 14	
	HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS!	