

University of West Georgia

Department of Psychology

Abnormal Psychology

PSYC-3150 - Online

Instructor

Dr. Kathleen Skott-Myhre
Office: 214 Melson Hall
Phone: 678 839-0624
e-mail: kskott@westga.edu

Virtual Office Hours

By appointment

Please follow link below to schedule:
[Office Hours](#)

Course Description and Objective

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a broad overview of issues relevant to the study of psychopathology. Students will become familiar with the symptoms of a wide variety of psychological disorders, and will gain a working familiarity with DSM-5 diagnostic criteria. In addition, the etiology, prevalence, course, and treatment of various disorders will be explored. This course will use an interactionist perspective, with emphasis on conceptualizing disorders from a multidimensional, multicultural, bio-psycho-social perspective. First person accounts of psychological disorders will also be integrated into the course to enhance understanding and compassion for individuals living with these disorders.

Class Structure

In general, the class will follow lecture and discussion format. There will be ample opportunities for class discussion, watching videos, and group/individual projects (in class and out of class). We may have guest speakers. As the semester progresses, more reliance will be placed on students' ability to critically consider applications of theories and ideas. Active participation will help develop a richer understanding of how various psychopathologies manifest in real life cases.

Grading and Evaluation

Grades will be comprised of attendance and participation, 2 exams, 1 essay, and 1 cumulative final exam.

Attendance and Participation: Because active discussion and experiential exercises are integral parts of the learning experience in this course, class attendance is expected and participation in class activities and assignments will be considered in determining your grade. **If for any reason, you are unable to attend class, you are still held responsible for all in-class material and any announcements made during class. You are permitted two**

unexcused absences and then you will be dropped ½ letter grade for each additional class missed. All assignments and exams are expected to be completed on time. Late assignments will be accepted only at the discretion of the instructor and will incur a penalty.

Exams: Two non-cumulative exams will be scheduled during normal class periods. The exams will cover lecture material, videotapes, class discussion, guest lecture material, and course readings. You are responsible for **all** material covered in the text and other class readings **regardless of whether the material is discussed during class.** Exams will be worth 20% of your grade and the final exam will be 30% of your grade. Each exam will consist primarily of multiple-choice questions, but may include matching, true/false, and/or short answer/essay items. **Make-up exams will not be given unless you notify the instructor of your inability to attend the class by the day of the test. Even then, make-up exams will be given only in cases of extreme emergencies or documented illness at the instructor's discretion.**

Final Exam: The final exam is scheduled during the final exam period. It will be cumulative and comprised of mainly multiple-choice questions, but may include matching, true/false, and/or short answer/essay items. **More detail regarding the final exam will be given as the final exam date approaches. Make-up exams will be given only in cases of extreme emergencies or documented illness at the instructor's discretion.**

Essay/Paper: Students will be required to write a 5-page paper on a movie that highlights and/or addresses psychopathology. Appropriate movies will be listed on CourseDen. **The instructor must approve movies that are not listed in advance.** The paper is worth 15% of your final grade and will be graded on content, integration of material learned in class, personal critique and reaction, adherence to the specified guidelines and spelling/grammar. Specific guidelines for organizing the paper will be posted on CourseDen.

Course Grades: Grades will be based on the following criteria:

Attendance	10%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	30%
Final Exam	40%

Required Materials

CourseDen/D2L: All students enrolled in this course are required to check CourseDen/D2L regularly for the duration of the course. Course announcements, changes to the syllabus, and memos from the instructor will be distributed via CourseDen (D2L). Students are responsible for all information distributed in this manner.

Text:

Barlow, D. H. & Durand, M. V. (2005). *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach*. Wadworth/Cengage Learning. 7th edition.

NOTE: If you have not already purchased the text check out the Internet prices for the text. You may be able to find a deal! You may also have the option of renting this text.

Course Outline

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1/6	Orientation and expectations Historical Madness	Ch 1
2	1/13	An integrative approach	Ch 2
3	1/20	Assessment and diagnosis	Ch 3
4	1/27	Research methods	Ch 4
5	2/3	Anxiety, Trauma & Stress	Ch 5
6	2/10	<u>Exam I</u> Somatic Symptoms & Disorders	Ch 6
7	2/17	Mood disorders & Suicide	Ch 7
8	2/24	Eating and Sleep Disorders	Ch 8
9	3/3	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders	Ch 10
10	3/10	<u>Exam II</u> Substance Related and Impulse Control	Ch 11
11	3/17	Spring Break	
12	3/24	Personality Disorders	Ch 12
13	4/7	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic	Ch 13
14	4/14	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Ch 14

15	4/21	Neurocognitive Disorders	Ch 15
16	4/28	Mental Health Services & ethics	Ch 16

Finals Week 5/5

Final Exam

Common Language for Course Syllabi Updated June 21, 2013

Students should review the following information each semester, because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. *Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given.*

UWG Email Policy

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

Credit Hour Policy

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

University of West Georgia Honor Code

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia

assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions.

PLEASE NOTE:

This syllabus is an evolutionary document: Therefore, the dates of lectures, exams, projects, etc. may be revised as the term progresses. Thus, the dates contained in this syllabus are **NOT** binding. All modifications to the syllabus will be announced in class and via CourseDen.