

Syllabus
Abnormal Psychology
Spring 2025

Professor:	David Carlston, Ph.D.	Course #:	PSYC 3603, sec. 201
Office:	113 O'Donohoe	Time:	MWF 12:00pm-12:50pm
Phone:	940-397-4718	Location:	PY 101
e-mail:	david.carlston@msutexas.edu	Office Hours:	M 11:00am-noon TR 9:30am-11:30am

Hooley, J. M., Nock, M. K., Butcher, J. N. (2020). Abnormal Psychology (18th ed.). Hoboken, New Jersey: Pearson.

Course Description:

This course will introduce students to abnormal psychology, exploring abnormality within historical, social, and cultural contexts. Each major disorder, its etiology, symptoms, and preferred treatment strategy will be examined.

Course Objectives:

1. Students will understand and articulate the research methods and ethical considerations appropriate for the study of abnormal psychology.
2. By the end of this course, students will understand and differentiate the behaviors and symptoms associated with DSM-5 diagnostic categories.
3. Understand the process of assessing such behaviors/symptoms and the most commonly used system for classifying psychological disorders.
4. Students will be able to articulate associated etiology and identified treatments for psychological disorders.
5. Students will learn to appreciate the complexity of human behavior and develop empathy for individuals with mental illnesses.

Course Requirements:

1. Students will complete four exams during the semester. Exams will be worth 100 points each. Each exam will be comprised of multiple-choice questions and one essay question. Material on the exam will include both information presented in lecture and contained in the textbook. It will not be sufficient to simply attend lecture to be successful in this course.

Additionally, students will complete a final exam. The final exam will include the last two chapters of the course (Chapters 15 & 16) **AND** the chapters addressing anxiety disorders and mood disorders (Chapters 6 & 7).

2. Students will complete multiple evaluations of content on social media regarding abnormal behavior. Each evaluation project will include: submission of two social media postings for each disorder regarding an identified diagnosis and an individual written response. Each project will be worth 25 points.
3. Students will complete an experiential learning activity as part of this course. Although more information regarding the assignment will be provided in D2L, it is important for students to know that they will be expected to provide at least five hours of volunteer service during the semester. This volunteer opportunity should include interaction with individuals known to meet criteria for a mental health disorder or individuals presenting with high risk for the development of a mental health disorder. Students will be required to submit a volunteer proposal early in the semester to ensure that their identified service opportunity is consistent with the assignment objectives. Students will complete brief written assignments both prior to the service and following the service experience. The experiential learning project will be worth 50 points.

Grades:

Grades will be based on a 600-point scale.

- A 540-600
- B 480-539
- C 420-479
- D 360-419
- F 0-359

Attendance:

Attendance is required for the course. Each student will be allowed three absences without penalty. Each additional absence will result in a 5% reduction of the student's final grade. Students will be responsible for the information presented during the class periods for which they were absent. This information includes but is not limited to course content, syllabus changes, and information regarding the research requirement.

The only absences that will not be counted are absences for a mandatory, university-sponsored event or religious holidays. Mandatory university-sponsored events must be verified by the Dean of Students, Provost, or Athletic Director. Written notification for mandatory university-sponsored events must be provided to the professor at least two days prior to the day of the event. Absences for religious holidays must also be cleared through the Dean of Students. Students must inform the instructor of religious holiday absences by the 15th day of class.

Communication:

Email is the best way of communicating. Ensure that you receive your MSU email or have your mail forwarded to an address you regularly check. I strive to respond to emails with "Please Respond" in the subject line within 24 hours to emails during regular school hours (8:00 am – 5:00 pm M- F). Emails sent after business hours or during the weekend receive a response the following business day.

Cheating Policy:

Although cheating does occur on campus, any evidence of cheating (e.g., looking on another's paper, allowing someone to look on your own paper, using an unauthorized memory aide) will result in automatic dismissal from the course with a letter grade of "F" and a referral to the Dean of Students, as cheating is a violation of the university honor code.

Disability:

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. Students must present appropriate verification from the University's Disability Support Services (DSS) during the instructor's office hours. Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the DSS has been provided.

Mandated Reporting:

This information is to inform the student of the limits of confidentiality while enrolled at MSU Texas or any other Texas state school. Due to federal and state law, MSU Texas faculty and staff are required to report key information regarding student welfare. For example, I am required to complete a report for any student who indicates experiencing sexual abuse/misconduct, physical/emotional abuse, domestic violence, stalking, suicidal/homicidal ideation, or related experience. These reports will be sent to the MUS Texas Title IX Department and/or the Dean of Student's office (<https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?MSUTexas>).

Student disclosure may occur via a face-to-face meeting, in-class self-disclosure, email, statement made in a written assignment, etc. If a student asks a faculty or staff person not to share the information, please note that by law, we have to report and I will report. Please note that as students, you may be aware of classmates/dormmates struggling and can make an incident report at: (<https://cm.maxient.com/reporting.php?MSUTexas>).

Missed Exams:

Students who are unable to complete an exam during the scheduled exam time will be provided an opportunity to either complete the exam early or complete a make-up exam. Make-up exams must be completed within seven calendar days of the scheduled exam (either before or after that date).

All make-up exams will be essay format.

(Note: There are no make-up exams for the final; however, students should be aware of the policies regarding the assignment and removal of a grade of "incomplete.")

Late Work:

No late work will be accepted.

Concealed Carry:

Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Signs demarcate areas excluded from concealed carry. Please refer to the Midwestern State University Policy and Procedure manual for policies regarding concealed and carry on campus.

Syllabus Change Policy:

This syllabus is a guide for the course—not a "contract"—and is subject to change. Syllabus changes are communicated via D2L and/or in class. I'll provide a minimum of 48 hours' notice before the relevant change takes place if at all possible.

	Class Week	Readings	Important Dates
1	1/19-1/25	Syllabus Chapter 1 (pgs. 1-31) Overview & Research	
2	1/26-2/1	Chapter 3 (pgs. 53-94) Causal Factors	
3	2/2-2/8	Chapter 4 (pgs. 96-122) Assessment & Diagnosis	
4	2/9-2/15	Chapter 6 (pgs. 161-207) Anxiety Disorders	2/10 – Exam #1
5	2/16-2/22	Chapter 7 (pgs. 208-256) Mood Disorders & Suicide	2/19– Social Media Evaluation #1 Due
6	2/23-3/1	Chapter 8 (pgs. 257-289) Somatic & Dissociative	2/26 – Social Media Evaluation #2 Due
7	3/2-3/8	Chapter 9 (pgs. 290-326) Eating Disorders	3/7 – Exam #2
8	3/9-3/15		
9	3/16-3/22	Chapter 11 (pgs. 371-407) Substance-related	3/19 – Social Media Evaluation #3 Due
10	3/23-3/29	Chapter 12 (pgs. 408-439) Sexual Dysfunctions	
11	3/30-4/5	Chapter 10 (pgs. 327-371) Personality	3/31 – Exam #3
12	4/6-4/12	Chapter 13 (pgs. 440-483) Schizophrenia	4/9 – Social Media Evaluation #4 Due
13	4/13-4/19	Chapter 14 (pgs. 484-512) Neurocognitive Disorders	4/16 – Social Media Evaluation #5 Due
14	4/20-4/26		4/23 – Exam #4
15	4/27-5/3	Chapter 15 (pgs. 513-548) Child and Adolescence	4/30 – Volunteer Project Write-up
16	5/4-5/10	Chapter 16 (pgs. 549-584) Treatment	5/7 – Social Media Evaluation #6 Due
			5/14 – Final Exam 3:30-5:30pm