



MIDWESTERN

STATE UNIVERSITY

Syllabus

Abnormal Psychology
PSYC 3603, section 201
Spring 2026

Contact Information

Professor: Michael A. Vandehey, Ph.D. Office: O'donohoe 112
Office Hours: MW 9:30-11:30, TR 11:11:30 or by appointment
Phone: 940-397-4026 Location: PY 101
Class Time: TR 8-9:20a.m. [Class Email](#) [Office Email](#)

Note: When emailing me, please put Abnormal Psychology as the subject.

Goals

Think about abnormal behavior across multiple dimensions.

1. Learn about the transition from 5 axes of diagnosis to 1 (DSM-3-4TR to DSM 5 & 5TR).
2. Understand the different approaches to abnormal behavior.
3. Diagnose based upon limited information (vignettes).

Organize and master a large amount of information.

1. Tests will cover information from the text and lecture.
2. Developing academic skills for graduate school.

Improve on APA 7th Edition writing skills and library search skills.

- a. Title page
- b. Headings
- c. In-text citations
- d. Reference page(s).
- e. Use the library.
- f. Become familiar with book, journal, and internet references.

Text

Sue, D., Sue, D., Sue S., & Sue, S. (2025). *Understanding psychological disorders Enhanced* (12th ed.). Cengage.

Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th Ed.).
(2020).

Stapler: papers must be stapled and will not be accepted unless stapled.

Course Requirements

Grades will be based on your performance on 1 exam, a final, and a paper.

Each exam will be worth 100 points. Tests will be multiple choice and essay. Multiple choice answers will be completed in D2L; essays will be completed in class, and I will provide paper for essay answers. I reserve the right to change the tests in any way to better assess the class at any point during the semester.

The paper will be 5-7, double-spaced, typewritten pages (excluding the title page and references) and is worth 100 points. It must be written in APA 7th edition format (citing in paper, reference page, use of headings, title page, etc.). **Seven** references are required and may not include general psychology, developmental, abnormal, etc. textbooks (you may use these texts if you already meet the initial 7-reference requirement). References may include academic books and peer review journals. Please use the DSM-5TR as one of your references. Only **two** references may come from internet sites. **Please keep a full photocopy of every reference.** I reserve the right to request your full references if concerns about the paper arise. Finally, **1-2** small quotes are appropriate; however, large quotes are not original work and will not count toward the 5-page minimum (this may come up as students cite large sections of the DSM-5TR). Papers will lose 1 grade level for every day they are late.

IN ADDITION to turning in a *physical copy* of one's paper, all papers must be turned in electronically to TurnItIn.com through D2L. In class instruction will be given close to the pre-read due date.

The following outline is an *example* of possible sections:

1. Introduction/definition of disorder
 2. History of the disorder
 3. Diagnostic criteria/differential diagnosis
 4. Treatment/Prognosis
 5. Conclusion (not a rewrite of the introduction. It is to be a place for the student to present one's own ideas based upon an integration of the information learned).
- * On occasion, a student wishes to discuss personal/family experience with a disorder. This is acceptable provided it is less than 2 pages and does not count towards the 5-page minimum.

300 points are possible and grade ranges are as follows:

A = 300-270

B = 269-240

C = 239-210

D = 209-180

F = 179 or lower

Note

Students with disability must be registered with Disability Support Services before accommodations can be provided. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact me and must provide documentation by Disability Support Services. The Director of Disability Support Services serves as the ADA Coordinator and may be contacted at (940) 397-4140, TDD (940) 397-4515, or 3410 Taft Blvd., Clark Student Center 168.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Midwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability and complies with Section 504 and Public Law 101-336 (Americans with Disabilities Act) in its admissions, accessibility, treatment and employment of individuals in its programs and activities.

A copy of the ADA Compliance Document is available online at [disability faq](#). It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications. Students who require special accommodations must register with Disability Support Services before these accommodations can be provided. An Accommodation Request Form can be obtained at [Accommodation Request](#).

Computer Requirements

Taking a modern class requires you to have access to a computer (with Internet access) to complete and upload your assignments. It is your responsibility to have (or have access to) a working computer in this class.

Assignments and tests are due by the due date, and personal computer technical difficulties will not be considered reason for the instructor to allow students extra time to submit assignments, tests, or discussion postings. Computers are available on campus in various areas of the buildings as well as the Academic Success Center. **Your computer being down is not an excuse for missing a deadline!!** There are many places to access your class! Our online classes can be accessed from any computer in the world which is connected to the internet. Contact your instructor immediately upon having computer trouble. If you have technical difficulties in the course, there is also a student helpdesk available to you. The college cannot work directly on student computers due to both

liability and resource limitations; however, they are able to help you get connected to our online services. For help, log into [D2L](#).

Desire-to-Learn (D2L)

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

- a. Brightspace (maker of D2L) has tutorials available on YouTube. Please go to [Brightspace YouTube](#) for additional help.

Your exams require the LockDown Browser and a Webcam.

Most of the time you will not encounter any problems, however, listed below are some common issues.

1. Make sure you have the most recent version of the [LockDown Browser](#) on your computer. You can install the latest version at the link above.
2. The most common issue is the loss of connection during the test. If you get a blank page or a spinning wheel, you will need to exit the test, close the browser, and re-enter the test.
3. If you are taking this test at home, it is best that no other device is being used that requires the Internet while you are taking the test.
4. **Chromebook Laptops are NOT compatible with the LockDown Browser**, so you will need to locate a different device. If you have the ability to come to campus, the LockDown Browser is on the computers in the Clark Student Center lab and the first floor Dillard lab. **Note:** There are no cameras on these computers, you will need to bring your own webcam or check one out from the Library.

If you need assistance with issues, please use the Report a Problem link at the top of this page or email [d2lhelp](#).

Always let your Instructor know that you've had a technical difficulty and have reached out to us.

Please be aware of:

1. The LockDown Browser flags problematic behavior like going off camera, talking, or even being back lit. The instructor gets an alert. All moderate and high alert notifications result in the video being watched for evidence of academic dishonesty. Please don't sit with a lamp or bright light behind you as the camera has a hard time reading your face.
2. Please do not take an exam with anyone else present. If you are in an MSU computer lab, we understand that other people may be around. Please don't have conversations with them until after you complete the exam.

3. The **environment scans are not acceptable in many cases.**
Students are to show the room including the desk/table top and the wall behind the computer. Students who fail to properly scan the environment are watched very closely. Any behavior that appears like a person is looking at notes or another device may be reported as academic dishonesty.

Informed Consent: This information is to inform the student of the limits of confidentiality while enrolled at MSU Texas or any other state school. Due to federal and state law, faculty and staff working for a university are required to report any information that falls under Title IX. Any student who indicates experiencing sexual abuse/misconduct, physical/emotional abuse, domestic violence, stalking, suicidal/homicidal ideation, or related experiences will have an incident report sent to either the MSU Texas Title IX and/or the Dean of Student's office. 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: [Student Referrals and Incident Reporting Forms](#)

Report forms are:

Bias Incident Reporting Form	General Student Complaint Form
Campus Incident Report Form	Sexual Misconduct Report Form
Concerning Student Behavior Form	Student Alert Form

College Policies and Procedures

Can be found at the bottom of the MSU home page or at [Human Resources Policy](#)

Academic Misconduct Policy & Procedures

Academic Dishonesty: Cheating, collusion, and plagiarism (the act of using source material of other persons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting, or the submission for credit of work not the individuals to whom credit is given). Additional guidelines on procedures in these matters may be found in the Office of Student Conduct. Any evidence of cheating will result in a grade of "F" and being reported to the [Dean of Students](#).

Wikipedia

At no time will a student be allowed to use Wikipedia as a source for any project or paper in this class. If it is determined that Wikipedia was used as a source for a project or paper, the student will be given a grade of zero automatically.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Written assignments will be run through a plagiarism and AI checker called Turn It In. If at any point Turn It In identifies that a student used AI to complete an assignment (such as ChatGPT), an automatic grade of zero will be given to the assignment.

College Policies

Campus Carry Rules/Policies

Refer to: [Campus Carry Rules and Policies](#)

Smoking/Tobacco Policy

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS. Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

Alcohol and Drug Policy

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

Campus Carry

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. The Constitutional Carry law does not change this process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

Active Shooter

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the FBI video entitled “Run. Hide. Fight.” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: [“Run. Hide. Fight.”](#)

Grade Appeal Process

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

Student Code of Conduct

MWSU's official policy in the University's Code of Student Conduct on page 52, states:

Instructor Drop: An instructor may drop a student any time during the semester for excessive absences, for consistently failing to meet class assignments, for an indifferent attitude, or for disruptive conduct. The instructor must give the student a verbal or written warning prior to dropping the student from the class. An instructor's drop of a student takes precedence over the student-initiated course drop of a later date. The instructor will assign a grade of either WF or F through the first 9 weeks of a long semester, the first 6 weeks of a 10-week summer term, or the 12th class day of a 4- or 5-week summer term consisting of 20 days. After these periods, the grade will be an F. The date the instructor drop form is received in the Office of the Registrar as the official drop date. A student dropped from a class by a faculty member for disruptive behavior has the right of appeal to the Student Conduct Committee through the Student Conduct office.

Midwestern State University Student Honor Creed

"As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect

the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.

By enrolling in this course, the student expressly grants MSU a 'limited right' in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The 'limited right' shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student's work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and educational purposes.

Travel Plans: Please do not make travel plans that would hinder your access to a computer or the internet. You are responsible for maintaining electronic(s) equipment and internet access every day during this semester.

Tentative Reading and Exam Schedule

Notice: Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

Days of Class

Reading Assignment

1/20-3/5:

Semester Overview/Course Requirements
Chapter 5: Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders
Chapter 6: Trauma and Stress-Related Disorders
Chapter 8: Depressive and Bipolar Disorders
-ADHD (pp. 623-626)
-Autism Spectrum Disorder (pp. 627-635)

DSM-5TR

Depressive Disorders; Bipolar and Related Disorders;
Impulse-Control Disorders;
Autism Spectrum Disorder;
Anxiety Disorders; Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders
Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders

TEST: **3/4 MC in D2L**
 3/5 Vignettes in class

Paper Topics due Wednesday 3/19

3/17-5/7

Chapter 10: Eating Disorders
-Body Dysmorphic Disorder (pp. 180-181)
Chapter 15: Personality Psychopathology
Chapter 12: Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders
-Dissociative Disorders (pp. 248-261)

Chapter 14: Sexual Dysfunctions...and Paraphilic Disorders

-note: we will not cover pages 537-543.

DSM-5TR

Eating Disorders

-body dysmorphic disorder

Personality Disorders;

Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders;

Dissociative Disorders

Sexual Dysfunctions; Paraphilic Disorders

**Preread (optional) FIRST FINAL DRAFT: Monday 3/31*

Physical paper and e-copy due: Monday 4/21

Final Exam:

Multiple choice will be available 8a.m. till 10p.m. Wednesday, May 13th.

Vignette's in class will be Thursday, May 14th 8:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.