


UNIVERSITY of 
West Georgia
Department of Psychology
Abnormal Psychology
Course Syllabus

Course Number: PSYC 3150-01
Credit: 4 semester hours
Semester: Fall 2019
Instructor: Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-11:10, Education Ctr 3
Larry Schor, Ph. D.
Melson Hall, Rm. 206
Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 8:00–9:00 Tuesday &
Thursday, 8:00-9:00, 11:30-1:30, and by
appointment.
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Course Description and Objectives: The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the problems and approaches (both theoretical and practical) associated with the conceptualization, description, understanding, and treatment of psychological suffering and mental illness. Through lecture, discussion, readings, and reflection on our experiences, we will focus our inquiry on questions such as:

- What do we mean by the terms “abnormal” and “mentally ill”?
- When is abnormal behavior not mental illness?
- What are the causes of mental illness?
- How and why are disorders classified?
- How can psychological theories help us to understand ourselves and others?
- In what ways are symptoms of disorders sometimes adaptive?
- How has the perception (and subsequent treatment) of abnormality changed across historical and social contexts?
- How can psychology help us to better understand what is going on within ourselves and around us?
- How have societal pressures contributed to mental illness?
- What are the differences among various “helping” professions?
- How has the media affected our views of mental illness?
- What can we learn about mental illness from our own experiences?
- How do different theoretical approaches view abnormality and pathology?
- What are the current trends in prevention and treatment?

Text:

Comer, R. J. (2015). Fundamentals of abnormal psychology (8th ed). Worth Publishing

[Comer 8th ed.](#)

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. Participation in class discussions and activities (200 points). Because much of the course will involve class discussion and presentation of material that complements the readings, your *spirited* participation is essential and will require you to remain current with reading assignments. Students are expected to attend all class meetings and assume responsibility for missed work and assignments.

2. CourseDen participation (250 points). As an adjunct to in-class and individual writing assignments, an important aspect of student learning will involve collaborative discussions on CourseDen. Assignments will include identifying concepts in need of further clarification, development of an online resource database, and participation in the online discussion forum. A summary of a particular topic in the assigned reading and a thoughtful response to at least one of your student colleagues are due *prior to* corresponding course meetings. This will help you prepare for class lecture and help me to better clarify your questions as well as demonstrate students are reading assignments in preparation for class discussions.

3. Journal (100 points). Keep a journal of your reflections on class discussions and readings, as well as your own relevant experiences (past or present). Include your observations, opinions, and thoughtful reflection of both ordinary and extraordinary experiences while noting insights, changing beliefs, and *application of material from class*. Try to integrate course content with *your* experiences. You will not be graded on the “right-ness” or “wrong-ness” of your ideas, but rather your exploration and articulation of observations and insights. You are expected to write in your journal at least three times per week.

4. Mid Term Examination (150 points). An objective multiple-choice examination will include material from the text and class discussions.

5. Reaction papers (100 points). There will be three or four brief (3-5 pages) reaction papers assigned. They will address such topics as; reading assignments, Theory, ethics, public policy, family concerns, and personal values. Your own ideas and opinions are welcome, but they should be grounded in, and contrasted with perspectives presented in class or the text.

6. Final Examination (200 points). A *cumulative* multiple-choice final exam will be given during exam week. Students who have consistently demonstrated outstanding work throughout the semester will be eligible to be exempt from the final exam.

Grading Policy:

- A 900-1000 points
- B 800-899 points
- C 700-799 points
- D 600-699 points

PSYC 3150 Syllabus

Tentative Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>
1	Introduction & Historical Perspectives, Chapter 1
2	Research Methods, Chapter 1, 2
3	Theoretical Overview, Therapeutic approaches, Chapter 3
4	Assessment & Classification, Chapter 4
5	Anxiety & Stress Disorders, Chapter 5, 6
6	Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders, Chapter 7
7	Mood Disorders, Chapter 8, 9
8	Suicide and Depression, Chapter 10
9	Eating Disorders Chapter 11 (Mid Term Examination)
10	Substance Abuse & Self-Injury, Chapters 12
11	Fall Break
12	Schizophrenia, Sexuality, Chapters 13, 14, 15
13	Personality Disorders, Chapter 16
14	Childhood, Adolescence, & Aging, Chapter 17
15	Psychotherapy and Growth

Students should review the following information each semester.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Accessibility Services: 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. For more information, please contact [Accessibility Services](#).

Center for Academic Success: The [Center for Academic Success](#) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu

University Writing Center: The [University Writing Center](#) assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu

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. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook](#).

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).

HB 280 (Campus Carry)

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance:

http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance:

<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>

Mental Health Support:

If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the [Counseling Center](#). Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in [Health Services](#). To report a concern anonymously, please go to [UWGCares](#).