

**Abnormal Psychology
Psychology 3150-E02
University of West Georgia
Distance Learning (Online version)**

Instructor:

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Contacting me: **Email is preferred**. Please give me 24 hrs to respond.

Nature of an Online course:

I will utilize D2L. It is 100% your responsibility to familiarize yourself with all of the technological requirements to complete an online course. If you have questions about anything technology related, please contact Distance Education (<http://www.westga.edu/~distance/>) or call 678-839-6248. You will need Microsoft Office for this course, which is provided free by UWG at Student ITS.

Course Description and Objectives:

This course is an introduction to abnormal psychology, exploring abnormality within historical, social, and cultural contexts. Each major disorder, its etiology, symptoms, and preferred treatment strategy will be examined. By the end of this course, students will understand the major diagnostic categories as well as the lenses through which experts research and treat psychopathology. Students will learn to appreciate the complexity of human behavior and develop empathy for individuals with mental illnesses.

Required Materials:

Nevid, Rathus, & Greene, *Abnormal Psychology: In a Changing World*, 10th edition. Pearson. 2018. Hardcover, ISBN 0-13-448492-4

This is the book you need for this course. The bookstore will have copies. You can try to find a used edition of this textbook on Ebay or Amazon on your own. It is possible previous editions will be similar enough in content that you could buy an older edition and be fine. However, if you do this, it is up to you to figure out how the chapters from the required 10th edition line up with the previous edition that you buy.

Course Structure:

This is a 100% online class. Class will consist of three online tests and one film essay. Tests will be curved.

Assignments:

Tests:

There will be **three** class tests (see course schedule for exact dates), each worth 100 pts. The tests will be available from 9am-11pm on the days specified. You may take the test at any point during that time period. All tests are timed. The tests will not be cumulative. They are closed-notes and closed-books. Tests questions are randomized to prevent cheating. Any suspicion of cheating will be result in expulsion from the class (see UWG ethics handbook). Each test is 50 multiple choice items (each question worth 2pts each).

Make-up Policy: If for whatever reason you do not take the test during the time allotted, you will lose 10pts per day that you require to make the test up. No make-up tests will be given unless you have a verifiable emergency. Failure to make a test up within 48 hrs will result in an automatic zero for the test, no exceptions.

Film Essay:

At the end of this syllabus, you will see a list of amazing films relevant for Abnormal Psychology. Each film depicts one or more psychological disorders. You are to pick one of these films and watch it very closely and then write a 5-6 page paper (double spaced, 12-font, APA format) discussing how the film (it's characters, plot, etc) portray the psychological disorder. Go into details in your descriptions. Talk about how certain characters have the particular features of the disorder in question (really detail each feature and how it relates to the disorder in question), how they deal with it, how others react to them, their journey/struggle, as well as how they manage to live with it and what happens to them. Critique the film. How do you feel about how the disorder was depicted by Hollywood? How would you have portrayed it differently? What was your emotional reactions? Also pretend you are a therapist and describe how you would try to help the characters in the film who suffered. What would you do to treat or help them?

Have fun with this assignment. Be creative.

Also, make sure you check your paper with TurnItIn before you submit it. I use TurnItIn to check all essays for plagiarism.

You will lose 10pts per day that you film essay is late. After 48 hrs, if the essay is still not turned in, you will receive an automatic zero.

Grades:

- Test 1 = 100 pts
- Test 2 = 100 pts
- Test 3 = 100 pts
- Film Essay = 100 pts
- TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE = 400 pts**

Grading Scale:

Course grade is determined entirely by the total points a student earns:

<u>Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60%	F

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All individual written work is expected to be your own, and plagiarism is highly unacceptable. Proper documentation and citation is required when attributing ideas/information. Please see the honor code in the student handbook me if you have questions, or come see me. If you are caught cheating in any way, you will receive zero points for that assignment and it will be reported to the Dean's Office for possible probation or suspension from the University.

All Students Please Note:

For important policy information, i.e., the UWG Honor Code, Email, and Credit Hour policies, as well as information on Academic Support and Online Courses, please review the information found in the Common Language for Course Syllabi documentation at:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf.

Additions and updates are made as institution, state, and federal standards change, so please review it each semester.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (Aug 12-14)

Purchase the textbook. Review syllabus. Begin reading.

Week 2 (Aug 17-21)

Read Chapter 1: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

Week 3 (Aug 24-28)

Read Chapter 2: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

Week 4 (Aug 31-Sept 4)

Read Chapter 3: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

Week 5 (Sept 7-11)

Read Chapter 4: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

TEST 1 (covers Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4). This test is available to take anytime from Thurs Sept 10th at 9am until Friday Sept 11 at 11pm. You will have 90 minutes.

Week 6 (Sept 14-18)

Read Chapter 5: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

Week 7 (Sept 21-25)

Giving you a **Fall break** here to catch up on reading and assignments or just relax.

Week 8 (Sept 28-Oct 2)

Read Chapter 6: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

Week 9 (Oct 5-9)

Read Chapter 7: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

Week 10 (Oct 12-16)

(please note: we are skipping chapter 8. Do not read chapter 8)

Read Chapter 9: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

TEST 2 (covers Chapters 5, 6, 7, and 9). This test is available to take anytime from Thurs Oct 15th at 9am until Friday Oct 16th at 11pm. You will have 90 minutes.

Week 11 (Oct 19- Oct 23)

Read Chapter 10: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

Week 12 (Oct 26-Oct 30)

Read Chapter 11: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

Week 13 (Nov 2-Nov 6)

Read Chapter 12: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

Week 14 (Nov 9-Nov13)

Read Chapter 13: Read accompanying video ppt for this Chapter and watch video lecture.

Week 15 (Nov 16-Nov 20)

TEST 3 (covers Chapters 10, 11, 12, and 13). This test is available to take anytime from Thurs Nov 19th at 9am until Friday Nov 20th 11pm. You will have 90 minutes.

Week 16 (Nov 30-Dec 4)

Film Essay is Due no later than Tue Dec 1 by 9pm. (Remember to check your paper with TurnItIn before submitting).

Psychological Disorders in Film

Please choose 1 of the following films to watch and analyze for your film essay. You'll notice that we have not covered all of the disorders listed below. If you choose a film from a disorder that we have not covered, you will need to do your own research on that disorder. Good luck!

Schizophrenia: A Beautiful Mind (2001)

Dissociative Disorders: Frankie and Alice (2010) or Sybil (1976)

Eating Disorders: NOVA: Dying to Be Thin (2000 documentary) or Starving in Suburbia (2014)

Memory/Amnesia: The Music Never Stopped (2011) or The Vow (2012) or Marnie (1964) or What Lies Beneath (2000)

Agoraphobia: Gray Gardens (1975) or Finding Forrester (2000) or Big Sky (2015)

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder: As Good as It Gets (1997) or Phoebe in Wonderland (2008) or Burnt (2015)

Post-Traumatic Stress: Born on the Fourth of July (1989) or Forrest Gump (1994) or 7 Pounds (2008) or The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) or American Sniper (2014) or The Hurt Locker (2009)

Autism Spectrum: Rain Man (1988) or What's Eating Gilbert Grape (1993) or Adam (2009) or Temple Grandin (2010)

Major Depressive Disorder: It's a Wonderful Life (1946) or What Dreams May Come (1998) or Girl, Interrupted (1999) or Melancholia (2011) or Cake (2014)

Conduct Disorder: The Bad Seed (1956) or The Good Son (1993)

Alzheimer's Disease: Driving Miss Daisy (1989) or Lovely, Still (2008) or Still Alice (2014)

Antisocial Personality Disorder: Gacy (2003) or Monster (2003) or A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints (2006) or We Need to Talk About Kevin (2011) or Escobar: Paradise Lost (2014)

Borderline Personality Disorder: Misery (1990) or Me, Myself & Irene (2000) or Borderline (2008) or Boy Next Door (2015)

Bi-Polar Disorder: Infinity Polar Bear (2014) or The Silver Linings Playbook (2012)

Substance Abuse: 28 Days (2000) or Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas (1998) or Flight (2012) or Smashed (2012) or Suck It Up Buttercup (2014) or Clean and Sober (1988) or Being Charlie (2015)