



**PSY 316: Abnormal Psychology
Syllabus: Spring 2020**

Class meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 10:00 pm; Bain 202

Instructor: Hugh H. Riley, PhD (*Baylor University – Neuroscience*)

Office Location: Baylor University, Baylor Sciences Building, A-Wing, Room 331

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 1:00 to 2:00 pm

Office Phone: 254-710-2257

Office Fax: 254-710-3033

Cell Phone: 254-749-9182

University Email Address: Hugh_Riley@tamuc-commerce.edu; Hugh_Riley@Baylor.edu (*preferred*)

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Required Text: Barlow/Durand/Hofmann - Bundle: *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach*, 8th Edition, ISBN: 9781305950467.

Other Resources (*Suggested but not required*)*: American Psychiatric Association, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, 5th Edition, Text Revision (*DSM-V*).

* Unless you intend to be a professional in the field of clinical psychology or psychiatry, there is no need to purchase this book. Additionally, even if you do intend to be such a professional, you should probably wait until graduation to purchase this text because it is updated every few years. However, we will closely examine some of its contents during class and you are also free to borrow it from me for a short period of time if you would like to do so.

Course Description: This course is designed as an introductory-level course in abnormal psychology. As such, we will investigate various psychological disorders and introduce the current and historical theoretical paradigms that have influenced our perception as to what constitutes “abnormal behavior”. These paradigms include cognitive, biological (*neuroscience*), psychoanalytical, learning, and sociocultural influences, and they also provide the basis for our understanding of human behavior as well as help guide our therapies and research efforts. We will also spend some time discussing the public’s attitudes toward individuals with psychological disorders, and we will also explore the legal, ethical, social, philosophical and professional issues that are related to the identification, diagnosis, treatment, effect (*individual, family, and community*) and prevention of these psychological disturbances.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, the students will have a better understanding of the psychological disorders that are identified in the DSM-IV TR.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments: In our class, we will discuss the course material through active participation and dialogue. I will lecture on the course textbook material, but I strongly encourage you to play an active participant role in these discussions.

I have posted the publisher's slides for each chapter to MyLeo. However, I will probably not present those slides in class.

A word of caution about PowerPoint slides: They are insufficient with respect to helping you prepare for our exams. In other words, you cannot make an A or B in this course if you do nothing more than read the slides. The slides are not actually for students; they help professors remember what to discuss as they are nothing more than a short outline of the chapter contents.

Grading:

- 1. Exams and their Construction:** All exams might have multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and/or short answer questions. We will discuss a specific chapter each week (*see calendar*) and then conduct an exam over the last two chapters. That is, every exam will cover the last two chapters discussed in lecture. **A word of warning:** If you do not **thoroughly study** the chapters after we have discussed it, you will probably not pass these exams and you will not be adequately prepared for the comprehensive final exam. The questions for all exams, including the final, can cover any of the material in the textbook, lectures, films, and learning activities, regardless of whether the material was specifically discussed in class or not. **Make-up exams will not be given without sufficient cause (medical, legal, or familial; see below for more information).** Lastly, all approved make-up exams must be completed prior to the last day of class (*see calendar*).
- 2. Final Exam:** The final exam is comprehensive, which means that it will test you over every chapter in the textbook that we have discussed in lecture.

Course Letter Grade: Your course letter grade will be determined by your percent earned of the total points available. Your grade is independent of the other students in the course, and your course letter grade will be assigned as follows:

Percent of Possible	Grade	Performance Requirements
> 88.5%	A	Well exceeds all course requirements with superior academic distinction in all areas
78.5 - 88.4%	B	Meets course requirements with good performance in most areas
68.5 - 78.4%	C	Meets course requirements with average performance in most areas
59.5 - 68.4%	D	Meets course requirements, but with inadequate performance in some or most areas
< 59.4%	F	Does not meet the course standards and requirements

Exam scheduling and other exam-related issues:

- Early exams: No exam will be available to take early.
- Showing up late: When the first exam is submitted, admission to the exam is closed.

- When our regular class period has ended, I will pick up the exams and leave the room. If your exam has not been turned in before I leave the room, it will not be accepted.
- Make-up exams: At my discretion, a make-up exam can be scheduled if your absence meets the criteria for an excused absence (*see “Missed Exam Policy” below*).
- Unless I authorize otherwise, you cannot keep a copy of the exam, write down any information from any exam, or view old exams from previous semesters.
- Final exam: The final exam is comprehensive. If you are absent for the final, you will receive an F for the course if you do not have a university-approved excuse. If you do have an appropriate excuse, you will be given an Incomplete for the course until this deficiency has been corrected.
- Problems: Everyone has had or will have some kind of problem they need help with. There are resources to handle almost any problem, so please don’t hesitate to let me know if you have some special need or requirement. However, please understand that most issues are more easily addressed if you let me know about them before they cause a problem.

Honor code and exam conduct: By taking this class, you agree to uphold the highest standards with respect to academic honesty. To ensure this, exams will be monitored and the following rules will apply during exams:

- If you must wear a hat, the brim must be worn in the back.
- If possible, seating during exams will be with an empty seat between each student.
- All books, notebooks, electronic devices, and computers must be out of sight.
- Please use the restroom before the exam begins.
- Cellular phones, pagers, and other ringing and/or alarm devices must be muted, out of your sight, and out of your reach. The use of headphones or other electronic devices during exams is prohibited. If you have one of these devices in your hand while the exam is in progress, it must be assumed that you are acting inappropriately.
- Roving eyes, wearing sunglasses, talking to a neighbor, passing notes, and all other suspicious behaviors are prohibited.
- All class materials must be placed out of sight or left at the front of the room.

Missed Exam Policy: Preferably, students should notify me before an exam is missed. If a student misses an exam, then the score for that examination is zero unless the student has an excusable absence and provides written documentation at the first attended class meeting after the absence. In the case of an emergency, students should notify me as soon as possible after the missed exam. In all cases, written documentation should be provided at the first class meeting after the absence has occurred. Written documentation **must** consist of one of the following: (1) a note from a physician stating that the student could not have taken the exam; (2) notification from an appropriate official that there has been a death or serious injury in the family; or (3) a note from a university official for a university-sponsored event. If the student fails to provide written documentation immediately upon his or her return to class, the absence will be considered unexcused and the student will not be allowed to make up the exam. All approved make-up exams must be completed by no later than the last day of class.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

None

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Not applicable

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement: As stated above, please bring to my attention any special needs or requirements or concerns that you might have.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures:

Attendance: Your attendance in this course is expected for all class meetings. Further, students are responsible for learning about and complying with the attendance policy as stated in the TAMU Student Catalog (<http://catalog.tamu-commerce.acalog.com/>) and in the Student Guidebook (<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/studentlife/guidebook.htm>). As stated in the student guidebook, faculty members will provide details on requirements and guidelines for attendance in their course syllabi and they will keep students' attendance records since certain financial assistance and other programs might require these attendance records.

Students are responsible for requesting makeup work whenever they are absent and they will be permitted to make up work for any absences that are excusable. In our class, students can makeup these excusable missed classes by demonstrating oral or written competency over the material that was covered during their absence.

The student is responsible for providing me with a reason(s) for his/her absence, and I will then determine whether the absence is excusable and therefore whether an opportunity for making up the work will be provided. In our class, the following reasons for an absence are generally considered excusable:

- Participation in a required/authorized university activity
- Verified illness (*via a note from a physician*)
- Death or serious illness in the student's immediate family
- Obligation of a student at legal proceedings to fulfill their responsibility as a citizen

Whenever requested, I will inform a student who has been absent whether make-up work will be allowed and whether their absence jeopardizes their standing in the class. If the student is denied the opportunity for makeup work because their absence was determined to be inexcusable and their final course letter grade is negatively impacted as a result, appeals can be made through normal administrative channels. This appeal process is explained in the Student's Appeal of Instructor's Evaluation, Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 (<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/administration/Rules%26Procedures/>).

As stated in the TAMU catalog, it is the prerogative of the faculty to recommend to the department head and college dean to drop any student from a course when they have accrued excessive absences as defined in the course syllabus. In our class, I will exercise this option whenever a student has missed more than 50% of our scheduled meetings. Students who wish to drop a course or withdraw from the university are responsible for initiating this action. See below for more information.

Dropping the Class: I hope that you won't need to drop this class, but I understand that circumstances can require this action on occasion. According to TAMU policy, students may drop a class with a full refund (*if remaining enrolled*) until the twelfth class day during the fall and spring semesters and until the fourth class day during the summer terms (*drop dates vary for sub-term and ten-week courses*).

A Course Drop Request Form (<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/registrar/pdfs/dropform.pdf>) may be obtained at the Office of the Registrar. The student must obtain approval from the department/instructor. The drop/add sheet is then returned to the Office of the Registrar.

A course dropped after census date in a term that is being passed may be dropped with a grade of "DP", which will not calculate into the students' Grade Point Average (*GPA*). See the *Academic Calendar* (<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/registrar/calendar.asp>) for specific dates.

As stated by TAMU policy, after the first twelve days of class of any semester or after the first four days of class of any summer term, the instructor may permit a student to officially drop a class in which the student is not passing (*for other shortened format or sub-term classes, drop dates vary*). A grade of "DF" may be reported at the end of the semester for students who are failing at the time of the drop. A course dropped resulting in a "DF" will be included in the GPA calculation as an "F".

Withdrawal refunds for students receiving federal funds is based on how much Title IV aid a student has received and not earned at the time of withdrawal. The amount of aid earned is calculated on a pro rata basis through 60% of the term. Contact the TAMU *Financial Aid Office* (<http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/home/finaidnew/>) **BEFORE** withdrawing for additional information about this issue.

Campus Concealed Carry: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement: The Americans with Disabilities Act (*ADA*) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

**Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132**

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct: All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. See Students' Guide Handbook: Policies, Procedures, and Conduct for more information (<http://www.tamuc.edu/studentlife/guidebook.htm>).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR		
Date	Class	Topic / Event
01/15/20	1	Chapter 01: Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context
01/22/20	2	Chapter 02: An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology
01/29/20	3	Chapters 1 and 2 Exam Chapter 03: Clinical Assessment & Diagnosis
02/05/20	4	Class canceled due to school shooting Chapter 04: Research Methods
02/12/20	5	Chapter 04: Research Methods
02/19/20 02/20/20?	6	Chapters 3 and 4 Exam Chapter 05: Anxiety, Trauma, Stressor-Related, & Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders
02/26/20	7	Chapter 06: Somatic Symptom & Related Disorders and Dissociative Disorders
03/04/20	8	Chapters 5 and 6 Exam Chapter 07: Mood Disorders and Suicide
03/11/20		Spring Break – No class
03/18/20	9	Chapter 08: Eating Disorders
03/25/20	10	Chapters 7 and 8 Exam Chapter 10: Sexual Dysfunctions, Paraphilic Disorders, and Gender Dysphoria
04/01/20	11	Chapter 11: Substance-Related Disorders
04/08/20	12	Chapters 10 and 11 Exam Chapter 12: Personality Disorders
04/15/20	13	Chapter 13: Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders
04/22/20	14	Chapters 12 and 13 Exam Chapter 14: Neurodevelopmental Disorders
04/29/20	15	Chapter 15: Neurocognitive Disorders
05/06/20	17	Chapters 14 and 15 Exam Comprehensive Final Exam