



**PSY 503 Psychopathology & Diagnosis**  
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2024 Web-based  
01/29/24-5/10/24

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Dr. Katherine Pang, Licensed Psychologist, MSc Clinical Psychopharmacology

**Office Location:** Virtual

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**University Email Address:** katherine.pang@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** Email

**Communication Response Time:** 24 hours, with the exception of weekends and holidays, in which case communication will occur the next day the university is open. Dr. Pang responds rapidly, if you have not heard back in a few hours, feel free to send another email.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

***Textbook(s) Required***

American Psychiatric Association (2022). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition Text Revision (DSM-5-TR)*. Washington, DC: Author. ISBN: 978-0890425763

Carlson, J., Duba Sauerheber, J., and Sperry, J. (2015). *Psychopathology and psychotherapy: DSM-5 diagnosis, case conceptualization, and treatment*. (L. Sperry, Ed.) (3rd ed.). Routledge. ISBN: 978-0415838733

***Textbooks Recommended:***

Nussbaum, Abraham M. (2022). *The Pocket Guide to the Dsm-5-TR Diagnostic Exam*, Amer Psychiatric Pub Inc; 1st edition. ISBN: 978-1615373574

***Journal Article (available through library services)***

Moleiro, C. (2018) Culture and psychopathology: New perspectives on research, practice, and clinical training in a globalized world. *Frontiers in Psychiatry*, 9 (366), 1-6.

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyt.2018.00366/full>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course is oriented to the social-biological origins and dynamics of psychopathology in adults and children including developmental disorders. This course is designed to provide students an introduction to the latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders to

facilitate development of the basic mechanics of making psychological diagnoses as often required by employers and third-party payers. Additionally, this course will provide students an overview of presumed etiology of various psychological disorders. This information is crucial to helping clinicians recognize and appreciate how psychopathology may develop, is maintained, and responds to treatment. Recognizing variables associated with the onset and maintenance of psychological disorders may also help students differentiate amongst various psychological disorders.

### ***STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES***

1. Recognizing the potential for substance use disorders to mimic and coexist with many psychological disorders. Students will complete clinical vignettes and must demonstrate the ability to distinguish psychological symptoms from substance use symptoms.
2. Recognizing how clinical diagnosis may have an effect on professionally related issues, such as reimbursement by insurance and/or other agencies. Students will complete clinical vignettes and must discuss implications of diagnoses in terms of expected course of treatment.
3. Learning basic etiological theories, the diagnostic process, and nomenclature of mental and emotional disorders. From clinical vignettes, students will identify potential distal and proximal risks associated with disorders.
4. Learning how to appropriately document diagnostic status using the current diagnostic system most widely employed in the United States. Students will diagnosis patients from clinical vignettes.
5. Learning how to distinguish psychopathology from non-pathological behaviors using criteria established by the current diagnostic system most widely employed in the United States. Students will diagnosis patients from clinical vignettes.
6. Understanding the principles of the diagnostic process, including differential diagnosis, and the use of current diagnostic tools, such as the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM). Students will diagnosis patients from clinical vignettes.
7. Understanding the established diagnostic criteria for mental and emotional disorders. Students will diagnosis patients from clinical vignettes.
8. Understanding the relevance and potential biases of commonly used diagnostic tools with multicultural populations. Students will be provided clinical vignettes in which patients of diverse ethnic and racial backgrounds are represented. Students must demonstrate their recognition of how people from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds communication emotional distress in order to appropriately determine if she/he is experiencing a recognized diagnostic condition.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### ***Minimal Technical Skills Needed***

Students will the ability to use word processing programs and internet-based learning

management software to complete course successfully.

### ***Instructional Methods***

A variety of teaching strategies will be used to help students become familiar with the DSM-5 and the various psychological disorders currently acknowledged by the American Psychiatric Association. These strategies include:

1. Instructor class lectures
2. In class discussions
3. Group case scenarios and diagnostic skill development
4. In class quizzes/examinations
5. In class assignments
6. In class demonstrations of interviews and measures

### ***Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course***

1. Attend all classes.
2. Read the textbooks and DSM-5.
3. Complete assignments thoroughly and on time.
4. Take notes.
5. Actively participate in class discussions.
6. Read DSM-5 and text prior to presentation.
7. Ask for assistance.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

- A = 100-90
- B = 89-80
- C = 79-70
- D = 69-60
- F = > 59

### ***Group Projects (There are 8 Group Projects for a Total of 40%, 5% each)***

Group projects will be an integral portion of this class. Each week you will be randomly assigned groupmates to work together on a variety of different questions from the reading. This variation in group distribution will cultivate group dynamics and assist in clinical micro skills acquisition in addition to mimicking real life clinical experiences working with other clinicians. After a weekly lecture, the remainder of class time will be spent with your group. Your group assignments will be due by 11:59pm on each Thursday, so use your group time wisely.

***Quizzes (There are 4 Quizzes for a Total of 20%, 5% each)***

Quizzes will be scattered throughout the semester and are designed to help you become more familiar with the DSM-5 and psychopathology.

***Short Papers (There are 4 individual short papers for a total of 20%, 5% each)***

On the assigned weeks, each student will be responsible for a short paper on a topic selected by the student related to the week’s material. The Short Paper must be written in accord with the Short Paper Guidelines which will be posted in the Announcements.

***Assessment-Final Exam (Total 20%)***

There will be one cumulative final exam covering the course content which will be taken during the week of finals.

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Proposed Reading Schedule: Students will need to read assigned material *prior* to class to fully participate in class discussions:

Week	Topic	Read	Group Assignment	Quizzes/Exam	Individual Assignment
Week 1 (1/29-2/4)	Introduction to Syllabus and Clinical Interviewing	Sperry et al. Ch. 1  DSM-V-TR pp. 1-29			
Week 2 (2/5-2/11)	Culture and Treatment	“Culture and psychopathology: New perspectives on research, practice, and clinical training in a globalized world.”			
Week 3 (2/12-2/18)	Practicalities of Intake Sessions and Clinical Interview				
Week 4 (2/19-25)	Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders	Sperry et al. Ch. 4 DSM-V-TR pp. 215-294	Pick One: Case 1 Case 2	Quiz 1	

**PSY 503 Psychopathology & Diagnosis**  
**Dr. Katherine Pang, PhD**

Week 5 (2/26-3/3)	Depression and Bipolar Disorders	Sperry et al. Ch. 5 DSM-V-TR pp. 177-214 and 139-175	Pick One: Case 3 Case 4	Quiz 2	
Week 6 (3/4-3/10)	Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders	Sperry et al. Ch. 6 DSM-V-TR pp.295-328	Pick One: Case 5 Case 6	Quiz 3	
Week 7 (3/11-3/17)	<b>Spring Break</b>				
Week 8 (3/18-3/24)	Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders	Sperry et al. Ch. 8 DSM-V-TR pp.101-138		Quiz 4	
Week 9 (3/25-3/31)	Eating Disorders, Substance Use, and Addictive Disorders	Sperry et al. Ch. 7 and 14 DSM-V-TR pp.371- 397 and 543-666			Short Paper
Week 10 (4/1-4/7)	Somatic Symptoms and Related Disorders	Sperry et al. Ch. 10 DSM-V-TR pp.349-370	Pick One: Case 7 Case 8		
Week 11 (4/8-4/14)	Neurodevelopmental and Conduct Disorders	Sperry et al. Ch. 13 DSM-V-TR pp. 35-100			Short Paper
Week 12 (4/15-4/21)	Neurocognitive Disorders	Sperry et al. Ch. 15 DSM-V-TR pp.667-732	Pick One: Case 9 Case 10		
Week 13 (4/22-4/28)	Personality Disorders: Cluster A	Sperry et al. Ch. 3 DSM-V-TR pp.733-748	Pick One: Case 11 Case 12		Short Paper
Week 15 (4/29-5/5)	Personality Disorders: Cluster B	Sperry et al. Ch. 3 DSM-V-TR pp. 748-764	Pick One: Case 13 Case 14		Short Paper
Week 16 (5/6-5/10)	Personality Disorders: Cluster C	Sperry et al. Ch. 3	Pick One: Case 15 Case 16		Final Exam

		DSM-V-TR pp. 764-778			
--	--	-------------------------	--	--	--

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

I prefer that you contact me via email. I will respond within 24 hours, typically sooner, with the possible exception of weekends and holidays. If you have a question that can be addressed through email, I will do so. If your question requires us to meet by telephone or person, I will schedule an appointment with you at a mutually convenient time.

If you are having technology problems with D2L, contact the helpdesk at the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

### Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

### LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

**Note:** Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

### ***COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT***

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

#### **Technical Support**

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

### ***UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES***

#### ***University Specific Procedures***

#### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

#### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure [13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)  
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### ***Students with Disabilities-- 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  
Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

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

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

**The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit [www.tamuc.edu/counsel](http://www.tamuc.edu/counsel)**

### **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

### ***Campus Concealed Carry Statement***

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 the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&MCommerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.