

**PSY 316 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
Course SYLLABUS: Summer II 2024

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Anabel V. Meyer, Ph.D., Assistant Professor  
**Office Location:** Henderson 225  
**Office Hours:** By appointment  
**University Email Address:** Anabel.Meyer@tamuc.edu  
**Preferred Form of Communication:** University Email  
**Communication Response Time:** 24-48 hours during business days

**COURSE INFORMATION**

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

**Course Format:** Web-based (Online via D2L)

**Textbook(s) Required:**

Comer, R. J., & Comer, J. S. (2022). *Abnormal psychology* (11th ed.).  
New York, New York: Worth Publishers.

**Supplemental Readings (Recommended, but not Required):**

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

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Emphasis is placed first on a study of the fundamental principles of understanding and appreciating mental disorders. Secondary emphasis is placed upon the types of disorders, with regard for incidence, etiology (i.e., cause of), symptom presentation, therapeutic intervention(s), and prognosis (i.e., course of disease/disorder, recovery track expectation(s)).

Objectively, this course will serve as an introduction to the cognitive, behavioral, affective, and physiological symptomatology associated with psychological disorders. Students will have the opportunity to learn and discuss the historical foundations of abnormal psychology, assessment strategies, characterizations of current diagnostic systems, and contemporary psychological and psychiatric treatment procedures and approaches. Discussions and presentations will be guided through utilization of varying frameworks, with emphasis on the biological, social, and psychological determinants of psychopathology/psychological disorders; through analysis of psychopathology frameworks, students will actively interpret considerations for dynamic interplay between multiple causal and maintaining variables to pathological expression.

*The syllabus/schedule is subject to change throughout the semester.*

## STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- (1) Identification of commonly used standards for identification of abnormal/pathological behaviors.
- (2) Identification of issues that may propose complications in abnormal behavior/symptom expression identification.
- (3) Discussion of the evolution surrounding historical trends in shaping identification and treatment of mental disease/disorder.
- (4) Description of current broad theoretical frameworks utilized in characterizing the etiology and maintenance of abnormal behaviors/symptoms.
- (5) Brief discussion of the nature of research surrounding the abnormal psychology concentration and emphasis put upon evidence-supported treatment approaches.
- (6) Identification of strengths and limitations of current diagnostic system(s) utilized in the United States.
- (7) Description of commonly used assessment methods, as well as associated strengths and weaknesses of assessment strategies for abnormal behaviors.
- (8) Discussion on general affective, cognitive, physiological, and behavioral symptoms associated with varying psychological disorders.
- (9) Identification of current etiological theories, assessments, and treatment strategies for psychological disorders.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students enrolled within this course will need access to the Internet, a means to write documents and create presentations (Microsoft Word/PowerPoint), as well as access to the TAMUC online Library resources located on the TAMUC website.

## GRADING

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

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

### **Quizzes (There are 5 Quizzes for a Total of 25%, 5% each)**

Quizzes will be scattered throughout the semester and are designed to help you become more familiar with the DSM-5 and psychopathology. Quizzes are due on Saturday at 11:55pm of the corresponding week (i.e., Quizzes 1 & 2 are due 7/20 by 11:55pm).

### **Infographics/Brief Awareness Videos (2 for a total of 50%, 25% each)**

Students will develop 2 infographics and/or brief awareness video (1 can be an infographic and 1 can be a video or both can be infographics or both can be videos). One topic must be a disorder in the DSM-V-TR (e.g., Autism, Borderline Personality Disorder, etc) and one topic must be related to an evidence-

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based intervention (e.g., Cognitive Behavior Therapy, psychological first aid, etc.). These will focus on topics chosen ahead of time (sign up will be on a first come, first serve basis). **Both Infographics/Videos DUE by 8/3/24 at 11:55pm; however, they can be turned in earlier than 8/3/24.**

### **Assessment-Final Exam (Total 25%)**

There will be one final exam covering the course content as indicated in the Course Schedule. **Final Exam will be DUE 8/8 by 5:00pm.**

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### Course Specific Procedures/Policies

**Professional Conduct.** Students are expected to conduct themselves as mature and responsible adults while enrolled in this course. Be cognizant that side conversations in class can be distracting to the instructor and your classmates. Please show respect for others when they speak. If you do not agree with their point of view, ask for clarification or offer alternative viewpoints. Behavior meant to demean or belittle a class member will not be tolerated. Also, student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at TAMUC. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor will seek the assistance from the proper authorities (e.g. Chair of Psychology, Counseling, & Special Education and/or Dean's Office).

**E-mail and myLEOonline (D2L Brightspace).** All Students should activate and regularly check their Leo Mail and myLEOonline (D2L Brightspace) accounts associated with this class. All assignments will be turned in on myLEOonline (D2L Brightspace) (when applicable) unless otherwise instructed to do something differently by the instructor of this course. All class communication will be done through D2L. **I WILL NOT** send communication about the class to personal email accounts.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted unless you have provided adequate documentation allowing your absence to be excused (doctor's note in case of illness or copy of a funeral program in case of a death of a loved one). In the event your absence is excused, the missing assignment or exam must be completed **within 1 week** of your return to class or the student will receive a grade of 0.

### **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 advanced.

### **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>

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Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, Chatbots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed. For this course, such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources. 13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

#### **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>

**Drop Policy.** Students are responsible for officially dropping/withdrawing themselves from the course; failure to do so will result in a grade of "F." Please refer to the academic calendar in order to be aware of drop dates. The instructor reserves the right to do an administrative drop in certain situations.

#### **Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to conform to the Texas A&M University- Commerce's Code of Student Conduct Procedures as it relates to academic integrity. This states in part that all instances of cheating, fabrication and plagiarism are prohibited and will be reported. Any student who assists in any form of dishonesty is equally as guilty as the student who accepts such assistance. Any work submitted to me with your name alone on it should represent your work alone. Even in the event you are assigned group projects each student is still expected to complete their own part of the assignment. To the extent that others contribute ideas, suggestions, they must be directly credited by name (and fully cited as appropriate). Disciplinary action will be taken against any student found in violation of the Code, which may include failure of the given assignment, failure in the course, and possible expulsion from the University. In the event a student fails to abide by the rules set forth in the TAMUC policy, they will receive a grade of 0 on that assignment with no opportunity to make that grade up and the student will be reported to the appropriate university officials.

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:

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[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/>

#### **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.

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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&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

### **A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health**

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)

### **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)

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

[https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom\\_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu](https://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/CampusServices/CITESupportCenter/Zoom_Account.aspx?source=universalmenu)

### **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>

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**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

Week	Topic/Readings	Assignments Due
Week 1 (7/8-7/13)	Introduction to Syllabus Comer, Chapter 01: Abnormal Psychology Past and Present Comer, Chapter 02: Research in Abnormal Psychology Comer, Chapter 03: Models of Abnormality	
Week 2 (7/14-7/20)	Comer, Chapter 5: Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders Comer, Chapter 6: Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders	Quiz 1 (Anxiety)  Quiz 2 (Trauma)
Week 3 (7/21-7/27)	Comer, Chapter 7: Depressive & Bipolar Disorders Comer, Chapter 10: Eating Disorders Comer, Chapter 11: Substance Use and Addictive Disorders	Quiz 3 (Mood)
Week 4 (7/28-8/3)	Comer, Chapter 13: Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Comer, Chapter 15: Personality Disorders	Quiz 4 (Schizophrenia & Psychotic D/O's)  Quiz 5 (Personality Disorders)  <b>Infographic/Video DUE by 8/3/24 at 11:55pm.</b>
Week 5 (8/4-8/8)	Comer, Chapter 16: Disorders Common Among Children & Adolescents Comer, Chapter 17 Disorders of Aging and Cognition	<b>Final Exam Chapters 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 17.</b> <b>Final Exam will be DUE 8/8 by 5:00pm.</b>

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