



PSY 503 01W ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2024

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Shauna N. Richards, Ph.D.

Office Location: B119

Virtual Office Hours: Mondays at 11:00 am -1:00 pm, Tuesdays at 10:30 am-12:00 noon
and Thursdays at 3:30 pm-5:00 pm

Office Phone: 903-886-5660

Office Fax: TBA

University Email Address: Shauna.Richards@tamuc.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: Email

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbooks:

American Psychiatric Association. (2022). Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th edition, Text Revision).

Comer, Ronald, J., & Comer, Jonathan, S. (2021). Abnormal Psychology (11th ed.)
Worth Publishers.

Recommended Reading:

Nussbaum, Abraham, M. (2022). The Pocket Guide to the DSM-5-TR Diagnostic Exam.
American Psychiatric Publishing.

Recommended Activities:

Mastenbjork, M. & Meloni, S. (2024). DSM-5-TR: A Broad Selection of Exercises to
Measure Your Psychiatry Knowledge Workbook. Medical Creations.

Course Description

The course seeks to provide a historical and relevant framework for abnormal psychology and an in-depth review of psychopathological conditions defined in the DSM-5-TR.

The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Discuss historical perspectives of abnormal psychology and models of abnormality.
2. Discuss psychological disorders and their symptoms.
3. Conceptualize psychological diagnoses within the framework of the DSM-5-TR.
4. Conceptualize symptom presentations and diagnose differentially.
5. Discuss the influence of co-occurring disorders.
6. Apply theoretical perspectives to symptom presentation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Students should be able to use internet-based learning management software provided by the university as well as Word processing programs to complete the course successfully.

Instructional Methods

A variety of teaching methods will be utilized to help students achieve the learning outcomes including discussion posts, videos, quizzes, vignettes, short essays, short papers, and a final exam.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students are responsible to log in to the course each week and complete the assigned readings and activities. Students should also:

1. Contact the instructor immediately by email if there is a personal emergency that will prevent logging in to the course.
2. Complete all assigned readings and activities.
3. Submit your assignments on time.
4. Utilize writing resources provided by the university to enhance grammatical accuracy especially when submitting short papers and essays.
5. Make notes as you read.
6. Actively and respectfully participate in the discussions.
7. Ensure assignments are submitted on time.
8. Demonstrate respect for the views of each peer.
9. Ask for assistance if necessary.

GRADING

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

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

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 756- 840 Points
B = 672- 755 Points
C = 588- 671 Points
D = 504- 587 Points
F = 503 or Below

Weights of the assessments in the calculation of the final letter grade:

Discussion Posts	150 points
Videos and Short Essays	100 points
Biweekly Quizzes	140 points
Vignettes and Short Papers	250 points
Final Exam	200 points
TOTAL	840 points

Assessments

Discussion posts: Students should make weekly assigned discussion posts in response to questions posted by the instructor as well as in response to the perspectives of their peers. Discussion posts should demonstrate respect, critical thinking, and knowledge from assigned readings.

Videos: Videos relevant to the course content will be posted. Students will be required to watch each assigned video and write **a short essay** (one page) describing the content of the video and expressing a thoughtful perspective about the video. The thoughtful perspective should integrate insights from the content covered in the assigned readings.

Quizzes: There will be bi-weekly quizzes covering the assigned course content for each bi-weekly period, except the last biweekly period which will be incorporated into the final exam.

Vignettes: Students will work in pairs or small groups of three to discuss vignettes, conceptualize, and justify diagnoses based on symptoms presented, relevant variables, and the DSM-5-TR framework. They will also include differential diagnoses. The

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response to each vignette should be a **short paper** that is at least two type-written, double-spaced pages (Font: Times New Roman; Font Size- 12).

Final Exam: The final exam will cover the course content. A study guide will be provided.

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

Zoom Video Conferencing Tool

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.

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.

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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COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

I may be contacted Mondays to Fridays by email for appointments or if you have questions.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Students are responsible to log in to the course each week and complete the assigned readings and activities by utilizing the learning management system provided by the university.

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.

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 can be found at <https://www.tamuc.edu/student-code-of-conduct/>.

If you believe someone has engaged in behaviors that do not align with the Code of Student Conduct or you have other concerns, please visit the File a Report page at <https://www.tamuc.edu/office-of-student-rights-and-responsibilities/concerns-incident-reporting/>

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>

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 student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

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Undergraduate student academic dishonesty policy
[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

Graduate student academic dishonesty policy:
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesproceduresstandardsstatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.pdf>

Graduate student academic dishonesty form:
<https://inside.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateSchool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage.

Artificial Intelligence

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.

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.

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 Services
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5930

The syllabus/schedule is subject to change.

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

Website: <http://inside.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campusServices/StudentDisabilityServices/default.aspx>

Mental Health and Well-Being

The university aims to provide students with essential knowledge and tools to understand and support mental health. As part of our commitment to your well-being, we offer access to Telus Health, a service available 24/7/365 via chat, phone, or webinar. Scan the QR code to download the app and explore the resources available to you for guidance and support whenever you need it.



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

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.

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

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Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Topics/Activities
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Chapter 1: Abnormal Psychology Past and Present❖ Chapter 2: Research in Abnormal Psychology❖ Video and Short Essay❖ Discussion Posts
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Chapter 3: Models of Abnormality❖ Quiz❖ Discussion Posts
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Chapter 4: Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment❖ Video and Short Essay❖ Discussion Posts
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Chapter 5: Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Related Disorders❖ Quiz❖ Discussion Posts

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5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chapter 6: Disorders of Trauma and Stress ❖ Vignette and Short Paper ❖ Discussion Posts
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chapter 7: Depressive and Bipolar Disorders ❖ Quiz ❖ Discussion Posts
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chapter 8: Suicide ❖ Vignette and Short Paper ❖ Discussion Posts
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chapter 9: Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms ❖ Quiz ❖ Discussion Posts
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chapter 10: Eating Disorders ❖ Video and Short Essay ❖ Discussion Posts
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chapter 11: Substance Use and Addictive Disorders ❖ Quiz ❖ Discussion Posts
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chapter 12: Sexual Disorders and Gender Variations ❖ Vignette and Short Paper ❖ Discussion Posts
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chapter 13: Schizophrenia and Related Disorders ❖ Quiz ❖ Video and Short Essay ❖ Discussion Posts
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chapter 14: Treatments for Schizophrenia and Other Severe Mental Disorders ❖ Vignette and Short Paper ❖ Discussion Posts
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chapter 15: Personality Disorders ❖ Chapter 16: Disorders Common Among Children and Adolescents ❖ Quiz ❖ Discussion Posts
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Chapter 17: Disorders of Aging and Cognition ❖ Chapter 18: Law, Society, and the Mental Health Profession

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Vignette and Short Paper❖ Discussion Posts
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Final Exam

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