



PSY, 503, 80842, ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
COURSE SYLLABUS: FALL 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Karin Tochkov, PhD

Office Location: virtual

Office Hours: virtual

University Email Address: Karin.Tochkov@etamu.edu

Preferred Form of Communication: **e-mail**

Communication Response Time: M-F, typically within 48 hrs, with the exception of weekends and holidays, in which case communication will occur the next day the university is open.

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required

1. Oltmanns T. F. (2019). *Case studies in Abnormal Psychology, 11th Edition*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons
ISBN-13: 978-1119504795
ISBN-10: 1119504791

2. DSM-5-TR

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

Abnormal Psychology. Three semester hours. Emphasis is placed first on a study of the fundamental principles of understanding and appreciating mental disorder. Then a study of the types of disorders including incidence, causes, symptoms, therapy, and prognosis is made.

Because the nature of psychopathology is not agreed upon, this course presents different approaches to understanding and conceptualizing psychopathology. Relevant psychological theories and research, along with cultural perspectives, regarding the phenomenology, causes and treatment of psychological disorders will be included.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. To engage in a comprehensive review of major theories, research methods, and assessment instruments used in abnormal psychology.
2. To formulate your own thoughts regarding the nature of psychopathology.
3. To understand reliability, validity and standardization, practicality and cross-cultural fairness in psychological assessment.
4. To strengthen skills in self-assessment
5. To strengthen skills in critical thinking regarding assessment of subjective areas of human psychology.
6. To actively support a learning environment where diverse issues can be discussed thoroughly and where all views can be expressed freely.
7. To encourage active participation in the curriculum.

Links to the NASP 2020 Domains of Practice

Domain 1: Data-Based Decision Making-- School psychologists understand and utilize assessment methods for identifying strengths and needs; developing effective interventions, services, and programs; and measuring progress and outcomes within a multitiered system of supports. School psychologists use a problem-solving framework as the basis for all professional activities. School psychologists systematically collect data from multiple sources as a foundation for decision-making at the individual, group, and systems levels, and they consider ecological factors (e.g., classroom, family, and community characteristics) as a context for assessment and intervention.

Domain 4: Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Interventions-- School psychologists understand the biological, cultural, developmental, and social influences on mental and behavioral health, behavioral and emotional impacts on learning, and evidence-based strategies to promote social-emotional functioning. School

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psychologists, in collaboration with others, design, implement, and evaluate services that promote resilience and positive behavior, support socialization and adaptive skills, and enhance mental and behavioral health.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Learning management system, using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint

Instructional Methods

Web Based Online

GRADING

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

ASSESSMENT

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

10% Exam 1

10% Exam 2

30% Exam 3 – exam (cumulative material).

30% Presentation – Each student will be assigned one case study.

The case description should include the following information:

Demographic information (sex, age, ethnic background, physical characteristics, disability, etc)

Developmental milestones

Social context(s) in which they grew up

Significant events in infancy, childhood, adolescence, adulthood

What they were like as a child, adolescent, adult

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Relationships with parents and any siblings, past and present
Peer relationship, past and present
Significant others/partners
Sexuality
Favorite memories/most unpleasant memories
Educational history
Spirituality
Vocational history
Family history re: health, including mental health
Date of onset of each system
How they describe themselves
Mental status type information
Presenting complaint
Hobbies, priorities, habits, how they spend their time
Etiological Considerations
DSM-criteria of diagnosis
Treatment

Anything else that you think is important to know in order to understand one's frame of reference

Power Point or overheads are encouraged but not required, as are handouts. Students are encouraged to use creative approaches to augment the presentation. The presentation should highlight the important points of the chapter and must also include discussion questions or activities designed to further the class's understanding of the material. Presentations, including the activities/discussion are expected to be about 40 minutes in length.

If a student is absent on the day of the presentation, or if she or he is present and chooses not to present, then he or she will receive a grade of zero for the assignment. There are no make ups for a missed presentation!

20% Assignments – you will receive other class assignments during the semester with specific instructions. They will be posted to D2L during the course of the semester.

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TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M 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>

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

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

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Interaction with Instructor Statement

All students should activate and regularly check their Leo Mail (e-mail account) 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 Leo Mail/myLEOonline (D2L Brightspace). All communication about the class must be completed with your university email, and will not be completed with personal email accounts.

When emailing please put the Course Number in the Subject Line of the Email, for example PSY 503: Question about assignment. As noted above, all emails will be returned within 48 hours.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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>

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Academic Integrity

Students at East Texas A&M 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](#)

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>

East Texas A&M Attendance

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

Artificial Intelligence

East Texas A&M 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.

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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

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.



East Texas A&M Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at East Texas A&M, 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

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Nondiscrimination Notice

East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M 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 East Texas A&M 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

The following is a tentative schedule. I reserve the right to alter this schedule as needed.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Week 1	Introduction to Course	
Week 2	Clinical Assessment	Lecture notes
Week 3	Anxiety disorders	Lecture notes Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 8: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 7: Panic Disorder and Agoraphobia Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 9: Hoarding Disorder Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 10: PTSD: Rape Trauma
Week 4	Substance Abuse	Lecture notes Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 19: Alcohol Use Disorder Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 4: Substance-Induced Psychotic Disorder

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Week 5	Mood disorders	Lecture notes Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 5: Bipolar Disorder Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 6: Major Depressive Disorder
Week 6	Exam 1	
Week 7	Spring Break	
Week 8	Somatoform and Dissociative disorders	Lecture notes Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 12: Somatic Symptom Disorder Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 11: Dissociative Identity Disorder
Week 9	Eating disorders	Lecture notes Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 13: Anorexia Nervosa Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 14: Bulimia Nervosa
Week 10	Personality disorders	Lecture notes Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 20: Paranoid Personality Disorder Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 21:

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		Borderline Personality Disorder
Week 11	Exam 2	
Week 12	Sexual Dysfunctions	Lecture notes Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 16: Female Orgasmic Disorder and Premature Ejaculation Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 17: Gender Dysphoria Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 22: Exhibitionistic Disorder and Fotteuristic Disorder
Week 13	Childhood Disorders	Lecture notes Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 1: Autism Spectrum Disorder Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 2: ADHD Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 18: Oppositional Defiant Disorder
Week 14	Schizophrenia	Lecture notes Oltmanns Case Studies Chapter 3: Schizophrenia with Paranoid Delusions
Week 15	Exam 3	

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