



PSY 316, SECTION 01E, ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

PSY 316 SYLLABUS: FALL 2025
T,Th 2:00 – 3:15 PM CST | AGET 238

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Kevin Diegel
Office Location: Binnion Hall 210
Office Hours: Tuesdays' 3:30 to 4:30 or by email appointment
University Email Address: Kevin.Diegel@etamu.edu
Preferred Form of Communication: **EMAIL PUT (PSY316) IN THE TITLE!**
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours (excluding weekends)

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required

Psychopathology: Foundations for a Contemporary Understanding
[ROUTLEDGE](#) | [AMAZON](#) | ISBN 1032444347
[ETAMU BOOKSTORE](#)

Optional Text

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition
[AMAZON](#) | ISBN 9789386217967

Software Required

Reliable Internet Access
Access to Microsoft Word/Google Docs or similar software

Course Description

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.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

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

Technical Skills Needed

Success in this course will depend in part on your ability to take clear, organized notes and access them efficiently during exams. To that end, compiling your notes into a single, searchable document is highly recommended. It's also advisable to have a note-sharing partner to help fill any gaps or cover missed class sessions.

RESEARCH PARTICIPATION:

A goal of this class is to help you become familiar with psychological research. One way to obtain this goal is to have you participate in research studies. Participating in research studies contributes to students and faculty at A&M - Commerce, your

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understanding of how research is conducted, and human knowledge in general. **All students in this class will be required to participate in the psychology department's participant pool or complete alternative assignments. Students must complete a total of 6 experiment credits. However, if you complete your first 4 experiment credits without any "no-shows" you will receive 2 free punctual participant credits.** In other words, if you show up to your experiments on time you will only need to complete 4 experiment credits. When you first sign into the experiment management system (EMS) you will be asked to take a prescreen. The prescreen takes about 20 minutes to complete. If you complete the prescreen in the first two weeks of the semester you will receive ½ free experiment credit. This can be combined with later experiments that are worth ½ credit.

If you fail to complete this portion of the class your grade will be lowered by one full grade. In effect, if you have an 'A' in the class but fail to complete your research participation (either through participating in research studies, alternative assignments, or a mixture of both) your final grade in the class will be a 'B.' More information about participating in research, such as how to log in to the EMS, is given at the end of this syllabus.

Instructional Methods

This course will be primarily conducted via face-to-face lectures. All slides will be uploaded onto D2L. All exams will take place on D2L.

**On an exam day, you do not need to come to class.
You only need to find a location with reliable internet and log in at exam time.
If you come to the classroom during this time, it will be empty.
You can take the exam from home or anywhere you wish.**

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

.To succeed in this course, I recommend that you:

- a) Show up to every class
- b) Take detailed notes, as there may be things on the slides that are not in the book
- c) Email me if you have questions. Don't be afraid to ask.
- d) Do your research participation early and get it out of the way fast. If you put it off, you'll probably be stuck doing studies you'd rather not do out of desperation.
- e) Keep a calendar / keep aware of important dates
- f) Get a note buddy or two to cover you and each other
- g) Be aware of all the relevant policies in this syllabus

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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

I will round decimals. 89.5% will become 90%. But 89.4% will be 89%.

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

Assessment	Percentage	Point Value
Exams (x4)	80% (20% each)	400 (100 per)
Final Exam	20%	100
Total	100%	500

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A = 451- 500 Points

B = 401- 450 Points

C = 351- 400 Points

D = 301- 350 Points

F = 300 & > Points

Assessments

EXAMS:

There will be four exams, spaced throughout the semester. Exams are not cumulative; Exam 2 will only cover material presented after Exam 1, and so on.

All exams will be administered online via D2L (under Activities → Quizzes → [Exam Name]). Exams are synchronous, beginning precisely at 2:00 PM and closing at 3:15 PM for students without accommodations. If you begin late, you forfeit that time (e.g., logging in at 2:15 PM leaves you with only 60 minutes).

Exams are open-book and open-note and may be taken from any location. **Missed exams will not be reopened unless you provide a University-Approved excuse for your absence.**

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FINAL EXAM:

The final exam is **cumulative**, covering material from the entire semester. It consists of 100 questions, each worth 1 point. Like the other exams, it will be administered online via D2L and is open-book and open-note.

EXTRA CREDIT

This course includes a research participation requirement of 4 hours (or 6 hours if you have any no-shows). For every additional 30 minutes of participation beyond the required 6 hours, you will earn 5 extra credit points—up to a maximum of 10 hours total (i.e., 40 points). This can boost your final grade by as much as 8%.

LATE/MISSED WORK POLICY

Late work will not be accepted, and missed work will not be reopened. The only exception is a **university-approved absence** that verifies the reason for missing the deadline. It is your responsibility to stay informed of all important dates and deadlines throughout the semester.

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.

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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>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific 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 is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/documents/studentGuidebook.pdf>.

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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TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedures 13.99.99.R0.01](#)
<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

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 Students Academic Integrity Policy and Form

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<https://inside.tamuc.edu/aboutus/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10.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

Website: [Student Disability Services](#)

<https://www.tamuc.edu/student-disability-services/>

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

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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&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

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.



<http://telusproduction.com/app/5108.html>

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AI use policy [Draft 2, May 25, 2023]

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.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

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COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Week	Tue	Thu
1 – August 25 to 31	Syllabus Day	Chapter 1
2 – Sept 1 to 7	Chapter 2	Chapter 3
3 – Sept 8 to 14	Chapter 4	Chapter 6
4 – Sept 15 to 21	<i>Reserved*</i>	Exam 1
5 – Sept 22 to 28	Chapter 7	Chapter 8
6 – Sept 29 to Oct 5	Chapter 9	Chapter 10
7 – Oct 6 to 12	<i>Reserved*</i>	Exam 2
8 – Oct 13 to 19	Chapter 11	Chapter 12
9 – Oct 20 to 26	Chapter 15	Chapter 16
10 – Oct 27 to Nov 2	Chapter 17	Chapter 18
11 – Nov 3 to 9	<i>Reserved*</i>	Exam 3
12 – Nov 10 to 16	Chapter 19	Chapter 21
13 – Nov 17 to 23	Chapter 22	Chapter 23
14 – Nov 24 to 30	No Class. Thanksgiving Break	
15 – Dec 1 to 7	<i>Reserved*</i>	Exam 4
16 – Dec 8 to 14	Final Exam Tue Dec 9 1:15pm to 3:15pm	

* *Reserved* means the day is meant to catch up should we fall behind schedule on the material. If we are up to date on the material on the day marked “*Reserved*” then that is an independent study day for the exam with no in-person class.

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