

Psychology 210

Adult Psychopathology

Oxford College | Emory University
Spring 2019

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Drop in Time: 2:00-3:00pm MTuTh

Overview

The purpose of the course is to introduce you to the field of adult psychopathology, the science of diagnosing psychological disorders. A goal of the class is to emphasize the development of critical thinking skills and to prepare you to be a cautious and analytical consumer of information that proclaims to be scientific or based on research.

Learning Objectives

- Understand the development process of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5)
- Apply DSM-5 diagnostic criteria accurately
- Understand the structure of the diagnostic categories of DSM-5
- Communicate the challenges of a diagnostic system such as the DSM-5

Materials

Textbook:

Comer, R. J. (2016). *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology 8th edition*. New York, NY: Worth Publishers.

[DSM-5 Electronic edition available free online.](#)

You will need an **autobiography** of a person who has had a period of severe impairment or distress. Many are available at the Oxford College Library

Assignments

Exams. There will be three exams (all cumulative) worth 100 points each. The exam items will be taken primarily from class material, but you can expect some questions on reading material, films, or any class activity. If you feel that the answer you chose for a question is better than the one I've selected as the correct answer, submit your case in WRITING to me (after a 24 hour "cool down" period). You will have until the next exam to turn in these written explanations.

Diagnostic Quizzes (25 points) There will be 5 quizzes where you'll need to indicate the diagnosis for a client from a case example. Quizzes are unannounced.

Diagnostic Assignments (15 points) You'll have 3 diagnostic assignments during the semester (5 points each).

Intake Report (50 points) Your assignment is to examine the way an autobiography portrays psychopathology. You will write an intake report by using the sample one in Canvas ([Intake Report Sample](#)). In addition to the intake report, you'll also include quotes from the book to support your diagnosis, and a paragraph that outlines the impact the disorder had on your client's daily functioning,

Evaluation

The final grade will be based on three exams (300), 5 Diagnostic quizzes (25) Intake outlines (15) and your Intake Report (50 points) for a total of 390 points. A letter grade will be assigned to the TOTAL points accumulated during the semester. You can keep track of your grade in Canvas.

Course Topic Schedule

Week	Topic
1	Course Overview What is Psychopathology Intake Report Project
2	Psychopathology Perspectives
3	Psychopathology Perspectives Gathering Data
4	Anxiety Disorders Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders
5	Trauma and Related Disorders
6	Depressive Disorders
7	Bipolar and Related Disorders
8	Psychotic Disorders
9	Psychotic Disorders
10	Somatic Symptom Disorders

- 11 Feeding and Eating Disorders
- 12 Personality Disorders
- 13 Treatment and Prevention
- 14 Treatment and Prevention
- 15 Treatment and Prevention
- 16 Wrap up

Course Policies

Subject to change

The class outline on the following page should be considered very fluid. Any and all of the dates, topics, values, and assignments listed are subject to change by the instructor. In fact, some changes are very typical for my courses as circumstances warrant. Some topics may take longer to cover than anticipated while others may require less time; each class is different. Every effort will be made to follow the outline and policies on this syllabus. However, if the class is particularly interested in a given topic, I may decide to spend more time on it, or if the class is interested in a topic not assigned, I may decide to include it. You will be notified of any changes that become necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

EMAIL (I reserve the right not to answer emails that do not follow this policy.)

For most of us, sending and receiving email is simple and fun. We use it to communicate with friends and family in an informal manner. But while we may be unguarded in our tone when we email friends, a professional tone should be maintained when communicating with your professors. Many professors receive up to 100 emails a day and email has become the primary and preferred way of contacting professors. If you follow these simple guidelines you will communicate and you will shine. Use it improperly, however, and you might accidentally communicate immaturity. Apply the following guidelines to your emails:

1. Use a meaningful subject header for your email—one that is appropriate to the topic. Emails with these headers get attention first
2. Always be professional and business-like in your correspondence
3. Be sure to proofread and spell-check your email before sending it.
4. Don't ask questions you can easily find yourself like "When is the next test" or "When is the paper due?" You might consider the 'crossing the quad' rule. If you wouldn't cross the quad to ask me this question why email it to me?

STUDENT WORK

Student work submitted as part of this course may be reviewed by Oxford College and Emory College faculty and staff for the purposes of improving instruction and enhancing Emory education.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity includes a commitment to not engage in or tolerate acts of falsification, misrepresentation or deception. Violation of academic integrity in this course includes plagiarizing (submitting the work of another person as your own) and tampering with the work of another student. All students are expected to act with civility, personal integrity; respect other students' dignity, rights and property; and help create and

maintain an environment in which all can succeed through the fruits of their own efforts. An environment of academic integrity is requisite to respect for self and others and a civil community.

All work done in this class is subject to the Oxford College Honor Code. Work produced through academic misconduct (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism) will be dealt with according to the policies of the [Honor Code](#) and will result in a failing grade for the entire course. Unless I tell you otherwise, all work in the course should be done on your own. Please note that exams may not be removed from the exam room or copied at any time. Cheating is a very serious matter and will not be taken lightly. The College imposes serious penalties for breaches of academic honesty and all cases of suspected breaches of honesty will be reported.

Please <http://oxford.emory.edu/academics/student-services/student-honor-code/> for more details on the honor code