

Course Information



Abnormal Psychology

PSY 2300-002

Fall 2025

Course Section Information

Online Only

Welcome to Abnormal Psychology! We get to focus on various ways things go awry in psychological development. Abnormal Psychology is a highly complex and fascinating field of psychology. You will be introduced to various approaches of studying abnormal behavior, with emphasis placed on symptom classification, etiology, and current treatment approaches to a variety of psychological disorders. While you will not be licensed to diagnose or treat anyone following this course, you will become familiar with recognizing symptom clusters and possible treatment approaches. Some of the mental health disorders we will review include mood disorders, anxiety, trauma and obsessive-compulsive disorders, schizophrenia spectrum disorders, personality disorders along with a variety of other disorders. Unfortunately, due to limited time, we will not be able to cover every disorder or any particular disorder as much as you may wish, but I invite you to come discuss these types of topics with me outside of class. We will also focus on topics such as clinical assessment, diagnosis, theories of abnormality, as well as some legal and ethical issues in mental health services. We will also consider historical, cultural and social perspectives in understanding and responding to abnormal behavior along with current issues in mental health. Besides our textbook, we will also become familiar with and discuss the current edition of the Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition, text revision (DSM-5-TR).

Course Description

Prereq: ENGL 1010 and PSY 1010. An introduction to the psychological science of mental disorders including problems of emotion, mood, mind, schizophrenia and personality disorders. Diagnosis and treatment will also be considered.

Semester: All

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

Eng 1010 and Psy 1010

Instructor Information

Name: Emily Putnam

Email: emily.putnam@slcc.edu

Phone: (801)885-8276

Office Location: Zoom Office (<https://slcc-edu.zoom.us/j/83581025910?pwd=EVVypbQXYfxcc3nhgmCRaawpF5H9lO.1>)

Office Hours: Thursday 4:00-5:00pm

Textbooks, Readings, and Course Materials

Authors: Alexis Bridley and Lee W. Daffin Jr.

Title: Fundamentals of Psychological Disorders

Edition: 3

Link: <https://opentext.wsu.edu/abnormal-psych/>

For more information on textbook accessibility, contact Accessibility & Disability Services at ads@slcc.edu.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

- Compare and contrast various theoretical constructs regarding what constitutes abnormal behavior and how these constructs have shifted throughout history and across cultures.
- Describe the clinical presentation of a variety of disorders in the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual and be able to differentiate between common disorders, including mood, anxiety, and psychotic disorders.
- Evaluate the current state of psychological diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders, including legal and ethical considerations and the advantages and limitations of the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual.
- Describe the methods involved in clinical diagnosis and assessment in treatment of various disorders and psychological research.
- Explain the multi-dimensional approach to understanding of abnormality.
- Synthesize symptomatology, assessment and treatment for a range of psychological disorders.
- Identify and examine local community health agencies and resources.

Assignment Schedule

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
	Introduce Yourself	Discussion	0
	Student-Only Discussion Forum	Discussion	0
8/29/25	Orientation: Get to know each other and what is abnormal psychology.	Discussion	5
8/29/25	Syllabus Quiz	Quiz	5
8/31/25	Application Assignment: Normal vs. Abnormal	Quiz	5

Due Date	Assignment Name	Assignment Type	Points
8/31/25	Extra Credit Studying Self-Assessment Survey	Quiz	0
8/31/25	Module 1 Discussion: How does Culture influence our view of "normal" and "abnormal"?	Discussion	10
9/2/25	Module 1: Ch 1	Quiz	5
9/7/25	Application 2: Multidimensional Model	Assignment	5
9/7/25	Module 2: Chapter 2 Quiz	Quiz	5
9/7/25	Module 2: Epigenetics	Discussion	5
9/14/25	Module 3 Discussion: Dimensional vs. Categorical Model	Discussion	5
9/14/25	Module 3: Ch 3 Quiz	Quiz	5
9/14/25	Presentation Disorder Topics	Discussion	2
9/21/25	Essay Question Test 1	Assignment	10
9/21/25	Test 1: Ch 1-3	Quiz	40

Coursework & Assignment Descriptions

Exams (4 x 50 points = 200)

There will be five exams for this course (4 unit exams + 1 comprehensive final exam) with one dropped. All exams will be completed on canvas. Exams will consist of both a multiple choice section and an essay portion.

Quizzes (14 x 5 points =70)

There will be chapter quizzes given on Canvas. Quizzes are open book and open notes but NOT open friends. Make sure you have completed your reading and assignments prior to taking the quiz. Your lowest score will be dropped.

Differential Diagnostic/Application Assignments (14 x 5 pts each = 70)

Most weeks of the course you will have the opportunity to complete a diagnostic or application type of homework assignment. Instructions for the weekly assignment will be given on Canvas in the module for the week. Be sure to check Canvas early in the week so that you have time to fulfill the experiment. Your lowest score will be dropped.

Discussions (14 x 5points = 70)

We will be engaging in a variety of discussions regarding a variety of topics throughout the semester, typically about one per week. For discussion assignments you will be expected to comment on 2 other student's posts in order to receive full credit. Please post your initial post a few days early to give time to your peers to respond to you. You may post a video or audio recording instead of a written response. Your lowest score will be dropped.

Signature Project (70 points)

Part 1: Psychological Disorder Research Paper & movie critique (50 points): You will write a paper in APA formatting researching a particular disorder, its history, symptoms, etiology, treatment, etc, and then select a movie that you think portrays this disorder and discuss in what ways it portrays the disorder well (what is accurate) and critique the movie (in what ways is it an inaccurate description and/or increase stigma around the disorder). See details below and on canvas

Part 2: Disorder Presentation & Movie Review Project (20 points): You'll present your findings in a creative way to the class. See details below and on canvas.

Grading Scale

Grades for this course will be calculated and assigned on a standard scale. You are responsible to track your grades on Canvas throughout the semester.

A 93-100%

A- 90-92%

B+ 87-89%

B 83-86%

B- 80-82%

C+ 77-79%

C 73-76%

C- 70-72%

D+ 67-69%

D 63-66%

D- 60-62%

F <59

Engagement Plan

- I will respond to email within 24-48 hours. I will offer feedback on major assignments within [insert your timeline]. The best way to contact me is through the canvas inbox, as I will prioritize this method over other modes of communication. However, if there is an urgent matter, texting is probably the fastest way to reach me (please reserve for emergencies)
- In this course I will be posting interactive announcements which will offer specific opportunities for the class and occasional extra credit.

- Additionally, I will be participating in the discussion forums with you to share my perspective within the discipline and to offer some nuances of interpretation that may not be present in your textbook.
- Lastly, we'll be holding optional small group Q & A sessions on zoom throughout the semester, where we can learn from our peers (and faculty) on some of the more difficult units within the course. I will post announcements about these.

How to Navigate to Canvas

This course uses the Canvas course management system. All students must use Canvas to retrieve course readings, access web pages, upload assignments, receive course announcements, and review the class section's syllabus.

How to Succeed in the Course

CANVAS: This course is online course and requires access to a computer. Most (if not all) the content you will need to successfully complete the course will be housed on Canvas, with the book being the exception. For example, the syllabus, diagnostic assignments, quizzes, lecture PowerPoint, exams, additional reading material, media links and exam prep materials are all posted on-line. In addition, your grades will also be posted on canvas.

Due Dates – You may take up to 5 “freebie” late assignments to accommodate illness or other issues without getting permission first, but please let me know (either in the comments or email) that you are taking a freebie on that assignment. Other/additional extenuating circumstances, please consult with me as soon as possible. In addition, your lowest score in each category of assignment will be dropped to accommodate as well.

Course Content Advisory

Please be advised that this course may include discussions, readings, and other content that some students might find distressing or triggering. Specifically, the course may cover topics such as:

- Violence or traumatic events
- Sensitive social and political issues
- Discussions of mental health, including depression and anxiety
- Graphic or explicit descriptions and imagery
- Any other specific content relevant to the course

Our aim is to explore these topics thoughtfully and respectfully, understanding their importance in our field of study. However, we recognize that such material can be challenging. If you have concerns about your ability to engage with certain course materials due to past experiences or personal reasons, please feel free to discuss this with me privately. We can explore alternative ways for you to engage with the material while ensuring your educational experience is not compromised.

Your well-being is important, and support services are available through the college's counseling support services should you need them.

Institutional Policies

As members of our academic community, we would like to invite you to review the Institutional Syllabus which covers important policies and procedures. This document contains important links for students on the code of student rights and responsibilities, academic integrity, and grading policies, Title IX and other important acknowledgements. By familiarizing yourself with this information, you can help us create a safe and respectful environment for everyone.

For more information, navigate to the Institutional Policies tab on the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page.

Learning Support and Tutoring Services

We are pleased to offer a range of tutoring and learning support services to help you achieve your academic goals. Whether you need assistance with a specific subject or

want to improve your study skills, you have many options for tutoring or other support.

To learn more about the services we offer and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Tutoring and Learning Support tab. We encourage you to take advantage of these resources to help you succeed in your studies. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a tutoring session, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are here to support you in any way we can.

Online Tutoring

Students at SLCC have access to online tutoring through Canvas. From your Canvas course click Online Tutoring in the course navigation and follow the steps to set up an appointment. If this is your first time using the Online Tutoring we recommend you click "Take a Tour" to familiarize yourself with the service.

Note that students only receive 480 minutes of tutoring time each semester. After that we encourage you to use the resources found through this link:

<https://www.slcc.edu/tutoring/index.aspx>

If you have any additional questions reach out to elarningsupport@slcc.edu.

Advising and Counseling Support Services

At our institution, we are committed to supporting your academic and personal growth. That's why we offer a range of advising and counseling services to help you navigate the challenges of college life. To learn more about the resources available to you and how to access them, visit the [Institutional Syllabus](#) page under the Advising and Counseling Support Services tab. Our advising team and the support centers across campus are here to support you in achieving your goals and overcoming any obstacles you may face.

Student Academic Calendar

As students you should be aware of all important dates in the semester, such as the day that courses begin and end, as well as the drop date and the last day to withdraw. To learn more about those dates, navigate to the Student Academic Calendar below:

[SLCC Student Academic Calendar](#)

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