

Syllabus: Introduction to Abnormal Psychology (PSY219) Spring 2017

Instructor: Laura Jones, Ph.D. **Office:** SSH-109
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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00-12:50 (SSH109)

Important Note: All students who are on the class roster will be enrolled in the Moodle site for this course during the 1st week of classes. You will take all your quizzes on Moodle in addition to accessing the syllabus, your grades, study guides, internet links and handouts. You must be able to upload assignments and take exams on moodle. It is an expectation for this course that you will use moodle independently and seek help from the eLearning center if you have questions related to using moodle. For information on how to use moodle [check out this site](#). **If you are not prepared to work independently with moodle, drop this course immediately.**

Required Materials

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

Course Description

An introduction to the study of psychological disorders, including issues of diagnosis and treatment. Topics include: models of abnormality; overview of major disorders, including diagnostic considerations; current research on treatment effectiveness; the effects of stress on our psychological wellbeing, and the impact of psychological disorders on society and its legal system.

Course Learning Outcomes

As a result of successfully completing this course, I expect you will be able to:

- Understand and describe basic research methods in psychology
- Understand basic statistics & apply knowledge of statistics to information presented in the media
- Define abnormality from the perspectives of deviance, distress, dysfunction, & danger
- Distinguish the relative merits of models for understanding psychological abnormality
- Identify key approaches to accurate diagnosis
- Explain the structure and content of the DSM-V
- Describe each of the major anxiety disorders and effective treatments for each
- Identify symptoms of depression and mania and discuss genetic factors in each
- Know the central features of eating disorders
- Describe the diagnostic criteria and etiology of schizophrenia
- Describe, discuss, and apply the diathesis-stress paradigm for serious mental illnesses
- Discuss criteria and etiology of depression & bipolar disorder
- Identify developmental factors in personality disorders

Course Requirements

Weekly quizzes, Discussion Forum Activity, & partial Exams *all take place on moodle outside of class time.*

Your final grade in this class will be determined by your performance on the following:

Quizzes: There will be 9 open book online quizzes at the Moodle site for this course (see Table 1 for more information). Item types include true/false, multiple choice, and matching. T/F = 1 point; multiple choice with 1

answer = 1 point; multiple choice with more than one 1 answer = 2 points; matching = 3 points. You will have 15 minutes to take each quiz. Quizzes are available by noon on Monday and are open until 9am the following Monday.

Exams: Two exams will assess your understanding of the course material. *Exam 1* covers lecture material, video and text (*chapters 1-7*) and consists of multiple-choice, true/false and matching items. **Exam 2** covers lecture material, video and text from chapters 8-15 & comprehensive short answer and essay questions. Exam 2 has two parts: (1) the first section covers Weeks 8-15 lecture, video and text material. You take this part of the exam on moodle, outside of class time. (2) The second section is comprehensive and consists of short answers. You take this section during our scheduled finals time. **Important note: I shut down moodle and all associated activities for grading immediately after Exam 2 closes. Exam 2 and all course materials cannot be accepted after 10 am on Wednesday, 6/14 under any circumstances.** If you cannot make this deadline, but you have completed 90% of your other class assignments, you might be eligible to take an incomplete and make up the coursework fall term. However, arrangements need to be made for an incomplete, 2 weeks before the term ends.

Class Activity Participation: You will receive credit for participation during in-class activities. Activities designated as earning participation points will be randomly assigned at the beginning of the term and announced before the activity.

Conceptual Learning Assignments: Three in-class assignments will be completed during the term. These assignments are designed to assess your overall comprehension of a selected topic. There is no way to make up these assignments if you miss the opportunity to complete them.

Discussion Forum Activity: In addition to readings, quizzes and exams, you will participate in forums about topics related to the course. You will be instructed to watch a brief video, listen to a podcast or do a reading and then post your reaction. Your post should reflect an integration of course lecture content and/or your reading with your perspective. You will also respond to at least 1 other classmates' post. Forum activities are posted by noon on Monday and are open until 9am the following Monday. I will only include your 9 highest scores in the determination of your final grade.

Treat these discussion topics and your classmates with respect. We all have unique values and beliefs relating to the subject matter. It is important that you bring your unique perspective to share in a way that is non-dogmatic so that others can "listen" and understand you. I encourage you to ask questions, agree, and disagree with others as much as possible, as long as you do so respectfully. Participating in this class gives you an opportunity to learn the course content, but also to develop your personal understanding about human relations. In order to receive full credit, your forum posts should reflect an integration of the podcast, video or reading assigned for the activity and/or the ideas covered in the weekly text readings. I will enter the Forums to "observe" your progress and sometimes join the discussion. The forum is a good way for you to interact with others in the class and share your perspective and questions and learn about class members. This kind of sharing has the potential to move your experience and thinking to a higher level. Make good use of it! CONFIDENTIALITY

In your online discussions you may choose to share personal anecdotes about people you know. Remember to speak from your own perspective. In addition, please protect the confidentiality of others in your life. Refer to them by first initial only (e.g. "T" rather than Thomas). You may also refer to "my sister", "my uncle", "my neighbor" or "my friend".

Instructor Responsibilities

The current week's content and assignments will be posted on moodle by noon each Monday. I will be available to support your learning when requested. I will hold you accountable by following through with course objectives and syllabus content. My aim is to facilitate a classroom environment that encourages active, effective and respectful activities, discussion and learning.

Student Responsibilities

- Critically read/analyze assigned information.
- Use your LBCC email account to communicate with me.
- Effectively participate in class assignments, activities, quizzes, and evaluations.

Course Calendar

| Date | Week | Topic | Chapter | Tasks Due by 9am on... |
|------|------|---|---------|---|
| 4/3 | 1 | Introduction to Abnormal Psychology – Past and Present & Statistical Methods and Design | 1 | April 10 Moodle text quiz: Chapter 1 Discussion Forum Activity Conceptual Learning Assignment #1 |
| 4/10 | 2 | Models of Abnormality Stress and its effects on our wellbeing | 2 | April 17 Moodle text quiz: Chapter 2 Discussion Forum Activity |
| 4/17 | 3 | Clinical diagnosis, assessment, and treatment Disorders of trauma and stress | 3 5 | April 24 Moodle text quiz: Chapters 3 & 5 Discussion Forum Activity |
| 4/24 | 4 | Anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive and Related Disorders Depressive and Bipolar Disorders (Part 1) | 4 & 6 | May 1 Moodle text quiz: Chapter 4 Discussion Forum Activity Conceptual Learning Assignment #2 |
| 5/1 | 5 | No class meeting on Monday Depressive and Bipolar Disorders (Part 2) Suicide | 6 & 7 | May 8 Moodle text quiz: Chapters 6 and 7 Discussion Forum Activity |
| 5/8 | 6 | Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms Eating Disorders | 8 & 9 | May 15 Exam 1 (Chapters 1-7) Discussion Forum Activity |
| 5/15 | 7 | Substance Use and Addictive Disorders | 10 | May 22 Moodle text quiz: Chapter 10 Discussion Forum Activity Conceptual Learning Assignment #3 |
| 5/22 | 8 | Disorders of Sex and Gender Schizophrenia | 11 & 12 | May 29 Moodle text quiz: Chapters 11 and 12 Discussion Forum Activity |
| 5/29 | 9 | No class meeting on Monday (school holiday) Disorders of Aging and Cognition | 15 | June 5 Moodle text quiz: Chapter 15 Discussion Forum Activity |
| 6/5 | 10 | Personality Disorders | 13 | June 12 Moodle text quiz: Chapter 13 Discussion Forum Activity |
| 6/12 | 11 | Exam 2 (Chapters 8-13 and 15) Moodle Section opens at 9 am on Friday, 6/9 & closes at 11:55 pm on Wednesday, 6/14 In Class Section – during our scheduled finals time 3-4 pm on Monday, 6/12 | | |

Attendance: This is a lecture, and student small group and participation class, so attendance is important. Participation activity points are given for in-class activities. Which activity earns participation points is randomly chosen at the beginning of the term and is not announced until the day of the activity.

Campus Resources: Many resources such as the Learning Center, the Writing Desk, and Family Connections are available to you as a student. These resources are described in the student services section of the schedule of classes.

Preparedness: Please come to class prepared to discuss the reading assignments. In addition, if you have missed class, you should check the Moodle site for handouts or class activities that may be due. **All coursework is submitted/conducted online via moodle. Do not send anything by email. Quizzes and assignments are posted by noon on Monday and must be completed/submitted on moodle before 9am on the following Monday.**

Cheating/Plagiarism: Using someone else's work as your own or using information or ideas without proper citation (which is called plagiarism) can lead to your failing the assignment, test or class. Bibliographies and in text citations are required whenever you use outside sources, including internet sources (unless otherwise indicated by me).

Grades are figured on straight percentage based on the total number of points possible. I encourage you to check in with me about your progress throughout the term to maximize your success and minimize any surprises.

A= 90-100%

B= 80-89%

C= 70-79%

D= 60-69%

F= 59% or below

Incomplete Grades: You may be eligible for an 'Incomplete' grade if you have finished 90% of the class work. If you have an 'Incomplete,' all coursework must be finished by the end of the next term. I can only award an 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D', or 'F' grade. You must contact me at least one week before the end of the term with proper documentation to receive an Incomplete.

Accessibility Resources provides assistance to students who have documented disabilities by:

- Reviewing documentation to confirm eligibility.
- Planning reasonable accommodations.
- Coordinating services in the classroom.
- Providing support i.e. assistive technology, testing accommodations, and classroom accommodations.
- Success coaching and advocating.

If you have a disability and feel that you will need accommodations as a student at Linn-Benton Community College, Accessibility Resources is here to support you: Contact Center for Accessibility Resources

Voice: 541-917-4789 or Email: cfar@linnbenton.edu

Nondiscrimination Policy: LBCC prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, use of native language, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, veteran status, age, or any other status protected under applicable federal, state, or local laws (<http://po.linnbenton.edu/BPsandARs/>)

| Course Requirements | | | | |
|---|---|---|--------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Requirement</i> | <i>Summary</i> | <i>Points Possible per unit</i> | <i>Units</i> | <i>Total Points Possible</i> |
| Forum Discussion Activity | A personal post on your thoughts around the forum and one additional forum comment on other class member's post | Scale 0-10 based on completion and quality of post | x10 posts | 100 |
| Class Activity Participation | Participation during an in-class activity. Activities designated as earning participation points will be randomly assigned at the beginning of the term and announced before the activity. | 5 | 11 | 55 |
| Class Replacement Assignment | This assignment will replace your class attendance on May 1. And you earn 25 points for completing it. | Pass/No Pass If you pass, it is worth 25 points. | 1 | 25 |
| Chapter Quizzes | 9 online, open book quizzes, include true/False, multiple choice and matching items. T/F = 1 point; multiple choice with 1 answer = 1 point; multiple choice with more than one 1 answer = 2 points; Matching = 3 points. | Variable types/values totaling 10 points | X9quizzes | 90 |
| Exams | Exam 1: Chapters 1-7 | 75 | x2 exams | 175 |
| | Exam 2: Chapters 8-13 and 15 & comprehensive | 100 | | |
| Conceptual Learning Assignments | Three in-class assignments will be completed during the term. These assignments are designed to assess your overall comprehension of a selected topic* | 25 | X3 | 75 |
| Total Possible Points | | | | 520* |
| *Actual maximum possible points is 495 because I drop the lowest conceptual learning assignment grade at the end of the term. | | | | |