

PSY 341 1003, Abnormal Psychology

Fall 2021

3 credit hours

Instructor and Course Information

Instructor: XXXXX

Email: XXXXX@unlv.edu (you can also use WebCampus email)

Phone: 702-895-XXXX

Office: CBC-BXXX

Office hours: Online office hours are available by individual appointment. Just send me an email with some times you can meet and we can schedule a phone call or zoom meeting. In addition, I will respond to email inquiries M-F within 24 hours.

Prerequisite: PSY 101

[Click here for the Webcampus Site](#)

[Click here for Webcampus Help](#)

This syllabus contains important information you will need to know in order to be successful in the course. Read it carefully and let me know if you have any questions.

Overview and Learning Objectives

Abnormal psychology is the scientific study of troublesome feelings, thoughts, and behaviors associated with mental disorders. This area of science is designed to evaluate, understand, predict, and prevent mental disorder and help those who are in distress. A mental disorder is a group of emotional (feelings), cognitive (thinking), and/or behavioral symptoms that cause distress or significant problems.

About one in four American adults has a mental disorder over the course of a year. This course will emphasize theories, concepts, and findings pertaining to normal and abnormal behavior such as anxiety, depression, substance use, personality, sexual function, eating and cognitive problems, and stress-related physical difficulties.

The primary objectives or aims of this course are for students to demonstrate their knowledge of abnormal psychology in the following ways:

1. Discuss and describe core theoretical perspectives, controversies, and empirical findings regarding abnormal psychology and various mental disorders.
2. Use information about abnormal psychology to illustrate and demonstrate how aspects of mental disorder occur in most individuals on a dimensional scale.
3. Appraise sample cases to evaluate external events and internal factors that may explain abnormal behavior.
4. Compare and contrast various symptoms of mental disorder to construct possible diagnoses from vignettes and defend these choices.
5. Critically evaluate a research article regarding abnormal behavior and formulate ideas about future research steps in the area covered by the article.

Course Materials

Textbook: Kearney, C. A., & Trull, T. J. (2017). *Abnormal psychology and life: A dimensional approach* (3rd edition). Cengage/Wadsworth.

Online content: E-book, videos, quizzes, individual assignment

You can purchase the course materials at the bookstore or using this link for Cengage.

If you buy online, you have a number of options (e-book, hard copy, bundle). Whichever option you pick, you will need a copy of the textbook at a minimum (either hard copy or e-copy). The book is the only resource you need to purchase for this course. If you need a course key to purchase materials for the course on the Cengage website, use the following information:

[Course Link URL](#)

Course Link Instructions: Print instructions

Course Key: MTPN-38BQ-ZCGJ

Course Requirements and General Information

This course involves text reading, viewing video lectures and video cases and other material, participating in online discussions, completing an individual writing project, and taking quizzes.

You will be expected to:

- Have ready access to the internet with a reliable connection of sufficient bandwidth to view online videos. Public WiFi systems are not reliable or recommended (e.g., do not take your tests at a coffee shop because you may get logged off)

- Read and view all content provided by the instructor

- Participate fully in discussions

- Complete assignments and quizzes

- Login to the course at least 5 times per week (greater frequency is strongly recommended)

To access video lectures, make sure that you have an updated version of RealPlayer. Canvas is compatible with all browsers so if you have trouble accessing the course, the IT Help Desk can help. You can call the Help Desk at 702-895-0777 (7 a.m. – 11 p. m. daily, including weekends and holidays) or send them an email at ithelp@unlv.edu.

behavior. Chapter 11 covers deviant sexual practices that may become the basis for a mental disorder and problems that arise during the normal sexual process, such as erection or lubrication difficulties.

Module 3 Assignments: October 19 – November 6

Dates	Assignments
October 21-November 4	Participate in Discussion 3 due by Noon 11/4
October 19-22	Reach Chapter 9, View Video Lecture 9
October 23	Complete QUIZ 6 (Chapter 9)
October 26-30	Read Chapter 10, View Video Lecture 10
November 2-5	Read Chapter 11, View Video Lecture 11
November 6	Complete QUIZ 7 (Chapters 10 & 11)

Note: November 2 is the last day to drop or withdraw from classes this semester

Note: December 2 Individual Writing Assignment Due by Noon PT on December 2

Module 4: Severe Disorders (Chapters 12-14 of the textbook)

This module covers some of the most severe disorders. All chapters include information on normal and abnormal behavior, features and epidemiology of the pertinent mental disorders, risk factors, prevention, assessment, treatment, and long-term outcome. Chapter 12 covers psychotic disorders, which involve a gross disturbance in the way one relates to reality. This chapter includes a discussion of schizophrenia and its various forms as well as types of delusions. Chapter 13 covers largely child-based disorders. Developmental disorders include those involving delayed development, such as intellectual disability and autism. Disruptive behavior disorders include those involving problematic behavior and include oppositional defiant and conduct disorder as well as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Chapter 14 covers neurocognitive disorders that primarily occur in older adults, such as delirium, Alzheimer's disease, vascular disease, and Parkinson's disease.

Module 4 Assignments: November 9 – November 27

Dates	Assignments
November 11-25	Participate in Discussion 4 due by Noon 11/25
November 9-12	Read Chapter 12, View Video Lecture 12
November 13	Complete QUIZ 8 (Chapter 12)
November 16-20	Read Chapter 13, View Video Lecture 13
November 23-26	Read Chapter 14, View Video Lecture 14
November 27	Complete QUIZ 9 (Chapters 13 & 14)

Note: December 2 Individual Writing Assignment Due by Noon PT on December 2

Module 5: A consumer approach to abnormal psychology (Chapter 15 and Appendix)

This brief module represents an introduction to a consumer approach regarding abnormal psychology. Chapter 15 covers information about how to become a mental health professional, concepts to consider when seeking mental health services, specific aspects of treatment and why treatment works, community-based treatments such as support groups and aftercare services, and limitations regarding treatment. The chapter also includes a discussion of key ethical concepts related to abnormal psychology, including confidentiality, consent, and sexual intimacy with clients. Stress-related physical disorders are covered in this module as well.

Module 5 Assignments: November 28 – December 11

If you are unfamiliar with APA style, here is a link to a helpful [online resource](#) that provide summaries of the style components

Course Grades will be based on the following scale:

Percentage	Letter Grade
93%-100%	

Module 2 Assignments: September 21 – October 16

Dates	Assignments
September 23-October 7	Participate in Discussion 2 due by Noon 10/7
September 21-24	Read Chapter 5, View Video Lecture 5
September 25	Complete QUIZ 3 (Chapter 5)
September 28-October 2	Read Chapter 6, View Video Lecture 6
October 5-8	Read Chapter 8, View Video Lecture 8
October 9	Complete QUIZ 4 (Chapter 6 & 8)
October 12-15	Read Chapter 7, View Video Lecture 7
October 16	Complete QUIZ 5 (Chapter 7)

Note: December 2 Individual Writing Assignment Due by Noon PT on December 2

Module 3 Assignments: October 19 – November 6

Dates	Assignments
October 21-November 4	Participate in Discussion 3 due by Noon 11/4
October 19-22	Reach Chapter 9, View Video Lecture 9

University Resources and Policies

Public Health Directives

[Face coverings are mandatory for all faculty and students in the classroom.](#) Students must follow all active UNLV public health directives while enrolled in this class. UNLV public health directives are found at [Health Requirements for Returning to Campus](#). Students who do not comply with these directives may be asked to leave the classroom. Refusal to follow the guidelines may result in further disciplinary action according to the [UNLV Student Conduct Code](#).

Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the University community. We all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility, and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Student Academic Misconduct Policy, and are encouraged to always take the ethical path whenever faced with choices. Students enrolling at UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's educational mission. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another person, from the Internet or any other source without proper citation of the source(s). See the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Auditing a Course

Auditing a course allows a student to continue attending the lectures and/or laboratories and discussion sessions associated with the course, but the student will not earn a grade for any component of the course. Students who audit a course receive the same educational experience as students taking the course for a grade, but will be excused from exams, assessments, and other evaluative measures that serve the primary purpose of assigning a grade.

Classroom Conduct

Students have a responsibility to conduct themselves in class and in the libraries in ways that do not interfere with the rights of other students to learn, or of instructors to teach. Use of devices such as cellular phones and pagers, or other potentially disruptive activities are only permitted with the prior explicit consent of the instructor. Students are specifically prohibited to record classes without instructor authorization, including online/remote classes (either audio only, or video and audio). The instructor may rescind permission at any time during the class. If a student does not comply with established requirements or obstructs the functioning of the class, the instructor may initiate an administrative withdrawal of the student from the course.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic forced some instruction to be delivered remotely starting in Spring 2020, numerous students have asked instructors to record their synchronous classes, so that they can access them at their convenience. Instructors who agree to record their classes (audio only, or video and audio) should inform students in advance. Recorded lectures may not be broadly released to anyone, but made available exclusively to those students enrolled in the class during the particular academic term. Recorded lectures must be stored securely, and are

protected from disclosure, as they are deemed part of an educational record under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves with, and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you, nor assume any responsibility for student or employee violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional [copyright policy information](#) is available online.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The [UNLV Disability Resource Center](#) (Student Services Complex, SSC-A, Room 143, <https://www.unlv.edu/drc>, telephone 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. Students who believe that they may need academic accommodations due to a permanent disability, temporary or permanent medical need, or academic support due to pregnancy are encouraged to contact the DRC as early as possible in the academic term. A Disabilities Specialist will discuss what options may be available to you. Students who are already registered with the DRC should request their accommodations online each semester, and make an appointment to discuss their accommodations with their instructors.

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur on the date and at the time specified in the Final Exam schedule. The Final Exam schedule is typically available at the start of the semester, and the classroom locations are available approximately one month before the end of the semester. See the [Final Exam Schedule](#).

Identity Verification in Online Courses

All UNLV students must use their Campus-issued ACE ID and password to log in to WebCampus-Canvas.

UNLV students enrolled in online or hybrid courses are expected to read and adhere to the [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#), which states that “acting or attempting to act as a substitute for another, or using or attempting to use a substitute, in any academic evaluation or assignment” is a form of academic misconduct. Intentionally sharing ACE login credentials with another person may be considered an attempt to use a substitute, and could result in investigation and sanctions, as outlined in the Student Academic Misconduct Policy.

UNLV students enrolled in online courses are also expected to read and adhere to the [Acceptable Use of Computing and Information Technology Resources Policy](#), which prohibits sharing university accounts with other persons without authorization.

To the greatest extent possible, all graded assignments and assessments in UNLV online courses should be hosted in WebCampus-Canvas or another UNLV-managed platform that requires ACE login credentials for access.

Incomplete Grades

The grade of "I" (Incomplete) may be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session, but cannot complete the last part of the course for reason(s) beyond the student's control and acceptable to the instructor, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. For undergraduate courses, the incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester.

Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the period indicated, a grade of "F" will be recorded, and the student's GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete grade do not tr.998 (n r.998 (ul)es)

For purposes of definition, extracurricular activities may include, but are not limited to academic recruitment activities, competitive intercollegiate athletics, fine arts activities, liberal arts competitions, science and engineering competitions, and any other event or activity sanctioned by a College/School Dean, and/or by the Executive Vice President and Provost.

Rebelmail

Rebelmail is UNLV's official email system for students and by University policy, instructors and staff should only send emails to students' Rebelmail accounts. Rebelmail is one of the primary ways in which students receive official University communications, information about deadlines, major Campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the University. Sending emails within WebCampus-Canvas is also acceptable.

Tutoring and Coaching

The Academic Success Center (ASC), at the Claude I. Howard Building, provides tutoring, academic success coaching, and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, please visit the [ASC website](#) or call 702-895-3177. The ASC is located across