Abnormal Psychology
PSYC-4320

Fall 2023  Section 01  3 Credits  08/17/2023 to 12/07/2023  Modified 08/30/2023

Meeting Times

MWF 10:20-11:20
SBS Room 108

Contact Information

Dr. Melanie F. Webb, PsyD, Licensed Clinical/Forensic Psychologist
Email: mwebb11@lamar.edu
Office: Lamar University - Social and Behavioral Sciences Building Suite 200
Phone: 409-880-8476

Catalog Description

A study of abnormal behavior. Special emphasis on the symptomatology, etiology and therapeutic approaches.

Course Objectives

1) Students will be able to discuss the meaning of the word "abnormal" and how it is applied to the practice of psychology.

2) Students will be able to discuss the history of mental health, how mental health has been viewed and treated in the past, and how attitudes toward mental health treatment have evolved over time.

3) Students will demonstrate knowledge of the major categories of mental illnesses and an understanding of symptomatology related to distinct disorders.

4) Students will gain a working knowledge of the DSM-V-TR and be able to explain how mental illnesses are categorized according to the manual.
5) Students will demonstrate an ability to use the DSM-V-TR to reference information regarding mental illnesses and be able to identify conditions based on their DSM-V-TR criteria.

6) Students will gain a working knowledge of the fundamentals of arriving at a differential diagnosis of mental health conditions.

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**Student Learning Outcomes**

1) By the end of the course, students will understand the concept of abnormal psychology and the appropriate ways to describe it and talk about it.

2) Students will demonstrate understanding of the historical context of mental illness and how attitudes about mental illness have evolved over time. Students will understand how the attitudes toward mental health have influenced modern treatment of mental illness.

3) Students will gain familiarity with the DSM-V-TR and demonstrate skill in using the manual to categorized and label mental health conditions.

4) Students will be able to identify major categories of mental illnesses by their symptomatology.

5) Students will have gained insight into their own attitudes about mental illness/psychopathology and demonstrate understanding of how knowledge of psychopathology can be applied to careers in psychology.

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**Course Materials**

**Abnormal Psychology**

- **Author:** Ronald J. Comer
- **Publisher:** Rachel Losh
- **Edition:** 9th
- **ISBN:** 978-1-4641-7170-3
- **Availability:** Campus Bookstore, Amazon

**Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders**

- **Author:** American Psychiatric Association
- **Publisher:** American Psychiatric Association
- **Edition:** 5th - Text Revision
- **ISBN:** 978-0-89042-576-3
- **Optional**
- **Availability:** Campus Bookstore, Amazon, Online in LU Library
Course Policies

Expectations of classroom behavior

Students are partners in fostering a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, students are prohibited from engaging in any behavior that detracts from the learning experience of fellow students. My expectation is that you will read the assigned materials and come prepared to learn and share. Weekly graded quizzes would be called for if I notice that assigned readings are not being done before classes.

Electronics

Students are to turn off and put away (in your backpack) all electronic communication devices and music players (cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, etc.) during class time. Students may not wear headphones, etc. during class time. You are allowed to put your phone on vibration and place it in your backpack should you be expecting an important call. It is therefore okay to excuse yourself to receive the call outside the classroom.

Course Structure and Teaching Methodology

This course will utilize active and collaborative learning strategies to enhance student mastery. Class participation is vital to success in the course and is expected of all students. Students who are alert, prepared, and open to class activities and discussions will be given every consideration when making borderline final grade decisions. In the event of an announced campus closure in excess of four days due to a hurricane or other disaster, students are expected to log in to Lamar University’s homepage (www.Lamar.edu) for instructions about continuing courses remotely.

Attendance Class attendance is MANDATORY and a roll will be taken each class. Each student is accountable for all work missed because of absence. Instructors are under no obligation to make special arrangements for students who have been absent. Should an absence from class be unavoidable, the student is encouraged to obtain lecture notes from a classmate. Lecture notes will not be provided by the course instructor.

Assignment Submission Policy

All assignments must be submitted in Blackboard. Late assignments submitted to my email or office will not be accepted or graded. Blackboard may not allow you to submit past the deadlines. Assignment files or corrupted files that I cannot open in Blackboard gets a zero. No PDFs or .pages files should be submitted. Download, use the original file in Blackboard and work directly with the MS Word document. Please note that there are no extra credit projects offered in this course to replace any assignment, so do not ask for them. There will be no rounding or curving of grades at the end of the semester. Discussion of assignment, points, and scores must be done immediately after the scores are posted in Blackboard. Discussion of assignments, scores, extra credits, and grades after the final exam will not be tolerated nor responded to. Students can appeal final grades after grades are posted through the appropriate channels.
Late assignments submitted in Blackboard will attract half points of the total points deducted from the assignment. If the assignment is worth 25 points, the highest points possible for that late assignment will be 12.5 points. Missing assignments that are eventually submitted after the last day of class gets a zero.

✅ Grading and Assignments

**Evaluation Methods:** Students will be evaluated with examinations, homework assignments, and class attendance and participation. Exams will consist of objective (multiple choice) items. Exam questions will come from both in-class material and textbook readings, which means that you will also be tested on material not presented in class. The exams will be given in class on the days scheduled. Attendance at exams is mandatory. There will be no make-up exams without prior notification and a valid, verifiable excuse. The student must initiate a request for a make-up exam within 1 day of the scheduled exam date. If you do not contact me within this allotted period of time you will NOT be allowed to take a make-up exam. If permission for a make-up exam is granted, an alternative version of the exam will be used.

**Criteria**

- Exams 60%
- Homework 30%
- Attendance and Participation 10%

**Grading Scale**

Students will be graded on a traditional letter grade system (90-100=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, <60=F)

**Course Subject Outline**

- 08/18/2023 Welcome and Introduction Chapter I What is Abnormal
- 08/21/2023 Chapter I, cont. Historical Context
- 08/23/2023 Chapter 2 Research in Abnormal Psychology
- 08/25/2023 Chapter 3 Models of Abnormality
- 08/28/2023 Chapter 3, cont. Models of Abnormality
- 08/30/2023 Chapter 4 Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment
- 09/01/2023 Chapter 4 cont., Homework Assignment #1 Due
- 09/04/2023 LABOR DAY - NO CLASSES
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>09/06/23</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Anxiety Disorders</td>
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<td>Chapter 5, cont. Anxiety Disorders</td>
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<td>09/11/23</td>
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<td>09/22/23</td>
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<td>Chapter 9 Suicide</td>
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<td>Chapter 9, cont. Suicide Prevention</td>
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<td>Chapters 8 and 9 - Treatment of Depressive and Bipolar Disorders, Treatment of Suicide</td>
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<td>Chapter 10 - Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms</td>
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<td>Homework Assignment #2 Due</td>
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<td>Chapter 11 - Eating Disorders</td>
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<td>Chapter 12 - Substance Use and Addictive Disorders</td>
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<td>Chapter 12, cont. Substance Use and Addictive Disorders</td>
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<td>Chapter 13 - Disorders of Sex and Gender</td>
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<td>10/09/23</td>
<td>Review Chapters 1-13</td>
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<td>10/16/23</td>
<td>Chapter 14, cont. Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders</td>
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<td>10/20/23</td>
<td>Chapter 15 Treatment of Schizophrenia and Other Severe Mental Disorders</td>
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<td>Chapter 16 - &quot;Odd&quot; Personality Disorders</td>
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As we begin the new academic year, the COVID-19 virus that has challenged us since 2020 persists. Important differences in outcomes are observed, however, as safe and effective vaccines and therapeutic agents that reduce the risk of severe illness are now available. Consequently, we anticipate that our campus community will continue to be impacted by the virus and we encourage all faculty, staff, and students to practice individual safety protocols at their discretion.

We recommend good personal hygiene practices including regular handwashing and/or use of hand sanitizing products when soap and water are not readily available. Please show respect to those who choose to practice social distancing measures and wear face coverings.

Vaccines are available to those who seek them throughout the region and at the Student Health Center. Please self-screen for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and seek medical attention if you begin to feel ill.
Academic Continuity Policy

In the event of an announced campus closure in excess of four days due to a hurricane or other disaster, students are expected to check Lamar University’s website and login to LU Connect for instructions about continuing courses remotely.

Academic Honesty Policy

Lamar University expects all students to engage in academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials.

All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include failure of the assignment and/or course up to suspension or expulsion from the university. The penalty may vary by instructor.

Additional information is available on the Academic Policy website (https://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/academic-policies.html).

ChatGPT Policy

“Students should not use Artificial Intelligence (AI) regenerative applications to complete course assignments or for any other academic activities unless permitted explicitly by the instructor. AI, or any other machine generated information, should be used as a supplemental resource and should not replace traditional academic activities.”

Attendance Verification

Students must complete an Attendance Verification Quiz for ALL COURSES - both on-campus and online - in which they are enrolled each term by the third class day to comply with U.S. Department of Education attendance requirements. Failure to complete this quiz by the deadline may result in loss of course enrollment and/or financial aid. The quiz is located in EVERY COURSE through LULearn (Blackboard), even if the course meets on campus.

Course Drop Policy

Students may drop a course and receive a grade of "Q" during the penalty-free period of the semester or session. For drops after this penalty-free period, grades are recorded as "Q" or "F," indicating the student was passing or failing at the time of the drop. A grade of "Q" may not be assigned unless an official drop has been processed through the Records Office. Students may drop a course online up to the census day by logging into Self-Service Banner. After the census day, courses must be dropped
through the Records Office. For additional help, contact the academic advisor or the Records Office at registration@lamar.edu. **Students may not drop a course during the last 20 percent of the term.** Students should check the academic calendar at [https://www.lamar.edu/academic-calendar](https://www.lamar.edu/academic-calendar) for specific dates.

### Students with Disability Policy

Lamar University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. The Accessibility Resource Center (ARC) is located in the Communication building, room 105. Office staff collaborate with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g. mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact the ARC at 409-880-8347 or arc@lamar.edu to arrange a confidential appointment with the Director of the ARC to explore possible options regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with the ARC and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, we encourage you to contact your instructor early in the semester to review how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

Additional information is available at the [ARC website](http://www.lamar.edu/disability-resource-center/).

### Academic Support

Academic Support can be located at [https://www.lamar.edu/students/#acad-supp](https://www.lamar.edu/students/#acad-supp).

There are many areas (i.e. Advising, Writing Center, etc.) of academic support. Each area provides their own specific contact information and days and hours of operation.

### Student Services

*Lamar University recognizes that students may experience challenges that hinder success in their academics and/or college experience. We believe in giving all students access to resources that allow them to overcome these challenges.* If you are struggling with stress, procrastination, anger management, depression, anxiety, substance abuse and/or eating disorders, please reach out to our counseling professionals at the **Student Health Center at 880-8466 to call for an appointment or visit our website [https://www.lamar.edu/students/student-engagement/student-health-center/index.html](https://www.lamar.edu/students/student-engagement/student-health-center/index.html)** for more information about our services.

Your information and situation will be treated with the utmost privacy and is protected by Texas law. These services are available to all currently enrolled students at Lamar University and Lamar Institute of Technology.
Information on Student Services can be located at [http://students.lamar.edu/index.html](http://students.lamar.edu/index.html). There are many resources (i.e. Course schedules, important phone numbers, etc.) available. Each area provides their own specific contact information and days and hours of operation.

**Emergency Procedures**

Many types of emergencies can occur on campus; instructions for severe weather or violence/active shooter, fire, or chemical release can be found at the Office of Environmental Health/Safety and Risk Management [https://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html](https://www.lamar.edu/about-lu/administration/risk-management/index.html) webpage.

**Severe Weather**

Follow the directions of the instructor or emergency personnel.

Seek shelter in an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor, putting as many walls as possible between you and the outside.

If you are in a multi-story building and you cannot get to the ground floor, pick a hallway in the center of the building.

Stay in the center of the room, away from exterior walls, windows, and doors.

**Violence/Active Shooter**

CALL - 7777 from a campus phone (Text 409-241-8002 from a cell phone). Note: Calling 911 from either a campus or cell phone will contact the City of Beaumont dispatch rather than the LU police.

AVOID - If possible, self-evacuate to a safe area outside the building. Follow directions of police officers.

DENY - Barricade the door with desks, chairs, bookcases or any other items. Move to a place inside the room where you are not visible. Turn off the lights and remain quiet. Remain there until told by police it is safe.

DEFEND - Use chairs, desks, cell phones or whatever is immediately available to distract and/or defend yourself and others from attack.

**Copyright Policy Statement**

Copyright is defined as the ownership and control of the intellectual property in original works of authorship, which are subject to copyright law. As an institution of higher learning that values intellectual integrity, Lamar University prohibits the distribution of published materials (print or electronic) in violation of copyright law.
LU Connect Portal

Students are asked to obtain a Lamar Electronic Account username and password so they can log onto the LU CONNECT website. Students may get information on how to get into the LU CONNECT website from the University's homepage (http://www.lamar.edu) by clicking on the LU CONNECT link on the left top corner of the screen. Follow the steps to secure your LU CONNECT username and password.

LU Learn/Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS)

Students will utilize Lamar University's Learning Management System (LMS), Blackboard, for online courses.

For Blackboard technical support go to https://blackboardsupport.lamar.edu.

Phone: 866-585-1738

Phone and chat are available 24/7/365

Exams and quizzes taken within LULearn (Blackboard) may require online proctoring. For additional information about online proctoring, click here and view details under proctoring services.

Network Use

ACCEPTABLE USE

Students must respect the integrity and security of Lamar University computer systems and network, and the privacy and preferences of other users. Responsibility for learning about and complying with Lamar University Acceptable Use Policy ultimately rests with the individual. The network may be used to download, copy, or store any software, shareware, digital media files or freeware, as long as the use complies with copyright law licensing agreements, and campus policies, such as storage space limitations and network bandwidth restrictions. The network may not be used for any activity, or to transmit any material, that violates United States or local laws.

UNACCEPTABLE USE

The network may not be used for commercial purposes. Advertising and sponsorships on Lamar University websites is restricted. In addition, students may not permit other persons to use their usernames, passwords, accounts or disk space, or disclose their usernames, passwords or account information to any third party. Students may not log on to someone else's account, internet address, or other network codes, or attempt to access another user's files. Students may not create false or dummy accounts to impersonate someone else. Students may not try to gain unauthorized access ("hacking") to the files or computer systems of any other person or organization. Students may not impersonate another person by forging e-mail, web pages or other electronic media. Students who maliciously access, alter, delete, damage or destroy any computer system, computer network, computer program, or data will be subject to disciplinary action by Lamar University, and criminal
prosecution as well. Students may not disrupt or attempt to disrupt network traffic, and they may not attempt to monitor or capture network traffic in any way. Finally, students may not intentionally create, store, display, print or transmit information that violates the university’s Sexual Harassment Policy.

Netiquette (Online Etiquette) Statement

Please adhere to the same standards of behavior and professional respect online that you would follow in face-to-face communication with others, but most particularly when writing emails and when taking part in collaborative and discussion board activities. Lamar provides access to network resources, including the Internet, in order to support learning and to prepare students for the 21st century world. Students, however, are expected to adhere to the *Lamar University Acceptable Use Policies when Using Networks*. A more comprehensive student code of conduct can be found at [https://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/code-of-conduct.html](https://students.lamar.edu/academic-support/code-of-conduct.html).

**GENERAL GUIDELINES TO RESPECT ALL PARTICIPANTS**

- Respect the right of each person to disagree with others.
- Treat people the same as you would face-to-face.
- Respect the time of others.

**GUIDELINES WHEN COMMUNICATING WITH OTHERS (EMAIL, DISCUSSIONS, BLOGGING, AND ETC.)**

- Always sign your name to any contribution you choose to make.
- Be constructive in your responses to others in the class.
- Do not use all caps (Doing so may be interpreted as shouting).
- Re-read your postings before sending them.
- Always think before you write.
- Respond respectfully.
- Use appropriate grammar and structure.
- Spell-check your postings.
- Use short paragraphs focused on one idea.
- Use appropriate business language at all times.

**Technical Support**

Technical Support can be located at [http://students.lamar.edu/it-services-and-support/index.html](http://students.lamar.edu/it-services-and-support/index.html).

Phone: 409-880-2222
Email: servicedesk@lamar.edu

**Hours of Operation (CST):**

- Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.
- Friday 7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday 3:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.