

**PSY 303 Adult Psychopathology**  
**Section 03: Tues/Thurs. 10-11:15 PM, ASH 2302**

**Instructor:** Mary Bower Russa, Ph.D.

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**Office Hours:** 10-11 AM Monday, and 11:30 PM Thursday.

You may stop by at any time during my office hours and I will be happy to talk with you. If you wish to meet with me and are unable to come during office hours, please let me know so that I can arrange another time to meet with you. Email is also a good way to reach me, and remote office hours are available upon request (email me and I will send you a link).

If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of learning, physical or other disability, please contact me and Disability Support Services (DSS) at 616-331-2490. If you have a disability and think you will need assistance evacuating this classroom and/or building in an emergency situation, please make me aware so I can develop a plan to assist you.

**Text:** Durand, V.M & Barlow, D.H. (2019). **Essentials of Abnormal Psychology** (8th edition). Boston, MA: Cengage Learning.

**Other Sources:** Packback (electronic discussion board platform). See information at the end of this syllabus.

**Description:** This course is intended as an overview of Abnormal Psychology for advanced undergraduate students. Introductory Psychology (PSY 101) is a prerequisite for taking this course. The course will provide a description and analysis of a wide range of adult problems for which people may seek professional treatment (via counselors, psychiatrists, or clinical psychologists). Special emphasis will be placed on understanding the complex interplay of biological, cognitive, and social/cultural factors that may lead to the development of these various types of problems. Evidence based treatments will also be discussed. Because this course focuses on problems of adulthood, if your interest is primarily in children, you may wish to consider PSY 324, Developmental Psychopathology, as an alternative to this course. However, be sure to check the requirements for your particular program.

If we are forced to go completely on-line at any point during the semester, lectures will convert to synchronous on-line classes via BB Collaborate. The syllabus topics, assignments, and grading expectations will not change. There are a few days already noted that will be asynchronous rather than having in person class.

It is possible that a few (2-3) other asynchronous recordings will be added to ensure coverage of the full content, depending on the pace of the in-person lecture.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Describe the current system of classifying psychological disorders
2. Decide when you or someone you know may need evaluation by a professional by using the diagnostic criteria of specific psychological disorders
3. Identify and explain the biological, psychological, social, and cognitive factors underlying etiology and maintenance of a range of psychological disorders.
4. Explain major theoretical models and their contribution to the understanding of psychological disorders.
5. Explain how the research process and research findings influence the conceptualization and treatment of psychological disorders.
6. Explain and evaluate competing view on a series of controversial topics in the area of psychopathology.

Students are expected to complete the assigned readings in the text before class, attend class, and participate in class discussions. Grades will be based on:

- 1) Three noncumulative examinations (50 points each). These exams will include multiple choice and short essay items drawn from the text, lecture, and class discussion. Exams will be taken IN PERSON IN CLASS (not on-line).
- 2) A case analysis (50 points). This will be comprised of both a section completed in pairs and a group section. You will be given more information on the case analysis as the semester progresses, but your attendance on the day of the group work is mandatory. BE AWARE that failure to work with your partner/group and make a quality contribution to the final group product will result in an individual reduction in your grade on this activity.
- 3) 7 Packback weekly discussions (49 points total--each week is worth 7 points). Packback will be open for discussion for 9 weeks of the semester (not the first or last week of the semester). However, you will only need to contribute to 7 of the weeks (thus, you can pick 2 weeks to skip). Information on how to register for Packback is at the end of this syllabus.

In sum, then, the total points available will be as follows: 3 exams (50+50+50), one case study analysis (50), and 7 weeks of Packback participation (49), for a total of 247 points.

Grades will be assigned according to the following formula:

93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-

65-69%	D+
60-64%	D
59%	F

Based on the actual distribution of final grades these criteria might be relaxed, but not stiffened. Please be aware if you are taking this course credit/no credit that GVSU considers a grade of C- to be NO CREDIT. Because of this, if you choose the credit/no credit option and you receive a C- or below in the class, you WILL NOT get credit for the class.

You are responsible for attending all examinations and make-ups generally will not be given. In the event of extreme circumstances that will prevent you from attending an examination, you should contact me before the examination, unless this is impossible. I reserve the right to require appropriate documentation before scheduling of a make-up examination.

**Absences:** I do not take attendance, but participation in class will enhance your understanding of the material, and you are responsible for all material covered in class. Lectures will parallel (but not simply duplicate) text, and information video clips may also appear on examinations. Therefore, if you miss a lecture, I strongly advise you to obtain notes from at least two different classmates. If you are absent due to documented COVID circumstances, recorded lectures MAY sometimes (but not always) be available. I will allow you to take exams or turn in assignments late if you have documented COVID circumstances. If you miss consistently, you are likely to fall behind and not do well in the class.

**All assignments will be submitted electronically, so look for an upload for the assignment in BB.**

**Academic dishonesty:** If I have evidence of any form of academic dishonesty (cheating on an exam, giving or receiving information about what is asked in the exam, or any other form of cheating such as plagiarism), you will receive a failing grade in that activity and other consequences as dictated by GVSU policy. Plagiarism is presenting work, ideas or words that are not your own as though they were your own—this includes work of other students or work that is in a published source (the textbook, a journal article). To avoid plagiarism be sure to do your own work, and put information in your own words or use quotes (although paraphrasing is always preferred to use of quotes in psychology), with appropriate reference to the original source from which you got the information or ideas.

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at <http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>

## Tentative Lecture Syllabus

<b>DATES</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>DUE BY (always 11:59 PM)</b>
1/9	Introduction to the Course	(No Packback)	
1/11	Historical Context (Chapter 1) Integrative Approach (Chapter 2) Biological Factors	(No Packback)	<b>EXTRA CREDIT FIND A PERSON DUE 1/25</b>
1/16, 1/18	Integrative Approach (Chapter 2) Behavioral and Cognitive Factors <i>(No in person meetings—only asynchronous lecture for this week for both 1/16 and 1/18)</i>	<b>Packback Trial OPTIONAL</b>	1/17 and 1/21 OPTIONAL
1/23  1/25	Behavioral and Cognitive Factors  Research Methods, Assessment, Diagnosis (Chapter 3)  <i>(Some additional Research Methods material asynchronous)</i>	<b>Packback #1</b>	1/24 and 1/28
1/30,  2/1	Physical Disorders and Health Psychology (Chapter 7)  Health Psychology	<b>Packback #2</b>	1/31 and 2/4
2/6	<b>Exam 1 (Chapters 1,2,3,7)</b>	(No Packback)	
2/8,  2/13,  2/15	Anxiety, Trauma Related and OCD (Chapter 4)  Anxiety Disorders  Anxiety Disorders	<b>Packback #3</b>	2/14 and 2/18
2/20, 2/22	Mood Disorders (Chapter 6) Depression	<b>Packback #4</b>	2/21 and 2/25
2/27,  2/29	Depression continued  Bipolar Disorder	<b>Packback #5</b>	2/28 and 3/3
3/3- 3/10	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	(No Packback)	
3/12	Bipolar Disorder Suicide	<b>(No Packback)</b>	

3/14	Substance Related, Addictive and Impulse Control Disorders (Chapter 10--read text mostly on own--minimal lecture), <b>some Substance Abuse content</b> <b>Asynchronous</b>	<b>PAIRS PORTION OF GROUP ACTIVITY DUE</b>  <b>Meet with group in class for about 15 minutes</b>	<b>PAIRS PORTION OF GROUP ACTIVITY DUE</b> <b>3/14</b>
3/19	<b>Exam 2 (Chapters 4,6,10)</b>	<b>Packback #6</b>	3/20 and 3/24
3/21	<b>Asynchronous Eating Disorders</b>		
3/26	Eating Disorders (Sleep disorders on own, basics only)--Chapter 8 <b>(Plus asynchronous introduction to DID)</b>	<b>Packback #7</b>	3/27 and 3/31
3/28	Somatic, Related, and Dissociative Disorders (DID)--Chapter 5 (pp. 187-194)		
4/2	Live lecture on DID PLUS <b>Asynchronous DID</b>	<b>Packback #8</b>	4/3 and 4/7
4/4, 4/9, 4/11	Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders Chapter 12  Personality Disorders (text on own) Chapter 11	<b>FINAL GROUP CASE STUDY WORK DUE 4/9</b>  <b>Packback #9</b>	<b>FINAL GROUP CASE STUDY WORK DUE 4/9</b>  <b>4/10 and 4/14</b>
4/16, 4/18	Forensic Psychology and Ethical Issues Chapter 14 Competency to Stand Trial (CST) Mental State at Offense (MSO)	(No Packback)	
<b><u>Thurs</u></b> <b><u>25<sup>th</sup></u></b> <b><u>10:00-</u></b> <b><u>11:15</u></b> <b><u>AM</u></b>	<b><u>Final Exam (Chapters 8,5 (portion), 12,11,14)</u></b>		

## Using “Packback Questions” for Online Class Discussions

### Packback Questions

The Packback Questions platform will be used for online discussion about class-related topics. Packback Questions is an online community where you can be fearlessly curious and ask open-ended questions to build on top of what we are covering in class and relate topics to real-world applications.

#### **Packback Requirements:**

Your participation on Packback will count toward 21% of your overall course grade.

There will be a Weekly Sunday at 11:59PM EST deadline for submissions. In order to receive full credit, you should submit the following:

- **One question by Wednesday night at midnight with a minimum curiosity score of 80 and a permalink to a relevant peer reviewed reference that informed your post attached. This is worth 3 points. Be sure to label your question clearly so people who are interested in that topic will see it and reply. Then describe and explain how the question arose and your process of investigating the question.**
- **Two responses by Sunday night at midnight with a curiosity score of at least 80 and a permalink to a peer reviewed article that informed your post attached. These are worth 2 points each. All replies should begin with a claim/thesis and then include evidence, and end with your reasoning.**

In sum, total points each week are 7. Half credit will be given if the posts are late or do not meet the criteria (e.g., curiosity score is too low).

Some weeks will not include Packback (see the syllabus), and you can skip 2 of the 9 scheduled Packback weeks without penalty. See the schedule outline in the syllabus for details.

#### **How to Register on Packback:**

Note: Only access Packback through **Blackboard** in order to ensure your grades sync properly

1. Click “Packback” within **Blackboard** to access the community.

2. Follow the instructions on your screen to finish your registration.

Packback may require a paid subscription. Refer to [www.packback.co/product/pricing](http://www.packback.co/product/pricing) for more information.

**How to Get Help from the Packback Team:**

If you have any questions or concerns about Packback throughout the semester, please read their FAQ at [help.packback.co](http://help.packback.co). If you need more help, contact their customer support team directly at [help@packback.co](mailto:help@packback.co).

For a brief introduction to Packback Questions and why we are using it in class, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OV7QmkrD68>