

Psychopathology (PSY 303)

Winter, 2020

Prof. Brian Lakey

11:00 am - 11:50 am MWF, Lake Ontario Hall 174

12:00 pm - 12:50 pm MWF, Lake Ontario Hall 174

Office: 2315 Au Sable Hall

Office hours: 1:00 pm – 1:50 pm (MWF) and by appointment

Email: lakeyb@gvsu.edu (recommended)

Phone: 331-2868 (not recommended)

Texts:

Nasar, S. (2011). *A Beautiful Mind*. New York. Simon & Schuster. 9781451628425

Jamison, K. R. (1996). *An Unquiet Mind*. New York: Random House. 9780679763307

This course presents an introductory survey of scientific research in adult psychopathology, and will focus on descriptive psychopathology and basic psychological mechanisms. Descriptive psychopathology involves describing important symptoms and organizing them into syndromes. This reflects an enduring emphasis of psychiatry, in which mental disorders are construed as illnesses. In contrast, the psychological approach focuses on identifying basic cognitive, social, and psychobiological processes that apply across a wide range of symptoms and syndromes.

Blackboard: The syllabus, lecture notes and study guides will be available on blackboard. Lecture notes will be posted before lectures are given.

Course goals: *To provide opportunities for detailed, introductory study of...*

1. ...the scientific approach to psychopathology.
2. ...key scientific findings in psychopathology.
3. ...core psychopathological symptoms and how symptoms are typically organized into syndromes.
4. ...and how quantitative analysis advances our understanding of psychopathology.

Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

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 selected 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.

Grading:

Exams: There will be three, multiple choice exams, consisting of approximately 40 questions each. Ninety per cent of questions will be from lecture. Ten per cent will be from the texts. Exams are not cumulative.

Quizzes: There will be 20 quizzes on a semi-random basis, at the end of selected class sections, on that day's lecture. Quiz days are randomly selected with the restrictions that 1) at least one quiz occurs every week, 2) no more than two quizzes occur in a given week, 3) quizzes do not occur on exam days or on exam review days. Students' two lowest quiz scores will be dropped. Scores on quizzes will be averaged and students' averaged quiz scores will be worth an amount equal to an exam. There will be no make-up quizzes. Instead, the two dropped quizzes are intended to cover illness, emergencies, and trips.

Curving Exams and Quizzes: Final corrected scores for each exam and averaged quiz scores will be computed by 1) correcting scores for measurement error (i.e., error corrected scores) and then 2) dividing each student's error-corrected score by the highest error-corrected score obtained in the class. This procedure corrects for exam difficulty and measurement error. By using this method, even if the highest score were half of the questions answered correctly, it would be possible for the entire class to get As. For example, a student might obtain an error-corrected score of 23 out of 50 questions (.46). However, if the highest error-corrected score in the class were 25, the student's final corrected score, as entered in the grade book, would be .92 (23/25).

Your letter grade in the class will be based on your final corrected score, which will be the average of your three exam scores, and your final quiz score. Each of these will count 25% toward your final grade in the class. The final proportion scores will be converted to letter grades according to the following schedule:

.90 – 1.00	A
.80 – .89	B
.70 - .79	C
.60 - .69	D
.59 and below	F

The upper two points within the range of a letter grade are assigned "+" and the lower two points within the range of a letter grade are assigned "-". For example, a .88 would be assigned a B+ and a .81 would be assigned a B-.

Make-up exams: Make-up exams will be given under the following circumstances: official university activities (e.g., participating in sporting events), illnesses, and major life events (e.g., romantic breakup). You should email the professor before the exam to be confident that you will be permitted to sit for a make-up exam.

Exam Dates:

Exam 1: Friday, February 7 (Nasar, Prologue – Chapter 29).

Exam 2: Friday, March 21 (Nasar, Chapter 30 – Epilogue).

Exam 3 (Final):

11am class: Wednesday, April 22, 10:00 am - 11:50 am (Jamison).

12:00pm class: Wednesday, April 22, 12:00 pm - 1:50 pm (Jamison).

Lecture Topics and Approximate Schedule

Week	Lecture Topic
Week 1	Overview of the course. What are mental disorders?
Week 2	<i>Descriptive psychopathology:</i> Inter-rater agreement and the structure of the DSM system.
Week 3	<i>Descriptive Psychopathology:</i> Does the DSM capture the structure of mental disorder?
Week 4	<i>Descriptive Psychopathology:</i> Does the DSM capture the structure of mental disorder?
Week 5	<i>Social influences:</i> Stressful life events and depression.
Week 6	<i>Social influences:</i> Expressed Emotion and Schizophrenia
Week 7	<i>Social influences:</i> Media Images of thinness and eating disorders.
Week 8	<i>Biological influences:</i> Genetic influences on major mental disorders.
Week 9	<i>Biological influences:</i> Genetic influences on major mental disorders.
Week 10	<i>Biological influences:</i> Gene x environment interactions.
Week 11	<i>Cognitive Influences:</i> Attentional biases in anxiety.
Week 12	<i>Cognitive Influences:</i> Interpretive and memory biases in depression.
Week 14	<i>Cognitive Influences:</i> Does negative thinking cause major depression?
Week 13	<i>Treatment of mental disorders:</i> CBT and medication in the treatment of depression.
Week 15	<i>Treatment of mental disorders:</i> CBT and medication in treatment of anxiety disorders.

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