

***Psychopathology (PSY 303)***  
***Fall, 2025***  
***Prof. Brian Lakey***

303 06 10am, MAN 107  
303 02 Noon, ASH 2302  
303 01 1pm, ASH 2302

**Office:** 2315 Au Sable Hall

**Office hours:** 11:00 – 11:50 (WF) and by appointment

**Email:** [lakeyb@gvsu.edu](mailto:lakeyb@gvsu.edu)

***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 categories (i.e., syndromes). This reflects an enduring emphasis of psychiatry, in which mental disorders are construed as illnesses. In contrast, the psychological approach focuses more on identifying basic psychological processes that apply across a wide range of symptoms and syndromes.

***Blackboard:*** All course material will be posted on Blackboard.

***Course goals:*** To provide opportunities for an introductory, but detailed 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. ...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 in-class, multiple choice exams, consisting of approximately 40 questions each. All questions will be from lecture. Exams are not cumulative.

*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.

*On-line quizzes on the books:* Every Sunday at 11:59 PM, a multiple-choice quiz on the readings will be posted. You will have until the following Sunday at 11:59 PM to complete each quiz. Late quizzes will receive a 10% penalty. Quizzes are open book.

*On-line quizzes on lecture:* There will be a multiple-choice quiz for each lecture. Quiz questions are in the same style as exam questions but are not identical. Typically, quizzes will be posted on the day the lecture is finished. The first lecture will focus on the syllabus and there will be a separate quiz on that. Quizzes are open note. Late quizzes will receive a 10% penalty. You will have a week to finish each quiz.

*In-class quizzes on lecture:* At the end of class, on a semi-random basis, there will be a two question, multiple-choice quiz on that day's lecture. The constraints are 1. There will be at least one quiz per week. 2. There will be no more than two quizzes per week. There will be no make-up quizzes. Instead, everyone gets to drop two quizzes for any reason, including illness, emergencies, and trips. There will be 20 such quizzes.

*Don't cheat.* Your grade in this course should be based on your own work. You are not permitted to discuss with another student the exam or quiz questions, until both of you have completed the quiz or exam. Quiz and exam questions are the property of Brian Lahey and so it is a violation of copyright law to copy or photograph them without his consent.

*Grading:* Your letter grade in the class will be based on your final course score, which will be the average of your exam scores, on-line readings quiz scores, on-line lecture quiz scores, and in-class quiz scores. Each of these will count for 25% of your grade for the course. Each of these four types of assignments will be curved by summing your total number of questions answered correctly and dividing the sum

by the highest score achieved in the course. For example, if you answered 40 questions out of 50 correctly, and the highest score in the class was 45, your curved score would be .89 (40/45), not .80 (40/50).

Your final course score 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 an .81 would be assigned a B-. Grades of C- will be reported to the registrar as Cs.

### ***Exam Dates:***

Exam 1: Friday, September 26 **dc**

Exam 2: Friday, October 31 **dc**

Exam 3: 10am Section: Monday, December 8, 10:00 am - 11:50 am **dc**

Noon Section: Wednesday, December 10, 12:00 pm - 1:50 pm **dc**

1pm Section: Monday, December 8, 12:00 pm - 1:50 pm **dc**

### ***Lecture Topics and Approximate Schedule***

<b><i>Week</i></b>	<b><i>Lecture Topic</i></b>
Week 1	Course Overview. Lecture 1: What are mental disorders?
Week 2	Lecture 2: How the DSM got its structure.
Week 3	Lecture 3: The structure of mental disorders.
Week 4	Lecture 3: The structure of mental disorders.
Week 5	Lecture 3: The structure of mental disorders.
Week 6	Lecture 4: Stressful life events and depression.
Week 7	Lecture 4: Stressful life events and depression.
Week 8	Lecture 5: Family criticism and relapse in schizophrenia and other disorders.
Week 9	Lecture 5: Family criticism and relapse in schizophrenia and other disorders.
Week 11	Lecture 6: The thin ideal and risk for eating disorders.
Week 12	Lecture 7: Genetic and environmental influences on mental disorders.

Week 13	Lecture 7: Genetic and environmental influences on mental disorders.
Week 14	Lecture 8: Psychological and biological treatments for depressive disorders.
Week 15	Lecture 9: Psychological and biological treatments for anxiety disorders.

***Book Quiz Schedule.*** (Chapters are inclusive)

Week 1	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters Prologue - 4</i>
Week 2	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 5-9</i>
Week 3	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 10-14</i>
Week 4	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 15-19</i>
Week 5	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 20-24</i>
Week 6	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 25-29</i>
Week 7	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 30-34</i>
Week 8	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 35-40</i>
Week 9	Spring Break
Week 10	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 41-46</i>
Week 11	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 47-Epilogue</i>
Week 12	<i>An Unquiet Mind Prologue – Part 1</i>
Week 13	<i>An Unquiet Mind Part 2</i>
Week 14	<i>An Unquiet Mind Part 3</i>
Week 15	<i>An Unquiet Mind Part 4 + Epilogue</i>

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