

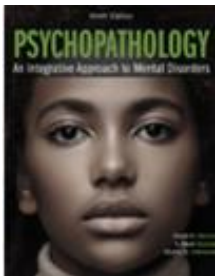


Psychopathology
Psy-303 Section 07 F2F
Fall 2025

Syllabus

L. Burns, 2219 ASH, 331-2862, Email burnsl@gvsu.edu
Class hours: Tu/Th 11:30-12:415 (114 LMH)

Office Hours: I look forward to meeting you this semester. I will always be available Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-11:00 and 1:00-2:00 for office hours. If this time is inconvenient, please contact me to arrange an appointment.



Recommended Text: Barlow/Durand/Hofmann (2022) - Psychopathology: An Integrative Approach to Mental Disorders (9th Edition) ISBN 9780357657843 Wadsworth Cengage Learning. Available at the University Bookstore.

Course Objectives: This course is intended to provide an overview of abnormal psychology for advanced undergraduate students. *Introductory Psychology*, PSY 101, is a prerequisite for taking this course. Using lectures, discussions, case examples, and readings, an introduction to the major diagnostic categories of the DSM-5TR, including theories of causation and various therapeutic interventions, is planned.

Class Format: Although this is a lecture class, I encourage you to ask questions and participate in classroom discussions. You will also find that lectures are more understandable and enjoyable if you have read the material before class attendance. Frequent absences from class may reduce your final grade because exam questions may include topics covered in the lectures but not in the readings.

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 using the diagnostic criteria of specific psychological disorders.
3. Identify and explain the biological, psychological, social, and cognitive factors underlying the etiology and maintenance of selected psychological disorders.
4. Explain major theoretical models and their contribution to understanding psychological disorders.
5. Explain how the research process and findings influence the conceptualization and treatment of psychological disorders.

Grading: Your final grade will be based on three (3) (4 given—lowest dropped; you must take all four exams) and five (5) quizzes (6 given—lowest dropped). Each exam will consist of fifty multiple-choice questions from the readings, lectures, videos, and class discussions. Each quiz will consist of five multiple-choice/fill-in-the-blank questions. Each exam will cover material from a particular course section and count equally toward your final grade. The fourth exam (given during finals week) will not be comprehensive. Each exam will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions and count for 100 points. Thus, the maximum number of points you can gain for all exams and quizzes is 325 (if submitting the optional course paper—the grade distribution with a total of 375 points is to the right below). You are guaranteed the following grade based on your total score:

Grade Point Distribution

301-325 A
293-300 A-
285-292 B+
268-284 B
260-267 B-
253-259 C+
236-252 C
228-235 C-
212-227 D+
196-212 D
<196 F

Grade Point Distribution w/ optional paper

347-375 A
338-346 A-
329-337 B+
309-328 B
300-308 B-
292-299 C+
272-291 C
263-271 C-
245-262 D+
226-244 D
<226 F

GVSU Policy Pointers—

Disabilities Support Resources

If you have any condition, such as a physical or mental disability, which will make it difficult for you to carry out the work as outlined, or which will require extra time on examinations, please notify me in the first week of the course so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

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

Caring for Students

Your health and your family's health should be your priority. So if you are dealing with illness, sick family members, travel difficulties, a bad internet connection, increased anxiety, childcare challenges, or any other issues, please reach out, and so we can find accommodations.

Mental Health

Mental health concerns, including overwhelming stress, excessive worry, difficulty participating in daily activities, and changes in mood, appetite, or sleep patterns, can interfere with your academic performance. College student surveys report that roughly 1 out of 3 students screen positive for a current mental health concern ([Healthy Minds Study](#)). GVSU values your health and wellness and provides services to support your mental health. If you want mental health support or are concerned about another campus community member, contact the [University Counseling Center](#) for free resources, self-help options, and services. Also, visit [Campus Recreation & Wellness](#) for additional health and wellness programming.

Emergency Procedures:

Fire: Immediately proceed to the nearest exit during a fire alarm. Do not use elevators.

More information is available on the University's Emergency website located at <http://www.gvsu.edu/emergency>.

Quizzes

These will be available on Bb approximately 48 hours before the class session to which they pertain, and they will be open until 8:00 am that day (before class).

These are always on the material to be covered in class that week. Quiz 1 is on Chapter 2.

All dates are listed on your syllabus.

Make-up Exams: For make-up exams, please bring me a note from your doctor. Since your lowest quiz will be dropped, **NO** make-up quizzes will be given.

Alternative Learning Experience (NOT extra credit) Optional Course Paper (50 points possible--due October 23rd):

In addition to reading the text and expanding and extending your knowledge of psychopathology, you can write a course paper on the issue of what defines *psychopathology*. You will need a minimum of five (5) primary sources. Your paper should be more than 800 words but less than 1100 words in length, or roughly four (4) type-written or word-processed pages. It should contain a clear statement regarding your educated stance on the topic. For example, are there any critical biological, social, or psychological issues intertwined with how we currently conceptualize and define this term, *psychopathology*, which frames a central aspect of our course? The use of generative AI on your final draft of this paper will result in zero points. Please attach a printout from [ChatGPT Zero](#) with a scan of your paper (a value less than 10% attributed to AI is acceptable).

For your minimum of five (5) **primary** journal articles:

1. No book reviews.
2. No citations from course textbooks (lose 20 points if used).
3. No "*anonymous*" Internet articles (you **MAY**, of course, use E-Journal articles obtained via library databases, but if you're in doubt, merely check with me).
4. No "review of article" articles.
5. No article less than three pages in length.
6. Bibliography listing only if cited in your paper.
7. After you have five journal article references, you may include non-textbook books as references.

Please cite your references in the body of your paper in APA format or as follows:

Jones (1998),

According to recent findings (Jones, 1998).

Please avoid the use of vague terms like "scientists have found." Instead, please use the name of the article's author or source you are referring to in your paragraph.

Late papers lose five (5) points per day.

Papers using other Abnormal Psychology or Psychopathology texts (including our course textbook) will lose 20 points.

Please note (General Academic Policies, p.78; 1996-1997) **Plagiarism** is "Any ideas or material taken from another source... must be fully acknowledged... sentences or paragraphs... any student who fails to give credit is guilty of **plagiarism**." Such activity (**plagiarism**) may result in failure of a specific assignment, an entire course, or, if flagrant, dismissal from GVSU.

Cell phone access during exams

There is no acceptable use of a cell phone during a class exam. Using a cell phone during an exam will result in an automatic zero on that exam.

Questions about the optional practice exams

I am glad to answer questions about any course material in advance of the exam. I am unable to answer questions on the day of the exam (in class).

Bb and email

1. Computing Conditions of Use (Condition #7):

Using university technology resources for commercial use is strictly prohibited. Such resources are to be solely used in conjunction with doing business for GVSU or purposes directly related to academic work.

2. Email Policy (In Section B, "Account Usage," the 3rd paragraph):

University email services shall not be used to send unsolicited commercial emails, and such use may result in your account being disabled.

Use of laptops during class

Students have complained about the distraction of others surfing the internet during class time. While I would prefer no laptops in class, if you plan to use your computer for activities other than note-taking during class, please select seating at the rear of the classroom to reduce others' distractions. Thank you.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Date	Chapter	Topics
8/26		First day of class -- overview
8/28	1	<i>Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context</i>
9/2	2	<i>An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology - Quiz 1 (on <u>chapter 2</u>)</i>
9/9	4	<i>Research Methods - Quiz 2 (on <u>chapter 4</u>)</i>
9/16		Exam #1 (Chapters 1, 2, & 4)
9/18	3	<i>Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis</i>
9/23	3	<i>Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis</i>
9/25	5	<i>Anxiety, Trauma, OCD and Related Disorders - Quiz 3</i>
9/30	5	<i>Anxiety, Trauma, OCD, and Related Disorders</i>
10/7	6	<i>Somatic Symptom & Dissociative Disorders</i>
10/14	6	<i>Somatic Symptom & Dissociative Disorders</i>
10/16		Exam #2 (Chapters 3, 5, & 6)
10/20-21		Fall Break!
10/23	8	<i>Eating and Sleep-Wake Disorders - Quiz 4</i> →Optional Course paper Due 10/23←
10/28	7	<i>Mood Disorders & Suicide - Quiz 5</i>
11/4	10	<i>Sexual Dysfunctions, Paraphilic Disorders, and Gender Dysphoria</i>
11/7		Last day to drop with a "W."
11/11	10	<i>Sexual Dysfunctions, Paraphilic Disorders, and Gender Dysphoria</i>
11/13		Exam #3 (Chapters 7, 8, & 10)
11/18	12	<i>Personality Disorders</i>
11/20 & 25	13	<i>Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders -Quiz 6</i> http://www.ted.com/talks/elyn_saks_seeing_mental_illness
12/2	11	<i>Substance-Related and Impulse-Control Disorders</i>
		Final Exam (Chapters 11, 12, & 13)
12/9 Tuesday 10-11:50		