

Grand Valley State University

PSY 324: Developmental Psychopathology

Fall 2025

Instructor: Nicole Henriksen, Ph.D.
Psychology Department
Course Location: ONLINE
Email: henrikni@gvsu.edu
Office Hours: By appointment (please email me to set up a meeting time)

Course Summary

This course will cover child and adolescent disorders, through reviewing contextual factors, diagnostic criteria, comorbidity, etiology, intervention, and prevention. Students will be exposed to research articles and case studies, and critical thinking skills will be emphasized to allow students to gain a deeper understanding of issues related to abnormal child development. Upon completion of the course, students should be familiar with: (1) various approaches and theories used to conceptualize child psychopathology, (2) child, environmental, and psychosocial risk factors for psychopathology, and (3) evidence-based treatments for common childhood disorders.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Describe the various approaches and theories used to conceptualize child psychopathology
2. Describe the clinical assessment process, including diagnostic procedures.
3. Identify and compare the theories and causes of child psychopathology.
4. Demonstrate understanding of the interactive effects of child, environmental and psychosocial risk factors.
5. Describe the features of a wide range of psychological disorders in children.
6. Describe evidence-based treatment practices used in the field.
7. Review and evaluate research relevant to child psychopathology.

Readings

Required Text (available via GVSU SAVE unless you opt out):

Mash, E.J., & Wolfe, D.A. (2024). *Abnormal child psychology* (8th ed.). Cengage Learning.

Additional Readings:

Selected articles will be announced and posted on Blackboard.

Grading/Coursework

<u>Grading</u>		<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Quizzes (9 x 20 points)	180	93 above	A
Assignments (14 x 6 points)	84	90-92	A-
Discussion Board (14 x 4 points)	56	87-89	B+
Exam Week Assignment (20 points)	<u>20</u>	83-86	B
340 points possible		80-82	B-
		77-79	C+
		73-76	C
		70-72	C-
		67-69	D+
		60-66	D
		59 & below	F

Class Materials, Quizzes, Assignments, and Discussion Board

Readings and Video Lectures

For each topic, there will be required reading in the Mash & Wolfe textbook; sometimes optional readings will be placed on e-reserve or Blackboard. I will also provide video lectures that can be watched on your own time (asynchronously). PowerPoints based on these lectures will be made available in Blackboard.

Quizzes (9 quizzes * 20 points each)

There will be a total of nine quizzes. Quizzes will be primarily multiple-choice format. Quiz questions will be based on both lecture materials and readings. You will be able to take each quiz twice; if you choose to take a quiz two times your average score for the two attempts will be recorded in Blackboard.

Assignments (14 assignments total * 6 points each)

All assignments will be asynchronous and completed in Blackboard. Sometimes you will write brief reflections on that week's content; other times you will respond to questions or fill in tables with information. Assignments are designed to help you understand and apply content you learn from lectures and readings.

Discussion Board (14 forums * 4 points each)

There will be a discussion board forum each week in Blackboard. Your posts will need to be thoughtful and on-topic. The discussion board offers opportunities to learn from and share with peers.

Exam Week Assignment (20 Points)

This assignment will be due during exam week. I will provide more information as the semester progresses.

Other Information

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism

Students will do original work and will not take or receive the efforts of another person on any test or assignment, use unauthorized resources on quizzes or tests, plagiarize, or give/sell other students papers or assignments not authorized by the instructor. You are responsible for making yourself aware of and for understanding the policies and procedures that pertain to academic integrity. To that end, be sure to familiarize yourself with the GVSU Student Code [Section 223.01] related to academic integrity.

Furthermore, be sure to reference sources at all times. If you are uncertain about such an issue prior to submission of an assignment, project, or test, please see me so we can eliminate that uncertainty.

Use of AI (*AI Policy Statement* by [David A. Joyner @davidjoyner@fediscience.org](mailto:David.A.Joyner@davidjoyner@fediscience.org))

We treat AI-based assistance, such as ChatGPT and Copilot, the same way we treat collaboration with other people: you are welcome to talk about your ideas and work with other people, both inside and outside the class, as well as with AI-based assistants. However, all work you submit must be your own. You should never include in your assignment anything that was not written directly by you without proper citation (including quotation marks and in-line citation for direct quotes).

Including anything you did not write in your assignment without proper citation will be treated as an academic misconduct case. If you are unsure where the line is between collaborating with AI and copying from AI, we recommend the following:

1. Never hit "Copy" within your conversation with an AI assistant. You can copy your own work into your conversation, but do not copy anything from the conversation back into your assignment. Instead, use your interaction with the AI assistant as a learning experience, then let your assignment reflect your improved understanding.
2. Do not have your assignment and the AI agent open at the same time. Similar to above, use your conversation with the AI as a learning experience, then close the interaction down, open your assignment, and let your assignment reflect your revised knowledge. This includes avoiding using AI directly integrated into your composition environment: just as you should not let a classmate write content directly into your submission, so also avoid using tools that directly add content to your submission.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If there is any student in this class who has special needs because of a learning, physical, or other disability, please contact me or Student Accessibility Resources (SAR) at 616-331-2490. Although students with disabilities are held to the same academic standards as all other students, accommodations will be provided for you, as appropriate. Where warranted, accommodations will also be provided to students without a diagnosed disability if that student discusses the specific need with me and the accommodation appears to be justified.

Psych Friends Peer-to-Peer Mentors

Psych Friends mentors are upper-level psychology and behavioral neuroscience students who are trained to provide support in many areas, such as: effective studying and time management techniques, exam preparation and reflection skills, understanding the PSY and BNS major requirements, potential jobs and careers in the field, the process of applying for graduate school, and how to maintain physical and mental health as a student. Visit <https://www.gvsu.edu/navigate> to schedule an online or in-person meeting today!

Email

Please email me if you have any questions or would like to set up a time to meet. I will make every attempt to get back with you within 24 hours.

COVID Relevant Information

<https://www.gvsu.edu/lakerstogether/>

GVSU Policies

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

PSY 324 Course Schedule: Fall 2025 (Online)

I will follow this general plan and give notice if anything needs to be altered.

Week	Lecture Topic	Reading	Activities and Due Dates
Unit 1: 8/25-8/30	Introduction to Developmental Psychopathology	Ch. 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 assignment and discussion board posts due 8/30 by 11:59 pm
Unit 2: 8/31-9/6	Theories & Causes	Ch. 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 2 assignment and discussion board posts due 9/6 by 11:59 pm
Unit 3: 9/7-9/13	Theories & Causes, continued		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 3 assignment and discussion board posts due 9/13 by 11:59 pm Quiz 1: Intro to Developmental Psychopathology & Theories & Causes due 9/13 by 11:59 pm
Unit 4: 9/14-9/20	Assessment, Diagnosis, Treatment	Ch. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 4 assignment and discussion boards post due 9/20 by 11:59 pm
Unit 5: 9/21-9/27	Research & Evidence-Based Treatment (EBT)	Ch. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 5 assignment and discussion board posts due 9/27 by 11:59 pm Quiz 2: Assessment, Diagnosis, Treatment, Research, & EBT due 9/27 by 11:59 pm
Unit 6: 9/28-10/4	Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)	Ch. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 6 assignment and discussion board posts due 10/4 by 11:59 pm Quiz 3: ADHD due 10/4 by 11:59 pm
Unit 7: 10/5-10/11	Conduct Problems	Ch. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 7 assignment and discussion board posts due 10/11 by 11:59 pm
Unit 8: 10/12-10/18	Conduct Problems, continued		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 8 assignment and discussion board posts due 10/18 by 11:59 pm Quiz 4: Conduct Problems due 10/18 by 11:59 pm
Unit 9: 10/19-10/25	Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders	Ch. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 9 assignment and discussion board posts due 10/25 by 11:59 pm
Unit 10: 10/26-11/1	Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders, continued		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 10 assignment and discussion board posts due 11/1 by 11:59 pm Quiz 5: Anxiety Disorders due 11/1 by 11:59 pm
Unit 11: 11/2-11/8	Depressive and Bipolar Disorders	Ch. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 11 assignment and discussion board posts due 11/8 by 11:59 pm Quiz 6: Depression due 11/8 by 11:59 pm
Unit 12: 11/9-11/15	Autism Spectrum Disorder & Childhood-Onset Schizophrenia	Ch. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 12 assignment and discussion board posts due 11/15 by 11:59 pm Quiz 7: Autism Spectrum Disorder due 11/15 by 11:59 pm
Unit 13: 11/16-11/22	Communication and Learning Disorders	Ch. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 13 assignment and discussion board posts due 11/22 by 11:59 pm Quiz 8: Learning Disorders due 11/22 by 11:59 pm
HAPPY THANKSGIVING (NO UNIT THIS WEEK)			
Unit 14 11/30-12/6	Feeding and Eating Disorders	Ch. 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 14 assignment and discussion board posts due 12/6 by 11:59 pm Quiz 9: Eating Disorders due 12/6 by 11:59 pm
EXAM WEEK	Exam Week Assignment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam Week Assignment due 12/10 by 11:59 pm