

**PSY 440 – Honors - Abnormal Psychology Syllabus  
Spring 2011**

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Office Hours: Posted on office door or by appointment

**Catalog Course Description:** An introductory course in the field of abnormal psychology with emphasis upon forms of abnormal behavior, etiology, developmental course, interpretations, behavior manifestations, and treatment programs.

**Prerequisites:** Six hours in psychology including PSY 100; Junior level status

**Course Objectives:**

- To provide a comprehensive overview of the field of abnormal behavior and psychopathology.
- To be knowledgeable about various theories of psychopathology and how they influence our thinking about what is abnormal.
- To provide insight into the personal experience of psychopathology
- To become familiar with issues in the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal behavior and mental illness/disorders.
- To understand the various settings in which assessment, diagnosis, & treatment of mental disorders occur.

**Text:**

Durand, V. M. & Barlow, D. H. (2010). *Essentials of abnormal psychology* (5th edition). (With CD-ROM).

Halgin, R. (2011). *Taking sides: Clashing views in abnormal psychology* (Sixth Edition). New York: Contemporary Learning series, McGraw-Hill Companies.

**Suggested Texts:**

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Text Revision). Washington, D.C.: Author.

American Psychological Association (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6<sup>th</sup> Edition). Washington, D.C.: Author.

**These are only suggested, but may be quite helpful to you.**

**Online Resources:** <http://www.wadsworth.com> is the Web site for the text book. The student resources section has practice tests with immediate scoring and feedback; links to related web sites; and research updates to keep up with recent developments in the field. Other web sites will be provided during the course.

**Power Points Handouts:** I will be using Power Points for my lectures. They will be posted on my web site one day before each new chapter. They will be in PDF format, so you will need to download a free copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader. <http://www.adobe.com> Please print them and bring them to class. You can printout them in any computer lab on campus.

**Class Format:** We will cover one chapter from the text a week. Because of the volume of information, lectures during the week will be selective; I will not be able to lecture on everything in the text. However, students will be expected to read the text and will be responsible for all material; I reserve the right to ask questions over material from the text about which I do not lecture. Despite the traditional lecture format, I have found that class is much more interesting, and students retain more, if questions are asked. So, please, ask me questions.

**Course Requirements:**

- **Exams:** There will be 3 class exams, plus a comprehensive final, each worth 100 points. Exams will be comprised of essay questions. Exams are to be taken at scheduled class meeting times. You will be allowed to drop one test grade from the 4 tests (typically your lowest). You must have **three exams** at the end of the semester!!! Any student who misses an exam for a documented excusable reason will be allowed to take a makeup exam on the makeup exam date: **May 11 at 8:00 am.** Or you can drop the missed test as an option.

- **Quizzes:** A quiz for 10 points will be given at the start of each new chapter (possible 140 points; lowest four will be dropped [no make-ups]) – total = 100 points.
- **Paper Project:** . Using the book – **Taking Sides** – you are to synthesize the two sides of the issue for **two** topics. **You are to provide two additional outside sources to support YOUR position.** You are expected to clearly show an understanding of the topic and your opinion, even if different than the authors involved. **Late papers will be penalized by deducting 15 points off per class day late. 50 points each. This assignment is to have you develop critical thinking skills about abnormal psychology topics.**
- **Graduate Student Paper:** Graduate students will need to write a research based paper on a controversial issue in abnormal psychology. This requires the student to provide an opinion, based on existing literature and research. A guide sheet will be provided for the specifics of this assignment. This written project for graduate students will be worth 100 points.
- **Community Activity Points** – Students can gain up to 25 activity points from class activities such as group activities and other class related activities. Students must be present to obtain the activity points. Projects may include a movie or university lecture or appropriate activity on a topic important to the course. An alternative is to complete the CD activities from your textbook, up to 5 total. These must be handed in by the last class and are worth 5 points each.
- **Attendance & Participation:** Regular and consistent attendance is necessary to do well in this class and I have a strict policy for attendance. According to university policy, “registration in a course obligates the student to be regular and punctual in class attendance.” Students are expected to attend all classes. Class attendance sheets will be passed out in class and it is the student’s responsibility to sign the attendance sheets. **There are no make-ups for in-class activities or quizzes. You must be present to earn the activity/quiz points.** If for some reason you must miss class, it is your responsibility to contact the instructor or classmate for missed handouts and assignments. If you quit attending the course it is your responsibility to withdraw from the course. The following procedures apply:
  - Students who **miss three class meetings are to meet with me** to discuss your absences. More than three absences may result in your being asked to drop the class.
  - Every student is allowed 3 absences for the semester; however, more than 3 absences are considered excessive. The instructor reserves the right to drop a student one letter grade or fail a student for excessive absences.
  - **There is the new grade “FN” for lack of attendance or excessive absences before**
- **Field Trips:** To make this class more “alive” we will have several field trips to psychiatric setting locations. These will be scheduled at a time convenient for the most people. You will be expected to arrange transportation or ride with me. These opportunities will all be in the local Bowling Green area.
- **Grades:** Grades will be based on the points earned out of the **total possible:**

<u>Undergraduate Students</u>	<u>Graduate Students</u>
○ 3 exams                      300 points	4 exams                      400 points
○ Quiz Points                100 points	Activity Points            50 points
○ Critical Thinking Paper    100 points	Critical thinking        100 points
	○ Quiz Points              100 points
Activity points                25 points	Topical Paper            100 points
<b>Total Possible                525 points</b>	<b>750 points</b>

**Final Grades (Undergraduate):** A= 462-525; B=400-461; C=337- 399; D= 275-336; 274 or lower = F  
 Graduate level grades separately computed.

**NOTE: This is not an “averaged” grade. It is the total points accumulated during the Semester.**

#### Other:

- **Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to submit original work. Where resources and sources of information are used, credit must be given to the original source. Assignments should reflect the work of the individual student. According to the WKU 2001-2003 Undergraduate Catalog, “Students who commit any act of academic dishonesty may receive from the instructor a failing grade in that portion of the coursework in which the act is detected or a failing grade in the course without possibility of withdrawal” (p. 27).
- **Office Visits:** Please feel free to come to talk with me during office hours or by appointment anytime during the semester concerning your progress in class or just to chat. I welcome the opportunity to assist you in your

academic endeavors. I would very much like to know each of you, and your taking some time to visit me during my office hours or by appointment will greatly increase the likelihood of that happening! However, just like you, I have my “busy days” and I may suggest we make an appointment if you come at a busy time. Another way to communicate with me is through E-mail that I read daily. **Please place (Psych 440) in the Subject line to help me. My new office in Ransdell Hall will be a new opportunity for all of us. Now I have a window!!**

- Intellectual curiosity and a sense of humor are also greatly appreciated in students! In this class where students frequently provide personal examples/accounts, I do expect all students to be respectful of these contributions.
- Please be careful on sharing what may be personal information. I do not want to embarrass anyone or have you placed in a difficult spot. The topics discussed can be quite personal, so appreciating others' viewpoints and situations is essential. Please do not share your personal history in class. It can lead to very difficult situations for all of us to deal with. I do try to answer all questions if they are made to be more “impersonal”.
- I ask that all CELL PHONES and BEEPERS be turned off or place in silent mode during classes. If there is a pending emergency, please see me before class.
- The ***New York Times*** is offered by WKU as no cost to you. You will receive the Tuesday edition which contains the Science section. This section typically contains many articles relevant to this course. I will review the relevant articles at the beginning of each Tuesday. Please bring up additional articles for further discussion as well. I find this a valuable resource to supplement the information in your text, as the NYT is more current.

## Student Disability Services

In compliance with university policy, students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services in DUC A-200 of the Student Success Center in Downing University Center.

Please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a letter of accommodation from the Office for Student Disability Services.

This syllabus may change depending on special or unique circumstances. All students will be notified of any changes.