



Abnormal Psychology - Syllabus

Abnormal Psychology, PSYC 259, Spring 2024

Instructor	Evan McCracken, PhD, MLS
E-mail	em157@evansville.edu
Course Meeting Days and Time	Tuesday & Thursday: 1-2:15pm
Required Experiential Learning Dates	Friday, February 23 rd (London: Freud Museum)
Office Hours	Monday: 9-1:00pm, Tuesday: 10-12:00pm, Wednesday: 9-1:00pm

Catalog Description:

Examines abnormal behavior with emphasis on mood disorders, affective disorders, and schizophrenia. Examines the biological and psychological bases of psychopathology and those factors involved in diagnosis and treatment of mental disorder.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

Standard lecture:

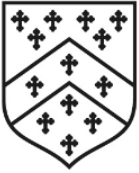
This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, the student should:

- Gain a better understanding of the field of abnormal psychology both historic and current.
- Become knowledgeable of the research methodology commonly used by psychologists. To become familiar with the scientific method and how it is used to explain behavior and mental processes.
- Possess a basic understanding of the biological bases of behavior.
- To become familiar with the theories concerning psychological health and disorders as well as human behavior.
- Further develop writing skills in conjunction with the use of American Psychological Association (APA) format.

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Methods of Instructions:

This course is primarily a lecture course, although there will be some discussion. Class preparation includes completing all readings prior to class and making notes that will prepare you to discuss the main points, theories, methods, and/or empirical findings from all readings. You should also be prepared to discuss the implications of readings for law, policy, and future psychological research.

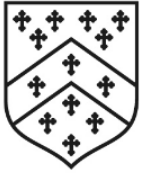
Textbooks and Required Reading:

1. Jennings, H. (2023). Nolen-Hoeksema's Abnormal Psychology 9th Edition. McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 9781265316037
2. Brown, T. A. & Barlow, D. H. (2017). Casebook in Abnormal Psychology 5th Edition. Cengage. Paperback ISBN: 9781305971714; eBook ISBN: 9781337506205

Course Schedule: NOTE: READINGS BELOW ARE TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE!!



Week	Date		Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
1	T	1/16	Introduction to Course and Looking at Abnormality	Chapter 1 from Jennings	
	R	1/18			
2	T	1/23	Theories and Treatment of Abnormality	Chapter 2 from Jennings	
	R	1/25			
3	T	1/30	Assessing and Diagnosing Abnormality	Chapter 3 from Jennings	
	R	2/1	The Research Endeavor	Chapter 4 from Jennings	
4	T	2/6	Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic Disorders	Chapter 8 from Jennings and Case 16 from Brown and Barlow	
	R	2/8			Case 16
5	T	2/13	Catch-up and review Exam 1		
	R	2/15			
6	T	2/20	Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, Trauma, and Stressor-Related Disorders	Chapter 5 from Jennings and Case 1 from Brown and Barlow	
	R	2/22			Case 1
7	T	2/27	Anxiety continued...		
	R	2/29	Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 6 from Jennings and Case 3 from Brown and Barlow	Case 3
8	T	3/5	Mid Term Break		
	R	3/7			
9	T	3/12	Mood Disorders & Suicide	Chapter 7 from Jennings and Cases 9 and 10 from Brown and Barlow	Case 9 & 10
	R	3/14			
10	T	3/19	Exam 2		



	R	3/21	Personality Disorders	Chapter 9 from Jennings and Case 15 from Brown and Barlow	
11	T	3/26	Personality continued...		Case 15
	R	3/28	Eating Disorders	Chapter 10 from Jennings and Cases 11 & 12 from Brown and Barlow	
12	T	4/2	Eating Disorders continued...		Case 11 & 12
	R	4/4	Sexual Disorders and Gender Diversity	Chapter 13 from Jennings and Case 13 from Brown and Barlow	
13	T	4/9	Sexual Disorders continued....		Case 13
	R	4/11	Substance Use Disorders	Chapter 14 from Jennings	
14	T	4/16	Substance Use continued...2		
	R	4/18	Mental Health and the Law	Chapter 16 from Jennings	Case Analysis Project Due at 11:59 PM
15	T	4/23	Exam 3 TBD		
	R	4/25			

Grading Criteria:

GRADING: Grading will be according to a 100-percentage scale: 93 - 100 = A, 90 - 92 = A-, 87 - 89 = B+, 83 - 86 = B, 80 - 82 = B-, 77 - 79 = C+, 73 - 76 = C, 70 - 72 = C-, 67 - 69 = D+, 60 - 66 = D, > 60 = F. You will always know exactly where you stand because there is no “curve” and you can calculate your own grade whenever you want by using the formula below. Normal rounding rules apply. Grades will be calculated from the following sources:

- THREE EXAMS = 72% (22% each)**



There are 50 multiple-choice questions on all exams. There will be 3 exams on **any** material from lectures (i.e., PowerPoint), films, readings from the text, etc. Each exam will cover information presented on the assigned readings since the previous exam; the exams are non-cumulative.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKEUP EXAMS. If you have an undocumented absence for **any reason** (are ill, injured, or away) during one of the first three exams, that zero will be your drop score, and you'll simply take the final exam to replace it. No exceptions will be made to this policy. If you miss 2 exams, a zero gets averaged in for a test score and you will probably fail.

2. Case Analysis Project (20% of final grade)

The case analysis project is a course-long writing assignment that will allow students to become experts on a particular subject of psychopathology that is of interest to them. Students will write a case history on a famous person or fictional character with a mental disorder. The case history will include reporting on the person's personal history focusing on the significant factors related to a mental disorder as well as reporting all of the signs and symptoms of the mental disorder that the person exhibits. Then, students will provide a conceptualization of the subject from their case history. The purpose of the case conceptualization is to explain the mental disorder of the famous person or character from the case history. You will choose a specific model/theory of psychopathology (psychodynamic, biological, behavioral, cognitive, integrative, or another orientation with my approval) and summarize the important aspects of the model/theory. The project will help students develop (a) writing skills, (b) critical thinking skills, (c) and psychology-based knowledge. **Students must get their selected famous person or character approved by me.** Further details regarding the case analysis project will be provided in class and on Blackboard.

3. Case Work Assignments (14% of final grade)

Throughout the course you will read nine case studies. You are required to read the case and answer the questions provided for each case. Each case work assignment is worth 10 points. Case work assignments will consist of three-four open-ended questions. Students' submissions should include answers to all questions discussed.

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting



such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty. The penalty for unexcused absences will be a full-letter grade deduction.

Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.



- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.

- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator:

cs175@evansville.edu ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu ·

Title IX: titleix@evansville.edu

Phone: 812-288-5261



Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lseyby@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk