

**William Paterson University  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Department of Psychology**

**WINTER 2010 Syllabus for  
PSY 351 Abnormal Psychology, Section 80 ONLINE (3 credits)**

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**(\*When using email, students MUST use their WPU email!\*)**

**Hello! Welcome to PSY 351-80 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY ONLINE.**

**Please read and follow this entire document. This syllabus will describe:**

- **How to login to the textbook's website, where all of the course work will be done,**
- **Course Description, Objectives, Policies, Requirements, and Schedule.**

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**Required text:**

**Butcher, J., Mineka, S., & Hooley, J. (2008). Abnormal Psychology, Core Concepts. (with MyPsychLab CourseCompass Online.), First Edition. Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.**

**ISBN#: 9780205538652.**

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**Online Access:**

**We will NOT be using the WPU Blackboard website!**

**Instead, we will be using the Publisher's textbook website: <http://www.coursecompass.com/>**

We will only use the publisher's textbook website (*it looks just like WPU Blackboard*). This will be where you go to view an online version of the text, view videos associated with the text, join online discussions, and take chapter exams. Do not get them confused!\*\*

***You have three options to purchase the text (be careful about buying a used text; it probably will not include access to the publisher's website, which you will then also have to buy (see option #3 below).***

1) The textbook (a hard copy with online access) is available for purchase at the WPU bookstore (~\$108.00).

2) The textbook (a hard copy with online access) is also available for purchase from the publisher's website: <http://www.mypearsonstore.com/bookstore/product.asp?isbn=0205538657&xid=PSED>

3) You can purchase an online version of the textbook (complete eBook) with online access (but with no actual hard copy of the text) at: [http://www.coursecompass.com/html/student\\_register.html](http://www.coursecompass.com/html/student_register.html)  
This online version is \$57.10. To purchase the online text/access, you will need the COURSE ID, which is: **nina87607**

**After you purchase the book or online access, log in to the publisher's website.**

**Go to: <http://www.coursecompass.com/> Then enter the course ID: **nina87607****

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### **Course Description:**

This course will provide a broad survey of what is considered to be abnormal behavior. Emphasis will be placed on a scientific, empirical view. The primary focus of the course is the *description* of various symptoms, syndromes and illnesses, but research and theories concerning etiology will also be covered. Additionally, treatments of abnormal behavior will be briefly discussed. Whenever possible, discussions and assignments will include applied aspects of abnormal psychology so that students will be encouraged to translate theories and concepts into a meaningful context relating to their own lives and experiences.

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### **Course Objectives:**

1. Understand how mental disorders are defined, conceptualized, and treated
  2. Learn to differentiate and classify mental disorders by diagnostic criteria, as categorized by the DSM-IV TR
  3. Understand the relationship between mental illness, culture, and the legal system
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### **Course Policies:**

This is an online class, which means that we will not meet in a face-to-face class setting. This course will be conducted totally online, in an asynchronous manner. This means that students (and the professor!) do NOT log on to the course at any specific time during the week. You may do so at anytime, though there are specific deadlines for assignments that must be met, which will be explained in more detail below. There will be an assignment each day of the week !! You may log on and submit your coursework whenever you choose, from wherever you choose, as long as it is received by 11:55pm (Eastern Standard Time) on the date it is due. Submissions after deadlines will NOT be counted!

You will need to go online every day!! The website will track how many times you log in AND how long you stay ACTIVELY involved in the site. Insufficient logins and time spent online will adversely impact your grade! You are expected to actively participate in the MyPsychLab CourseCompass textbook web site. Remember that even though you will not be spending two or three hours per week sitting in a classroom, it is expected that you will still be spending a comparable amount of time “in class” within the online course textbook website environment each day, in addition to your “out of class” or offline reading time.

Please keep in mind that it is your responsibility to make sure that you have the ability to connect to the Internet and access the course online. If you were taking a course on campus, you would be responsible for your transportation to and from the college to attend class and turn in your work. Similarly, you are responsible for working around any difficulties that you may encounter with your computer during the course. Computer difficulties or problems with Internet access are not excuses for failing to log in to the course or meeting course requirements or deadlines.

### **Using MyPsychLab CourseCompass (the textbook publisher’s website).**

This is an interactive website that has many resources, including an E-Book version of the text, multimedia, a study guide, pre and post tests that generate personal study plans, and chapter exams. (Remember, while this site looks like Blackboard, it is NOT housed on WPU’s servers, so do NOT use Blackboard through WPU Connect; only use the website you access by going to the textbook publisher’s website, at: [http://www.coursecompass.com/html/student\\_register.html](http://www.coursecompass.com/html/student_register.html))

The first page of the website is the Announcements page. This is where I will post my notes about each chapter, each week. This will guide your studies and explain concepts in more detail. You should read this Announcement each week. In addition to reading any announcements I may post, you will most often use the **Chapter Contents** tab on the left hand side of the site. In this tab, you will find the following:

**1) PowerPoint Slides:** Click here to access the PowerPoint Slides that accompany each chapter of your textbook. These are equivalent to ones that are used in in-class lectures. They are very useful in organizing the material, to take notes on while reading the text, and to use when studying.

**2) Audio Glossary:** Click here to look up definitions of new or unfamiliar terms and hear them read aloud.

**3) \*\*Multimedia Library:** Click here for a list of all the multimedia linked to the textbook. There are five categories of media: **Explore, Listen, Quick Review, Simulations, and Watch.** (This content can also be accessed through the **MULTIMEDIA LIBRARY** tab on the textbook Blackboard site.) You are required to watch this multimedia!

**\*\* For EACH chapter, you are required to spend at least 30 minutes in the multimedia section, watching the various videos, etc.\*\***

I will be looking at your average time per chapter at the end of the semester. So you can spend, say 25 minutes in one chapter one week, and then spend 35 minutes in another chapter, another week. **Keep track of your time!!** I can only run a report on your time at the end of the semester. If you do **NOT** spend the required time for each chapter, you will have **ONE** point deducted from your final grade for each chapter that was insufficient.

You can watch/use whatever multimedia you choose in order to help you understand chapter contents. The website will track your use and time spent and will report this to me (you do NOT have to email me any results). I will use this information in determining your final grade. If you spend the required time, you will not have any points deducted from your final grade. (The actual grades from any completed multimedia assignments that generate grades will NOT be used.)

**4) Grade Aid Study Guide.** This is an excellent resource to help you study! It contains chapter outlines of key concepts, and many practice tests. While use of this section is optional, it is strongly encouraged!

**5) Then there will be a list of each individual chapter. When you click on a chapter, you will see Pre and Post tests, an ONLINE VERSION of the textbook chapter, and the CHAPTER EXAM (only visible during the time period when it is due).**

#### **Pre and Post Tests and Study Plans for each chapter.**

Each chapter will have a chapter Pre-Test (before you read the chapter) and a chapter Post-Test (after you read the chapter) that will then generate a personal Study Plan that will describe what content areas you need to target your studying. Use of the Pre/Post tests and Study Plan is **OPTIONAL**, but **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED!!** (These are NOT the chapter exams that count towards your grade.)

**6) Chapter Exams.** Each chapter has an exam associated with it. These exams will be used to determine your final grade! (Don't confuse Chapter Exams with the above Chapter Pre-tests or Post-tests: Only the Chapter Exams count!)



You will only see the Chapter Exam icon when the exam is active (meaning the week we are covering that chapter.)

*Each exam will be worth 6% of your final grade (14 chapter exams @6% = 84% of final grade).*

You can only take, or attempt to take, each exam **ONCE!** Once you start an exam, you must finish it within the time limit (so go to the bathroom before you start!). Each exam is timed! Each exam will typically have 20-30 multiple choice questions. You have one minute for each question (e. g., if there are 25 questions, you will only have 25 minutes to complete the exam). Do not exceed the time limit, if you do, I will deduct one point for every minute.

**6) Accessing textbook content** can be done in two ways: You can access the textbook content either through the Chapter Contents tab or through the e-Book tab.

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### Course Requirements:

Your final grade will be determined by your performance in three areas:

- 1) Completion of a chapter exam after each assigned chapter in the text (exams must be completed by 11:55pm of each day).
- 2) Your active participation in an online Discussion Board (for assigned chapters, I will post a question and you must post your response online, where your fellow students will also be able to read and comment on your answers).
- 3) Points will be deducted if the required amount of time online in the Multimedia section is insufficient (see above.)

**1) Chapter Exams (84% of final grade):** You will be required to take an online chapter exam for each chapter as noted in the Course Schedule. Each chapter exam must be completed by 11:55pm of each day. There will be NO time extensions or makeup exams. Each of the 14 chapter exams will be worth 6% of your final grade, for a total of 84% of your final grade. *If you do not take an exam during the designated time period you will be given a zero. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS*

**2) Discussion Board Participation (16% of final grade):** You are required to actively participate in the course's online discussion board, by making **EIGHT (8)** posts throughout the semester (besides the post to chapter one, which is mandatory for everyone, and is not graded). Each post will count for up to two points, for a total of 16 points.

The textbook web site for this course (MyPsychLab/CourseCompass) includes a Discussion Board feature Tab. We will utilize this tool to expand upon issues raised during your reading of the textbook. You will have the opportunity, via the Discussion Boards, to interact with your fellow students and with me to discuss topics. For all of the assigned chapters in the textbook, there will be a discussion topic for each chapter initiated by me. You are required to publically post your comment/reaction/answer to 8 different chapter topics/questions in the Discussion Board, where I and your fellow classmates can read your comments. You are invited to become engaged with others in this class as you debate issues raised in the questions, examine and analyze personal examples related to the course content, and respond to the comments of your classmates to the questions posed on the Discussion Boards. At the end of the semester, I will review the input that you have given to these Discussion Board chapter questions and will award up to two points for each of the Discussion Board postings

that you have made over the course of the semester. The provision of points for your posting will be based on the quality of your post (see below).

There are 2 discussion boards – the first is the Chapter Discussion Board where you will find a question/topic for each chapter. This is the one where your responses will be graded at the end of the semester. I will not respond to each and every post but be assured that I'll be reading everything. I'll often comment at the end of the time period, once several people have posted. I believe that you have a lot to learn from each other and like to see how the flow progresses. You will get credit for timely and well-thought out and well-written comments. Your participation here is worth a substantial portion of your grade so don't think it's not a big deal – it is! Failure to participate in the Discussion Board will make it impossible to receive a grade higher than a "B" for the course!

The second board is the Student Lounge where you should post any questions you may have about the class. You should do this before emailing me since other students may also have similar questions and we can share information more freely this way, unless it is of a personal nature, then email me directly. I will respond to questions here and your classmates may answer as well. This is also your space to talk about anything you'd like – since you don't have the ability to chat before or after class, this will be your "lounge." (I will intervene if someone is being abusive, offensive or posts inappropriately.) You are permitted to begin discussion threads in this discussion area. Feel free to start your own threads on any topics that interest you. This is where you can interact with your fellow students in the class about any issues/topics/questions you have about the class. (Other than anything directly related to the chapter content Discussion Questions.)

- Each day you will find a new discussion thread in the Discussion Board Tab on the textbook website for that day's chapter. You must post/respond to by 11:55pm of that day. Posts will only be counted and graded if they are done on that day!
- You must post a response to the first thread (Chapter ONE), which is not graded.
- You MUST post responses to EIGHT (8) different discussion threads.
- Each of your posts will be worth up to two points each, for a total of 16% of your final grade.

**Only substantial contributions will count.** This means saying something like "I agree" or "I don't get the chapter on dissociative disorders" does not qualify as a contribution. You must address the question thoughtfully and show that you understand the concepts being discussed. You must also read the previous posts by other students! You should incorporate a response (can be a rebuttal or support) to what you have read in these posts. Typically, adequate posts are one or two paragraphs, around approximately 100-200 words, each. I will use the following guidelines to grade posts:

<b>Discussion Grading Rubric</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Provided complete comments &amp; explanations in an organized manner using complete sentences. <i>Was able to cogently respond to other students' posts and comments.</i> Complied with all Discussion Board requirements.</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Comments &amp; explanations were acceptable, writing was somewhat disorganized or incomplete. Did not attempt to discuss reactions to other students' comments/posts. Did not comply fully with Discussion Board requirements.</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Comments &amp; explanations were very limited; comments were not on target or incorrect.</b>	<b>0</b>

**How to calculate your grade: (Points deducted for insufficient multimedia usage time.)**

Chapter exams (14 exams @ 6 points each: 84%)  
Discussion Posts (8 posts @ 2 points each: 16%)

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**TOTAL SCORE = 100%**

Grading Scale:	A = 100 – 93	A - = 92 – 90
B+ = 89 – 87	B = 86 – 83	B - = 82 – 80
C+ = 79 – 77	C = 76 – 73	C - = 72 – 70
D+ = 69 – 67	D = 66 – 65	F = 64 – 0

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**Class Policies:**

**Personal responsibility:** You are expected to take personal responsibility for your learning in this class. This is done by: reading all required material, being prepared for discussions, and completing assignments. If you do not understand something, you need to take the initiative to post a question on the Student Lounge class discussion board and then contact me if you do not get a satisfactory answer. I am always happy to talk to students and am often able to suggest additional resources to support your learning efforts if needed.

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to abide by the University’s policy on Academic Honesty which is outlined on the WPUNJ website:  
[http://ww2.wpunj.edu/catalog/undergrad\\_2001\\_03/CatalogFront/AcademicRegulations.pdf](http://ww2.wpunj.edu/catalog/undergrad_2001_03/CatalogFront/AcademicRegulations.pdf).  
Cheating, plagiarism, collusion and lying are serious violations and students should understand fully what constitutes each. Students’ work is routinely checked to ensure that this policy is enforced. If you are unsure about any definitions or have questions, please ask before you take a chance!

**Contacting me:** You should post any questions you have about the class on the *Student Lounge Discussion Board*, unless it is of a personal nature. If you have a question that is personal in nature about your performance in the class, you may email me at [ninac@wpunj.edu](mailto:ninac@wpunj.edu). Please put “PSY 351 Online” in the subject line! I generally will answer emails on the same day (Monday thru Friday), but it may take up to 24 hours (not including Saturday or Sunday)!

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## Course Schedule

(December 26, 2009 to January 15, 2010; NO Class: Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010)

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter Covered and Chapter Exam Due</u> (due by 11:55pm of that day)
1	12/28/08	Chapter 1: Abnormal Psychology over time
2	12/29/08	Chapter 2: Causal factors
3	12/30/08	Chapter 3: Clinical Assessment
4	12/31/08	Chapter 4: Stress Disorders
5	01/04/10	Chapter 5: Panic/Anxiety
6	01/05/10	Chapter 6: Mood Disorders
7	01/06/10	Chapter 7: Somatoform/Dissociative
8	01/07/10	Chapter 8: Eating Disorders
9	01/08/10	Chapter 9: Personality Disorders
10	01/11/10	Chapter 10: Substance-Related Disorders
11	01/12/10	Chapter 11: Sexual Variants, Abuse, and Dysfunctions
12	01/13/10	Chapter 12: Schizophrenia & Psychotic Disorders
13	01/14/10	Chapter 13: Cognitive Disorders
14	01/15/10	Chapter 14: Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence