

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

**WINTER 2013 Session (Dec. 26, 2012 – Jan. 14, 2013)
Syllabus for
PSY 3510 Abnormal Psychology, Section 80 ONLINE (3 credits)**

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

Hello! Welcome to PSY 3510-80 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY ONLINE!

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 discussed. Whenever possible, discussions and assignments will include applied aspects of abnormal psychology so that students can relate theories and concepts into their own lives and experiences.

This is an online class, which means that we will not meet in a face-to-face class setting, ever. This course will be conducted totally online, in an asynchronous manner, which 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 any time, though there are specific deadlines for certain assignments that must be met, which will be explained in more detail below. You may log on and complete/submit your coursework whenever you choose, from wherever you choose, as long as it is received by 11:00pm (Eastern Standard Time) each day.

Typically, you will be covering one chapter per day, which includes: reading the assigned chapter, watching assigned videos online, completing a chapter exam, and answering a discussion post question. Submissions after deadlines will NOT be counted! There will be NO extensions of time limits/due dates! 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. Computer difficulties or problems with Internet access are not excuses for failing to log in to the course or meeting course deadlines.

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

Required text:

Comer, R. (2010). Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology, sixth edition, with PsychPortal. NY: Worth. (ISBN-13: 978-1-4292-6148-7)

Online Access:

We will NOT be using the WPU Blackboard website! Instead, we will be using the textbook publisher's website: PsychPortal!

You have two options to purchase the textbook and online access (*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*):

1) The textbook (a hard copy) with a PsychPortal online access activation code is available for purchase at the WPU bookstore.

OR

2) You can purchase an online edition of the textbook (complete eBook) with online access activation code (but with no actual hard copy of the text), at PsychPortal, which is at:

<http://courses.bfwpub.com/comerfund6e.php>

So, you should decide whether or not you want a hard copy of the textbook, and then follow the instructions in A or B:

A. To purchase a printed hard copy of the text book which comes bundled with access to PsychPortal, purchase a textbook through the WPU bookstore, then go to "A" below.

B. To purchase access to PsychPortal directly from the Publisher, which comes with a complete online edition of the textbook (but NO hard copy of the textbook, so you save \$\$), go to "B" below.

A. AFTER you PURCHASED A TEXTBOOK WITH AN ACCESS CODE FROM THE BOOKSTORE:

1. Go to: <http://courses.bfwpub.com/comerfund6e.php> then click on "**STUDENTS: REGISTER an Activation Code**"
2. Enter your Activation Code, your name, and e-mail address (ONLY use your WPU email!). Your email address will serve as your username for PsychPortal. Do not throw away your activation card until you've registered!
3. Create a password. Your password must be at least 4 characters long and should be something you will easily remember, since you will need it to access student materials in the future
4. Select the state (NJ) from the drop-down menu. Then, select our institution (WPU) and then our course (Abnormal Psychology ONLINE WINTER 2013 - Nina, C. M.).
5. **Click** and confirm your account information.
6. **Click** You are now registered and can begin using PsychPortal!

B. TO PURCHASE ONLINE TEXT w/ PSYCHPORTAL DIRECTLY FROM THE WEB SITE:

1. Go to: <http://courses.bfwpub.com/comerfund6e.php> then click on "**Students: PURCHASE access to PsychPortal**"
2. Select the state (NJ) from the drop-down menu. Then, select our institution (WPU) and then our course (Abnormal Psychology ONLINE WINTER 2013 - Nina, C. M.).
3. Complete the registration form, including your first and last name, and email address. Create a username and password for yourself that you easily remember for use throughout the term.
4. Enter your payment information including name as it appears on the credit card, card number, expiration date, and billing address. Click "Next" and confirm all account information.
5. Once you have confirmed payment and placed your order, you will see a screen that says "Thank You," and confirms your name, email address, username, and password. You will also receive an email confirming your account.

Course Requirements:

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

- 1) **Completion of a chapter exam after each assigned chapter in the text (exams must be completed within a certain time period, typically one per day/24 hours),**
- 2) **Your active participation in an online Discussion Board (for assigned chapters, I will post a question and you must post your response online in PsychPortal, where your fellow students will also be able to read and appropriately comment on your answers),**
- 3) **Completion of assigned online multimedia (watching videos).**

1) Chapter Exams (96% of final grade): You will be required to take an online chapter exam for each chapter as noted in the Course Schedule. There will be 16 chapter exams, each worth 6% towards your final grade, for a total of 96%.

We will cover one chapter per day, during the duration of the course, INCLUDING Saturdays & Sundays! (We will NOT be covering anything during the New Year's Eve weekend (Saturday 12/29/12 through Tuesday 01/01/13...Happy New Year!))

Each chapter exam must be completed by the assigned due date (they can be completed AT ANY TIME DURING THE DAY/24 HOURS WE ARE COVERING THE MATERIAL, but not later!). **You have until 11:00 pm each day to complete the chapter exam. THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS or EXTENSIONS!!**

You can only 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 25-30 multiple choice questions. You have approximately one minute for each question (e. g., if there are 25 questions, you will have 30 minutes to complete the exam).

Do not exceed the time limit, if you do, I will deduct one point for every minute you are over!

2) Discussion Board Participation (Points DEDUCTED for missed posts): You are required to actively participate in the course's online discussion board, by posting a response to a question I will post for each chapter. **You have until 11:00 pm of each day to complete the chapter discussion post.**

The textbook web site for this course includes a Discussion Board feature. 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 initiated by me. I will post a question each day and you MUST respond to this question. You are required to publically post your comment/reaction/answer to the 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 and debate the 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. You are required to read all posts by all students, and you should attempt to respond to these posts, as well.

At the end of the semester, I will review the responses to these Discussion Board chapter questions. If you do not respond or your response is inadequate, I will deduct one point for each occasion. Only substantial contributions will count. This means saying something like “I agree” or “I don’t get the chapter on learning” does not qualify as a contribution. You must address the question thoughtfully and show that you understand the concepts being discussed. Typically, adequate posts are at least six sentences (100 words) that organized into a coherent and organized response to the question and to other students’ posts.

There are 2 discussion boards:

1) 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 count towards your final grade. 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.

2) 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 the question is of a personal nature). 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 time to chat before or after class (a good way to get to know one another), 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 the 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.)

3) Videos (Points DEDUCTED for missed assignments).

In order to compensate for not having a face-to-face lecture, various multimedia/videos have been assigned for each of the chapters. You **MUST** complete these assignments. One point will be deducted from your final grade for each missed assignment. This work is listed in the “Assignments” tab on the website.

Class Policies:

How to calculate your grade:

- 1) Chapter exams (16 exams @ 6 points each: 96%)
- 2) Discussion Posts (1 point deducted from final grade for each missed post.)
- 3) Videos (1 point deducted from final grade for each missed assignment.)

Grading Scale:	A = 96 – 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

Respect: Mutual respect is necessary for productive learning. Respecting another person's opinion even if it differs from your own is essential for a constructive dialogue.

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, completing assignments, and being a team player. 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 an answer from a fellow student. I am always happy to talk to students and am often able 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

Contacting me: If you have a question about the class, you should first post it to the *Student Lounge Discussion Board* (unless it is of a personal nature). If you have a question that is personal in nature, you may email me at ninac@wpunj.edu. Please include "PSY 3510 WINTER 2013" 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)!

Recap of your responsibilities

Each DAY you MUST:

- ***Read the assigned chapter(s).***
- ***Read my "Announcement" for each chapter, which will guide your studies, explain confusing topics, and expand on chapter content, detail course requirements, etc.***
- ***Complete the assigned multimedia homework.***
- ***Post well thought out responses to the Chapter Discussion Board, by 11:00 pm.***
- ***Complete the chapter exam, by 11:00 pm.***

There are additional unassigned multimedia and pre- and post- practice tests that are optional, but I strongly encourage you to use these tools to improve your performance in the class.

Course Schedule WINTER 2013 Session
(12/26/12 – 01/14/13)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Exam/Post Due</u> (by 11:00pm)	<u>Chapter Covered</u>
1	12/26/12	Chapter 1: Introduction
1	12/27/12	Chapter 2: Models of Abnormality
1	12/28/12	Chapter 3: Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment
12/29/12 through 01/01/13		<i>No chapters or assignments due. Happy New Year!</i>
2	01/02/13	Chapter 4: Anxiety Disorders
2	01/03/13	Chapter 5: Stress Disorders
2	01/04/13	Chapter 6: Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders
2	01/05/13	Chapter 7: Mood Disorders
2	01/06/13	Chapter 8: Suicide
3	01/07/13	Chapter 9: Eating Disorders
3	01/08/13	Chapter 10: Substance Related Disorders
3	01/09/13	Chapter 11: Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders
3	01/10/13	Chapter 12: Schizophrenia
3	01/11/13	Chapter 13: Personality Disorders
3	01/12/13	Chapter 14: Disorders of Childhood
3	01/13/13	Chapter 15: Disorders of Aging and Cognition
4	01/14/13	Chapter 16: Law & Mental Health