

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

**WINTER 2015 Session (Dec. 22, 2014 – Jan. 11, 2015)  
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 to 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 10:59pm (Eastern Standard Time) each day of each week that there are assignments due.

Typically, each day, you will be reading a chapter in the textbook, watching videos online, answering a discussion post question for each chapter, and completing an exam for each chapter. 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 or Internet access difficulties are not excuses for failing to log in to the course or meeting course requirements or deadlines.

This is a Winter course, which means it is VERY INTENSIVE!!...even more intensive than a summer course! Typically, we will be covering one chapter per day, which includes: reading the assigned chapter, watching assigned videos online, answering a discussion post question, and completing a chapter exam. To do well in this course: *It is expected that you will spend three to six hours EACH DAY working on this course!*

**Our last day for this Winter 2015 course will be SUNDAY, January 11, 2015.**

**NO assignments are due on 12/24/14 & 12/25/14 and 12/31/14 & 01/01/15. HAPPY HOLIDAYS!  
But this necessities assignments being due on Saturdays, 12/27, 01/03, & 01/10 and Sunday, 01/11.**

**There are TWO chapters (Chapters 6 & 7) due on Tuesday, 12/30/14!**

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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-5 (the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition*, by the American Psychiatric Association)
  3. Understand the relationship between mental illness, culture, and the legal system
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## Required text:

**Comer, R. (2014). Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology, Seventh Edition, with *LaunchPad Online Access*. NY: Worth. (ISBN-13: 9781464189647)**

\*\* You must buy the Seventh Edition of the *Fundamentals* Edition! The DSM was recently updated from DSM-IV-TR to DSM-5. The new edition includes these changes; older editions do not! Also, do not buy the Eight Edition of Comer's full-text, *Abnormal Psychology*; we are using the shorter version, *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology, Seventh Edition*. It must include a *LaunchPad Online Access Code*!

## Online Access:

We will NOT be using the WPU Blackboard website! Instead, we will be using the textbook Publisher's website: **LaunchPad**. This site is not optimized for use on a tablet or mobile smartphone. While you can read the textbook from these devices, do not attempt to take exams or post discussion responses from a mobile smartphone or tablet; you should use a laptop or desktop computer.

**You have TWO options to purchase the textbook with online access. If you want to save money and do not need a hard copy of the textbook, you can just buy online access, which comes with just an online edition (eBook) of the textbook (see option #2).**

*Be careful about buying a used text! It probably will not include access to the publisher's website, LaunchPad, which you will then ALSO have to buy.*

**1) You can purchase a HARD COPY of the textbook with a 180-day online access activation code to LaunchPad, from the WPU bookstore. After you have done this, go to:**

<http://www.worthpublishers.com/launchpad/comerfund7e>

- Then click on “**STUDENTS, New User? Enter Your Student Access Code**”
- ENTER Access Code: **1158607**
- ONLY use your **WPU** email!

**OR**

**2) You can purchase an ONLINE eBook of the textbook, which includes 180-day online access (*but with NO actual hard copy of the text!*), at LaunchPad (which costs less than buying the hard copy). To purchase an online text with access to LaunchPad, go to:**

<http://www.worthpublishers.com/launchpad/comerfund7e>

- Then click on “**Students: PURCHASE Access.**”
- ENTER Access Code: **1158607**
- ONLY use your **WPU** email!

## LaunchPad TECH SUPPORT Telephone Number: **1-877-587-6534**

The textbook's website, LaunchPad, has excellent Tech Support! If you can't log in or have any difficulties with the site during the course, do not hesitate to call them! Their hours of operation are: **Mon-Thurs:** 9:00 AM-3:00 AM, **Fri:** 9:00 AM-11:00 PM, **Sat:** 11:30 AM-8:00 PM, **Sun:** 11:30 AM-11:30 PM

If you cannot initially afford to buy the textbook or website access at the start of the course, you can get **FREE TEMPORARY** access to the course! Temporary access allows students to register for and work inside the course for **17 days**, which gives you time to purchase the book from the bookstore or online access from the LaunchPad web site. To do so, follow the instructions above for purchasing online access for your specific section (#2), then click on the "**TEMPORARY ACCESS**" button.

\*PLEASE NOTE: When you're ready to purchase the text or online access or when your temporary access has expired, you will need to go through the account creation process again. You **MUST** enter **EXACTLY** the same first name, last name, email address, and password that you used to create your temporary account. Doing so will ensure that the work you have already completed remains associated with your account and the course.

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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.**
- 2) Your active participation in an online Discussion Board (for each assigned chapter, I will post a question and you **MUST** create and post your response online).**
- 3) Completion of assigned online multimedia (watching videos).**

**1) Chapter Exams:** 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 typically cover one chapter per day. All chapter exams must be completed by the assigned due date, by **10:59 pm**. They can be completed **AT ANY TIME DURING THE TIME PERIOD WE ARE COVERING THE MATERIAL**, but not later!). **THERE ARE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS or TIME EXTENSIONS!! There are NO EXTRA-CREDIT assignments!**

You can only 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 a little more than 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 go over.

***Do not assume that you do not need to read the textbook because you can just quickly look up the answers in the textbook while you are taking the exam! The order of the questions are scrambled, and do not follow the order in the textbook, so there is insufficient time to look through all the pages to do this. Also, I tend to ask questions that require you to think about what you have read. You will need to analyze, synthesize/compare, and evaluate the information you have read on the chapter exams!***

**2) Discussion Board Participation (ONE Point DEDUCTED for each missed post):** You are required to actively participate in the course's online discussion board, by creating and posting a response to a question for EACH chapter. **You have until 10:59 pm of each day to complete the chapter discussion posts.** One point will be deducted from your final grade for each missed or inadequate post. Late posts will not count.

LaunchPad includes a Discussion Board feature. We will utilize this tool to expand upon issues raised during your reading of the textbook, by engaging in an online discussion with your fellow students. You will have the opportunity, via the Discussion Board, to interact with your fellow students and with me to discuss topics. You are required to publically post your comment/reaction/answer to the different chapter topics/questions and the posts by your fellow students, in the Discussion Board, where I and your fellow classmates can read your comments.

**In addition to your response to the discussion question, you are required to read all posts by all students, and you are required to respond to some of these posts; replying to one or two posts by fellow students, per chapter is sufficient.** You are invited to become engaged with other students in this class. Feel free to debate issues raised in the questions, examine and analyze personal examples related to the course content, and respond to the comments of your classmates. (Be nice: no personal attacks! 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.)

At the end of the semester, I will review your 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 dissociation" 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 (200 words) that are organized into a coherent and cogent response to the question and to other students' posts.

**3) Multimedia (ONE Point DEDUCTED for each missed assignment).**

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 before you take the chapter exam. One point will be deducted from your final grade for each missed assignment or a score of zero. Each multimedia assignment has a few questions (typically five questions) at the end of them. You should attempt to answer them to your best of your abilities; but the scores on these assignments do not count. You just need to score at least one point to get credit for the assignment.

**How to calculate your grade:**

1) **EXAMS: Chapter exams (16 exams @ 6 points each: 96%). Your final grade is based entirely upon your performance on the chapter exams! Discussion Posts and Multimedia assignments do not add to your grade; they only subtract from your grade if they are not completed.**

2) **Discussion Posts (Adequate completion counts 0% towards final grade. 1 point deducted from final grade for each missed or inadequate post.)**

3) **Multimedia (Adequate completion counts 0% towards final grade. 1 point deducted from final grade for each missed or zero score assignment.)**

<b>Grading Scale:</b>	<b>A = 96.00 – 93.00</b>	<b>A - = 92.99 – 90.00</b>
<b>B+ = 89.99 – 87.00</b>	<b>B = 86.99 – 83.00</b>	<b>B - = 82.99 – 80.00</b>
<b>C+ = 79.99 – 77.00</b>	<b>C = 76.99 – 73.00</b>	<b>C - = 72.99 – 70.00</b>
<b>D+ = 69.99 – 67.00</b>	<b>D = 66.99 – 65.00</b>	<b>F = 64.99 – 0</b>

### **To do well in this class:**

I find that some students do not do as well in online courses because they do not have an actual face to face lecture to highlight and reinforce concepts. One way to deal with this is to actually read the chapter *twice*! Read it once without taking notes, and then read it again, this time taking notes.

This course requires the learning of basic concepts about abnormal psychology, which the multiple choice exams measure. I do not believe providing the opportunity for extra credit assignments would allow for accurately measuring whether or not you have mastered the learning of these concepts. Therefore, there are NO extra credit assignments.

**Personal responsibility:** You are expected to take personal responsibility for your learning in this class. There are additional unassigned multimedia and pre- and post- practice tests (Launch Curve) that are optional, but I strongly encourage you to use these tools to improve your performance in the class. If you do not understand something, you need to take the initiative to contact me. I am always happy to talk to students by telephone, in order to assist your learning.

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to abide by the University's policy on Academic Honesty which is outlined here: <https://webapps.wpunj.edu/catalog/front.cfm?section=ARR>

**Contacting me:** If you have a question about the class, please feel free to contact me!

- Email me at: [ninac@wpunj.edu](mailto:ninac@wpunj.edu)
- Include "PSY 3510" in the subject line
- I answer emails the same day, in the early morning or late evening, but it may take up to 24 hours.
- **Please use proper spelling/grammar, and start by addressing me as either Dr. or Prof. Nina.**
- **Please include *your full name in the email.***

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**Recap of your responsibilities: Each day, by 10:59 pm, you MUST:**

- ***Read my "Announcement" for each chapter, which is equivalent to an in-class lecture. It will guide your studies, explain confusing topics, expand on chapter content, and explain course requirements, etc.***
  - ***Read the assigned Chapter(s)***
  - ***Complete the assigned Multimedia Homework***
  - ***Post well thought out responses to the Chapter Discussion Board Topic(s)***
  - ***Read all of the responses to the discussion question by your fellow students and respond to one or two of them, each week***
  - ***Complete the Chapter Exam(s)***
  - ***We will be covering one chapter per day, EXCEPT DAY #6, when we will be covering TWO chapters***
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**Course Schedule WINTER 2015 Session**  
**(12/22/14 – 01/11/15)**

Our last day for this Winter 2015 course will be SUNDAY, January 11, 2015.

NO assignments are due on 12/24/14 & 12/25/14 and 12/31/14 & 01/01/15. *HAPPY HOLIDAYS!*  
But this necessities assignments being due on Saturdays, 12/27, 01/03, & 01/10 and Sunday, 01/11.

There are TWO chapters (Chapters 6 & 7) due on Tuesday, 12/30/14!

<b><u>DAY</u></b>	<b><u>Exam/Post Due</u></b> <b>(by 10:59pm)</b>	<b><u>Chapter Covered</u></b>
1	MON 12/22/14	Chapter 1: Abnormal Psychology: Past and Present
2	TUES 12/23/14	Chapter 2: Models of Abnormality
3	FRI 12/26/14	Chapter 3: Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Tx
4	SAT 12/27/14	Chapter 4: Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders
5	MON 12/29/14	Chapter 5: Disorders of Trauma and Stress
6	TUES 12/30/14	Chapter 6: Disorders of Mood & Chapter 7: Suicide [Two chapters due today!]
7	FRI 01/02/15	Chapter 8: Disorders featuring Somatic Symptoms
8	SAT 01/03/15	Chapter 9: Eating Disorders
9	MON 01/05/15	Chapter 10: Substance Use and Addictive Disorders
10	TUES 01/06/15	Chapter 11: Disorders of Sex and Gender
11	WED 01/07/15	Chapter 12: Schizophrenia
12	THUR 01/08/15	Chapter 13: Personality Disorders
13	FRI 01/09/15	Chapter 14: Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence
14	SAT 01/10/15	Chapter 15: Disorders of Aging and Cognition
15	SUN 01/11/15	Chapter 16: Law, Society, and Mental Health