

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

WINTER 2016 Session
(December 26, 2015 – January 14, 2016)

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, and answering a discussion post question for each chapter. Every three or four days there will be an exam. 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, and answering a discussion post question. To do well in this course: *It is expected that you will spend three to six hours EACH DAY working on this course! There will be no assignments due on New Year's Eve (Thursday, 12/31/15). Otherwise, there are assignments due every day, including WEEKENDS!*

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

Required text:

Comer, R. (2014). Abnormal Psychology, Ninth Edition, with LaunchPad Online Access. NY: Worth. (ISBN-13: 978-1-319-01711-8)

Online Access:

We will NOT be using the WPU Blackboard website! Instead, we will be using the textbook Publisher's website: **LaunchPad**. You can use any Internet browser (Chrome, Safari, Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc.).

You will NOT be able to access LaunchPad for this course until Saturday, DECEMBER 19, 2015!! [Our course does not officially start until Saturday, December 26, 2015.]

You have TWO options to purchase the textbook with online access:

- 1) You can purchase a hard copy of the textbook from the WPU Bookstore, which comes with online access to LaunchPad, for \$229;
- 2) OR you can purchase 6 months of ONLINE access to LaunchPad which includes an online eBook of the textbook (NO actual hard copy of the textbook) for \$84.99.

If you want to save money and do not need a hard copy of the textbook, you can just buy online access, which includes an online edition (eBook) of the textbook (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, for \$84.99.

If you cannot initially afford to buy the textbook or website access, you can get **FREE TEMPORARY** access to the course! Temporary access allows students to register for and work inside the course site for **17 days**, before you must buy the textbook or website access.

To access LaunchPad, go to:

<http://www.macmillanhighered.com/launchpad/comerabpsych9e/2671754>

Enroll in our course using one of the following options:

- A) If you have an access code from BUYING the textbook from the WPU Bookstore, select "I have a student access code," enter the code, and click Submit.
- B) If you do not have an access code and need to PURCHASE online access, click "I want to purchase access" and follow the instructions.
- C) If you need to enter the course, but cannot purchase access right away, select "I want TEMPORARY access" and follow the instructions.

If you have any problems registering, purchasing, or logging into LaunchPad, please contact their Customer Support, by calling (800) 936-6899. A live representative is available from 9 am to 3 am EST, 7 days a week. They are very helpful! (And know more about accessing the site than me!)

Course Requirements:

We will typically cover one chapter per day! (Our day starts at 9am and ends at 10:59pm.) Each day:

- 1) I will post a daily **Announcement**, which is equivalent to an in-class lecture, where that week's chapter topic is discussed.
- 2) I will assign various multimedia (videos and simulations) for you to watch. The multimedia for the entire semester will be selected and available to you to watch at any time during the semester (though they must be completed by 10:59pm Friday of the day in which we are covering that chapter; they can be completed earlier!).
- 3) I will post a discussion question each day. You must answer/reply to my question by 10:59pm. You must also read all of the replies by your fellow students, and reply to two or three of them, also by 11:59pm, each day.
- 4) There will be five exams. Each exam will cover 3 to 5 chapters each, as noted in the course schedule (see below).

To recap, your final grade will be determined by your performance in **three areas**:

- 1) Completion of five **Exams**.
- 2) Your active participation in a DAILY online **Discussion Board** (for each assigned chapter, I will post a question and you **MUST** create and post your responses online).
- 3) Completion of DAILY assigned online **Multimedia** (watching videos).

1) Exams

You are required to take FIVE (5) online exams as noted in the Course Schedule. Each exam is worth 20% towards your final grade, for a total of 100%. Each exam will cover 3 to 5 chapters, as noted in the course schedule (see below).

All exams must be completed on the assigned due dates. They will become available at 9am, and they are due by 10:59 pm of the day they are assigned and available: 12/30/15, 01/04/16, 01/08/16, 01/11/16, & 01/14/16.

You can only start/take each exam only ONCE! Each exam is timed! Once you start an exam, you must finish it within the time limit in one sitting (so go to the bathroom before you start!). Each exam will typically have 60 multiple choice questions and you will have 75 minutes to complete it). Do not exceed the time limit; I will deduct one point for every minute over.

Do NOT leave the exam until 11pm in the evening and then contact me saying you could not complete it because you did not have internet access, etc.! THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS or TIME EXTENSIONS!!

Finally, there are NO EXTRA-CREDIT assignments! The grades on these exams matter a great deal, so be prepared!

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 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

LaunchPad includes a Discussion Board feature. We will use this tool to discuss 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. I will post a question at 9am each day. You are required to publically post your comment/reaction/answer to the question, by 10:59pm. Also you are required to read all of the posts by your fellow students and publically reply/respond to two or three of them each day, by 10:59pm. One point will be deducted from your final grade for each missed or inadequate post. Late posts will not count.

In addition to your response to the discussion question, you are required to read all posts by your fellow classmates, and you are required to respond to some of these posts; typically replying to two or three posts by fellow students, each week is sufficient; though you can reply to more if you wish. One point will be deducted if you fail to read and reply to the other posts each day, by 10:59pm.

You are invited to become engaged with other students in this class by reading the posts of your fellow classmates and commenting on them, as to whether you agree or disagree with their comments *and why*. 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 responses are inadequate, I will deduct one point for each occasion. Only substantial contributions will count. This means saying something like "I agree" or "I like the chapter on XYZ" does not qualify as a contribution. You must address the question thoughtfully and show that you have read my daily Announcement and the textbook chapter, and understand the concepts being discussed. Typically, adequate posts to the discussion question 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

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 **EACH** day by 10:59 pm. (You can **NOT** leave all of these assignments until just before each exam.) Some multimedia assignments have a few 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. Videos without questions must be watched to the end to receive full credit. One point will be deducted from your final grade for each missed or incomplete assignment or a score of zero.

How to calculate your grade:

- 1) **EXAMS:** Each exam is worth 20 points (5 exams @ 20 points each = 100%). 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 adequately completed.
- 2) **Discussion Posts** (Adequate completion counts 0% towards final grade. 1 point deducted from final grade for each missed or inadequate post, or failure to read and respond to posts by other students in the class.)
- 3) **Multimedia** (Adequate completion counts 0% towards final grade. 1 point deducted from final grade for each missed or zero score assignment.)

Grading Scale:	A = 100.00 – 93.00	A - = 92.99 – 90.00
B+ = 89.99 – 87.00	B = 86.99 – 83.00	B - = 82.99 – 80.00
C+ = 79.99 – 77.00	C = 76.99 – 73.00	C - = 72.99 – 70.00
D+ = 69.99 – 67.00	D = 66.99 – 65.00	F = 64.99 – 0

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 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, called **Launch Curve** on the website 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.

Contacting me:

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

- Email me at: ***ninac@wpunj.edu***
- Include “PSY 3510” in the subject line.
- Please include your full name in the body of the email.
- Please address me as either Dr. Nina or Prof. Nina.

I generally answer emails in the early morning or late evening, but it may take up to 24 hours to respond. I am a licensed clinical psychologist, with a full time private practice in Manhattan, so I’m not typically available to respond to emails during the middle of the day.

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>

Recap of your responsibilities:

Each DAY, by 10:59 pm, you MUST:

1. Read my “Announcement” for each chapter. It will guide your studies, explain confusing topics, expand on chapter content, etc.
2. Read the assigned Chapter
3. Complete the assigned Multimedia Homework
4. Post a well thought out response to the Chapter Discussion Board Question
5. Read all of the responses to the discussion question by your fellow students and respond to two or three of them
6. Complete the FIVE REQUIRED EXAMS by 10:59pm:
 - a. **EXAM # 1: Due ON 12/30/15; covers Chapters 1-5.**
 - b. **EXAM # 2: Due ON 01/04/16; covers Chapters 6-9.**
 - c. **EXAM # 3: Due ON 01/08/16; covers Chapters 10-13.**
 - d. **EXAM # 4: Due ON 01/11/16; covers Chapters 14-16.**
 - e. **EXAM # 5: Due ON 01/14/16; covers Chapters 17-19.**

Course Schedule WINTER 2016 Session (12/26/15 – 01/14/16)
NO assignments are due on 12/31/15. HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE!

Remember, the Discussion Posts & Multimedia assignments are due DAILY!
Each DAY starts at 9am and ends at 10:59pm.

Exams are available and due on the one day listed for each exam.

They will be available to take any time from 9am to 10:59pm.

You must complete exams by 10:59pm.

They are typically 75 minutes in length. So you should START exams no later than 9:30pm.

<u>DAY</u>	<u>Assignments</u> <u>Due by 10:59pm</u>	<u>Chapter Covered</u>
1:	12/26/15	Chapter 1: Abnormal Psychology: Past and Present
2:	12/27/15	Chapter 2: Research in Abnormal Psychology
3:	12/28/15	Chapter 3: Models of Abnormality
4:	12/29/15	Chapter 4: Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment
5:	12/30/15	Chapter 5: Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders

EXAM # 1: Due ON 12/30/15; covers Chapters 1-5. (Available from 9am to 10:59pm)

[No Assignments due on 12/31/15] HAPPY NEW YEAR!

6:	01/01/16	Chapter 6: Disorders of Trauma and Stress
7:	01/02/16	Chapter 7: Depressive and Bipolar Disorders
8:	01/03/16	Chapter 8: Treatments for Depressive and Bipolar Disorders
9:	01/04/16	Chapter 9: Suicide

EXAM # 2: Due ON 01/04/16; covers Chapters 6-9. (Available from 9am to 10:59pm)

10:	01/05/16	Chapter 10: Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms
11:	01/06/16	Chapter 11: Eating Disorders
12:	01/07/16	Chapter 12: Substance Use and Addictive Disorders
13:	01/08/16	Chapter 13: Disorders of Sex and Gender

EXAM # 3: Due ON 01/08/16; covers Chapters 10-13. (Available from 9am to 10:59pm)

- 14: 01/09/16 **Chapter 14: Schizophrenia**
- 15: 01/10/16 **Chapter 15: Treatment of Schizophrenia & Severe Mental Disorders**
- 16: 01/11/16 **Chapter 16: Personality Disorders**

EXAM # 4: Due ON 01/11/16; covers Chapters 14-16. (Available from 9am to 10:59pm)

- 17: 01/12/16 **Chapter 17: Disorders Common among Childhood and Adolescence**
- 18: 01/13/16 **Chapter 18: Disorders of Aging and Cognition**
- 19: 01/14/16 **Chapter 19: Law & Mental Health**

EXAM # 5: Due ON 01/14/16; covers Chapters 17-19. (Available from 9am to 10:59pm)
