

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

**WINTER 2014 Session (Dec. 26, 2013 – Jan. 14, 2014)  
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 day or 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 11:55pm (Eastern Standard Time) each day.

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!*

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 meet course deadlines.

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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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**Required text:**

**Comer, R. (2013). Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology, Seventh Edition, WITH PsychPortal Access Card. Worth Publishers. ISBN-10: 1-4641-4848-1. ISBN-13: 978-1-4641-4848-4.**

**\*\*You must make sure that the text you buy includes the Access Card to the textbook website, PsychPortal. (*be careful about buying a used text; it probably will not include access to the textbook's website, which you will then also have to buy*).**

**\*\* Also, you must buy the Seventh Edition of the Fundamentals edition! The DSM (Diagnostic Manual which lists mental disorders) was updated this past summer from DSM-IV-TR to DSM-5. The new edition includes these changes; older editions do not!**

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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: PsychPortal. You have two options to purchase the text with online access (*If you want to save money, you should choose option 2*):

1) The textbook (a hard copy) with a PsychPortal online access activation code is available for purchase at the WPU bookstore. The cost is \$181.25.

OR

2) You can purchase (a 6 month rental) an online access activation code to the textbook's website, PsychPortal, which includes an online edition of the textbook (complete eBook), *but no actual hard copy of the text*. The cost is \$59.99. You can do so at PsychPortal, which is at:

<http://courses.bfwpub.com/comerfund7e.php>

**To purchase the textbook/website access, decide whether or not you want a hard copy of the text, 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 go to the WPU bookstore, then go to "A" below.

B. To purchase access to PsychPortal directly from the Publisher, which comes only with an online eBook of the textbook (you do NOT get a hard copy of the textbook, so you save \$\$), go to "B" below.

**A. AFTER YOU PURCHASE A TEXTBOOK WITH AN ACCESS CODE FROM THE BOOKSTORE:**

1. Go to: <http://courses.bfwpub.com/comerfund7e.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 2014 – Nina), and then the section (Section 80).
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/comerfund7e.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 2014 - Nina), and then the section (Section 80).
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.

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***\*\* Please note that the PsychPortal website can only be accessed correctly by using either Internet Explorer or Firefox. It does not support Safari or Chrome or other web browsers!\*\****

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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 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 are required to take an online chapter exam for each chapter as noted in the Course Schedule. We are covering 16 chapters. Your final grade is based on these 16 exams (each worth 6 points, 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 on New Year's Eve (Tues 12/31/13 ...my gift to you!) ***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 11:55 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 11:55 pm of each day to complete the 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 required to read all posts by all students, and you should attempt to respond to these posts, as well. 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.

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 what you're saying" 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 and me about any issues/topics/questions you have about the class. (Other than anything directly related to the chapter content Discussion Questions.)

**3) MULTIMEDIA (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. **You have until 11:55 pm of each day to complete the assigned multimedia.**

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## **Class Policies:**

**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](mailto:ninac@wpunj.edu). Please include "PSY 3510 WINTER 2014" in the subject line! I generally will answer emails on the same day, but it may take up to 12 hours! You can address me either as Dr. Nina or Prof. Nina.

**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](http://ww2.wpunj.edu/catalog/undergrad_2001_03/CatalogFront/AcademicRegulations.pdf)

**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.

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### **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) Multimedia (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

Your grade is entirely based on your scores on the Chapter Exams, unless you fail to complete any discussion posts or multimedia; then points will be deducted. Completing posts and multimedia will NOT ADD to your final grade, only subtract from it if you do not complete them all!

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### **Recap of your responsibilities**

#### **Each DAY you MUST:**

- *Read my "Announcement" for each chapter, which will guide your studies, explain confusing topics, and expand on chapter content, detail course requirements, etc.*
- *Read the assigned chapter.*
- *Complete the assigned multimedia homework, by 11:55 pm.*
- *Post a well thought out response to the Chapter Discussion question, by 11:55 pm.*
- *Complete the chapter exam, by 11:55 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.

The "Course Materials" tab in PsychPortal is where you will find a tremendous amount of OPTIONAL material that will help you learn the material from the textbook, including: Crossword Puzzles, Flashcards, and Web Based Case Simulations, etc. I have assigned some of this material (Videos), which you will find in the next tab, "Assignment Center." There is much more material here that I have not assigned, so feel free to browse through this material to help you learn the material.

-The "Assignment Center" tab is where you will find all of the REQUIRED work that you MUST complete, including the Chapter Exams and the Multimedia. Each DAY there will be a chapter exam due, plus multimedia, which includes watching online videos. EVERYTHING that is assigned here MUST be completed! Please be aware that this material must be completed by the assigned "Due Dates." The assigned multimedia will help you learn the material, and do better on the exams, so I encourage you to view all the multimedia BEFORE you take the chapter exam!

**Course Schedule WINTER 2014 Session**  
**(12/26/13 – 01/11/14)**

<b><u>DAY</u></b>	<b><u>Exam/Post Due</u></b> <b>(by 11:55pm)</b>	<b><u>Chapter Covered</u></b>
1	Thurs 12/26/13	Chapter 1: Abnormal Psychology: Past and Present
2	Fri 12/27/13	Chapter 2: Models of Abnormality
3	Sat 12/28/13	Chapter 3: Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Tx
4	Sun 12/29/13	Chapter 4: Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders
5	Mon 12/30/13	Chapter 5: Disorders of Trauma and Stress
	Tues 12/31/13	<i>No chapters or assignments due! Happy New Year!</i>
6	Wed 01/01/14	Chapter 6: Disorders of Mood
7	Thurs 01/02/14	Chapter 7: Suicide
8	Fri 01/03/14	Chapter 8: Disorders featuring Somatic Symptoms
9	Sat 01/04/14	Chapter 9: Eating Disorders
10	Sun 01/05/14	Chapter 10: Substance Use and Addictive Disorders
11	Mon 01/06/14	Chapter 11: Disorders of Sex and Gender
12	Tues 01/07/14	Chapter 12: Schizophrenia
13	Wed 01/08/14	Chapter 13: Personality Disorders
14	Thurs 01/09/14	Chapter 14: Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence
15	Fri 01/10/14	Chapter 15: Disorders of Aging and Cognition
16	Sat 01/11/14	Chapter 16: Law, Society, and Mental Health