



CLP 3144 Abnormal Psychology

Section: 4024

M,T,W,R,F 9:30AM-10:45AM

Instructor: Rachel Leder, M.S., M.S.W.

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Summer B In-person  
Classroom: CSE - E121

Office Hours: By appointment

**Course Purpose:** This course aims to increase understanding of theoretical foundations, assessment, and treatment of psychopathology. This will involve gaining basic knowledge of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5-TR (DSM-5-TR) used to classify a wide range of specific psychotic, cognitive, behavioral, emotional, and developmental disorders and current research and treatment approaches. Students are also expected to understand the cultural and societal contexts of psychopathology and to develop a critical lens in exploring the impact of such contexts. Lastly, students are expected to apply their learning to the real world.

Abnormal Psychology is an introductory course that provides broad coverage of mental health issues that rise to the level of psychiatric disorders (e.g., psychopathology). Disorders covered this semester include anxiety, depression, psychosis, personality disorders, and many more. This class is not just a mundane list of symptoms and characteristics of different psychiatric disorders. You will develop critical thinking skills applied to psychological assessment, diagnosis, and treatment plans/therapeutic interventions that promote empathy and understanding rather than just labeling.

### Learning Objectives:

During this course, students will learn to:

- Understand psychopathology and its impact on human behavior
- Summarize the processes of psychological assessment and diagnosis
- Identify symptoms and features commonly associated with diagnostic categories of mental health disorders
- Evaluate ethical, legal, and professional issues in the diagnosis, treatment, and study of abnormal psychology
- Critique the reliability and validity of diagnostic criteria listed in the DSM-5
- Examine psychopathology from varying theoretical perspectives

### Recommended Textbook:

Raskin, J.D. (2019). *Abnormal psychology: Contrasting perspectives* (1<sup>st</sup> ed).  
Bloomsbury Academic.

**Course Structure** (*Adapted from Brittany Bridges, M.S. & Julio Martin, M.S.Ed.,M.S.*):

**Online Quizzes (50% of overall course grade):** There will be four (4) online quizzes throughout the course that will be posted on Canvas. All quizzes count toward your overall course grade. These quizzes are designed to prompt your thinking about the topics/concepts covered in the textbook and lecture. The quizzes vary depending on the topics covered that week and will be in multiple-choice format. The quizzes are designed to reinforce content learned throughout the semester available to you via PowerPoint presentations.

**General Reflections (10% of the overall course grade).** Each week (with the exception of week #1 and week #6), students will submit reflection papers prior to the start of class on the assignment due date. These reflection papers must be at least 1 page and I ask that you try to keep them to no longer than 2 pages, double-spaced. Given that these reflection papers may be personal in nature, there is not a specific format that these should be in, feel free to write using the format that works best for you. These reflection papers will provide the opportunity for students to apply their learning to their personal understanding and the world in an authentic and meaningful way (e.g., students may reflect on how what they've learned in the class impacts how they understand themselves, others, the idea of functionality and how this impacts how people are able to navigate the world).

**Pathology Paper (20% of overall course grade).** This assignment aims to analyze your critical understanding of Western (ab)normality and its social implications. You are asked to find a fictional character from a movie, book, or TV show that technically meets criteria for one or more psychological disorders in the DSM V-TR. Using this character, write NO MORE than 4 pages (anything over will be deducted 5 points for each additional page), double-spaced, using Times New Roman size 12 font, and 1-inch page margins (excluding references). Please review the more detailed rubric on canvas. A general outline of what I am looking for:

- i. A brief biography of the character including any personal and social identities they hold
- ii. A critical understanding of what is going on in the character's life at the personal, interpersonal, and systemic levels
- iii. The “symptoms” the character is exhibiting.
- iv. A summary of the DSM-V-TR diagnosis(es) that have specified criteria met from these “symptoms.”
- v. In your opinion, discuss how this character’s lived experiences and social identities may have impacted their psychopathology and vice versa

vi. Prognosis and treatment recommendations from both a DSM (medical) lens and a multicultural (sociocultural) lens, using APA style references.

**Attendance & Participation (10% of overall course grade):** Successful completion of this course requires *regular and active participation* in class prompts, reflections, and activities. Lectures and activities will clarify and expand upon information provided in your textbooks. Every Friday students will complete a group activity that will count towards their participation grade (2 points each Friday). Requirements for class attendance and related work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**Psychology Research Experience (10% of overall course grade):**

#### **Option 1: Participate in Research Experiments**

- Taking part in the Department of Psychology Participant Pool allows students to directly experience ongoing psychological research. For this option, **you will complete 10 credits (4 hours)** of participation in psychological research studies.
- When you complete the research experience, you will receive 10 points that are added into your final grade. If you do NOT complete the full number of credits by the deadline, you will receive points at a rate of 1 point per credit completed.
- You must be at least 18 years old to complete Option 1. If you are not 18 years old you must complete Option 2. Students who will turn 18 during the semester may choose to complete Option 1 after their birthday but are strongly encouraged to complete Option 2 to ensure they complete the research requirement.

#### **Option 2: Critical Analysis Papers**

- Participating in research is a valuable component of understanding the science of psychology. However, students who prefer not to participate in research or do not meet the requirements for selecting Option 1 can select Option 2 as an alternative.
- For this option, you must read two scientific research articles from the approved list of articles provided to you by your professor. You must submit 1 critical analysis paper per scientific article (2 papers total).

**Late Work:** You will have 48 hours to complete the online quizzes posted each Friday after class (until Sunday 11:59pm), quizzes will automatically close Sundays at midnight. To receive credit for reflection papers, these must be submitted each Wednesday by 11:59pm.

#### **Grading**

Your final grade will be calculated by your performance on quizzes, your reflections, your final paper and your overall participation in the class. Letter grades will be assigned according to the grading scale below.

**Online Quizzes – 50%**

**Psychology Research Experience- 10%**

**Reflections – 10%**

**Attendance/Participation 10%**

**Final Paper - 20%**

**Total – 100%**

A	=	93 – 100%			
A-	=	90 – 92.9%	C-	=	70 – 72%
B+	=	87 – 89.9%	D+	=	67 – 69.9%
B	=	83 – 86.9%	D	=	63- 66.9%
B-	=	80 – 82.9%	D-	=	60 – 62.9%
C+	=	77 – 79.9%	E	=	0 – 59.9%
C	=	73 – 76.9%			

**Academic Misconduct:** Cheating is defined in the UF Handbook, and it is the student’s responsibility to be familiar with its many forms (including plagiarism). If a student is caught cheating, the first offense will result in a zero for that exam or assignment and a record of the event will be placed in a temporary file with the Office of Student Affairs. The second offense will result in an ‘E’ for the course, and the student will go before the Honor Court. As a result of completing registration at UF, every student has agreed to the following statement: *I understand that UF expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University.*” So...don’t cheat.

**Disabled Student Policy:** The university provides accommodations to students with disabilities that may affect the ability to participate in activities or to meet course requirements. If you are a student with a disability and would like to request disability-related accommodation, please contact the Disability Resource Center (and me) as early in the semester as possible. The DRC is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 392-8565. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting [disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started](http://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

***Be sure to contact me as soon as possible and be assured these conversations will be held in strict confidence.***

**U Matter, We Care:** Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor are available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the other helping resources available including Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1.

**Course Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

**Canvas:** This entire course is administered via the Canvas platform (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>; click “**Canvas Login**”). We’ll be using Canvas heavily to supplement our in-class meetings throughout the semester. Each student must become familiar with this software and ***check the course web site on a regular basis*** because important class updates and announcements will be posted online. You will be responsible for all class announcements posted on canvas.

**CLP3144 Abnormal Psychology – Summer B Class Schedule**

Class Date	Topic	Assignments	Reading
Week 1 (July 1 <sup>st</sup> - 5th)	Course Introduction	Fill out course introduction form by <b>Wednesday, July 3rd</b>	Ch.1 Ch.2
NO CLASS Thursday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Conceptual, Historical, &amp; Research Perspectives</i>	Friday – Meet on Zoom	
	<i>Theoretical Perspectives</i>		

Week 2 (July 8 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> )	<i>Diagnosis, Formulation &amp; Assessment</i>  <i>Mood Disorders</i>  <i>Anxiety, Obsessions, &amp; Compulsions</i>	Reflection due <b>Wednesday by 11:59pm</b>  Friday – Meet on Zoom  Quiz 1 Due by <b>Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm</b>	Ch.3 Ch.5 Ch.6
Week 3 (July 15 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> )	<i>Trauma, Stress, &amp; Loss</i>  <i>Psychosis</i>  <i>Dissociative &amp; Somatic Complaints</i>	Reflection due <b>Wednesday by 11:59pm</b>  Friday – Meet on Zoom	Ch.7 Ch.4 Ch.8
Week 4 (July 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> )	<i>Feeding &amp; Eating Problems</i>  <i>Sexual Problems &amp; Gender Issues</i>  <i>Substance Use &amp; Addiction</i>	Reflection due <b>Wednesday by 11:59pm</b>  Friday – Meet on Zoom  Quiz 2 Due by <b>Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm</b>	Ch.9 Ch.10 Ch.11
Week 5 (July 29 <sup>th</sup> - August 8 <sup>th</sup> )	<i>Personality Issues</i>  <i>Developmental Issues Involving Disruptive Behavior &amp; Attachment</i>  <i>Suicide, Ethics, &amp; Law</i>	Reflection due <b>Wednesday by 11:59pm</b>  Friday – Meet on Zoom	Ch.12 Ch.13 Ch.15
Week 6 (August 5 <sup>th</sup> – August 9 <sup>th</sup> )	<i>Other Presenting Problems</i>  <i>Small group reflections</i>	<b><u>Last Day to Earn Credits on SONA: August 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm</u></b>  <b><u>Final Paper Due August 9<sup>th</sup> by 11:59 pm</u></b>  Quiz 3 Due by <b>August 9<sup>th</sup> by 11:59pm</b>	Ch.14