
Professor:

Dr, Shari Schwartz (email:) **Canvas Inbox Only**

Virtual Office Hours: Mondays, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Course Purpose: Have you ever found yourself pondering whether your friend’s sad affect is major depressive disorder, or if your cousin’s constant worrying is generalized anxiety disorder? Do you have an interest in what factors influence how psychologists distinguish between normal and abnormal behavior? Perhaps you have thought about why behavior in one culture is considered perfectly normal, but that same behavior is considered a psychological disorder in another culture. If so, then you are in the right place!

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 about different psychiatric disorders. You will develop critical thinking skills as applied to psychological assessment, diagnosis, and treatment plans/therapeutic interventions often used to treat various psychological disorders.

Learning Objectives:

During this course, students will learn to:

- Distinguish various types of psychopathologies
- Analyze the processes of psychological assessment and diagnosis
- Identify symptoms and features commonly associated with various mental health disorders
- Evaluate ethical, legal, and professional issues in the diagnosis, treatment, and study of psychopathology (i.e., abnormal psychology)
- Critique the reliability and validity of diagnostic criteria listed in the DSM-5
- Examine psychopathology from psychodynamic, behavioral, social, cognitive, and humanistic theoretical perspectives

Required Textbook:

Whitbourne, S.K. (2025). *Abnormal psychology: Clinical perspectives on psychological disorders* (Evergreen Release). McGraw-Hill Higher Education.

For this course, you will need Connect rather than a physical textbook. Here are the ISBN numbers: ISBN10: 1266566481 | ISBN13: 9781266566486

Course Requirements and Expectations: Keeping up with this online course is the student's responsibility. You can expect this class to be demanding but hopefully intellectually fulfilling. The course requires you to read, think, write, and apply what you are learning. Class lectures, assignments, and additional required readings are only accessible through the course website. Assignments must be submitted electronically through the course website as well. I will **NOT** accept your assignment via email. In anticipation of technical difficulties, make sure you turn in assignments early and double check that they have uploaded properly. If you experience technical difficulties, you must contact (call or chat, don't email) the UF help desk immediately to explain to them your technical difficulty (and send me your incident number via Canvas Inbox). I must have the case number for follow up.

All deadlines are in Eastern Standard Time (EST).

- 1) Extensions or make-ups will not be given any course material for technical difficulties on the student's end. This includes, **but is not limited to:**
 - a. Forgetting to hit the submit button on any of the course material.
 - b. Accidentally not including the file(s) or uploading the wrong file.
 - c. Work not fully uploading, and/or not being accessible to me for grading.
- 2) Do not wait until the last minute to complete course materials as this is an online course and things happen.
- 3) Students are responsible for all course announcements posted on Canvas. Thus, you must check Canvas at least every other day so that you do not miss any course announcement.
- 4) For course assignments it is **your** responsibility to make sure that the correct file is uploaded and that all the files needed for the assignment are fully uploaded and in the correct format.
- 5) It is **your** responsibility to make sure that your presentation(s) is visible and audible on all video presentation assignments.
- 6) The TAs and I will communicate with you via Canvas Inbox thus you are responsible to check your Canvas Inbox every 24 hours.

The instructor and TA(s) are here to help you learn. Make use of office hours and Canvas Inbox to communicate with me and the graduate TA(s). Online office hours are held via Zoom. The login details are posted in Course Announcements. For questions sent through Canvas Inbox, the TAs and/or I will typically reply within 48 hours of receiving the email during a normal week. Please allow more time for emails sent on official holidays, Fridays, or over the weekend. **All interactions with instructors and class members are expected to be professional and appropriate.**

NO MAKE-UPS WILL BE GIVEN ON ANY MATERIAL FOR THIS COURSE, except for university excused absences with adequate documentation (i.e. doctor's note). Documentation must be provided before the course material is due unless there are extenuating, verifiable circumstances.

Late Work. All class work must be turned in on time in the manner outlined in the assignment instructions. Failure to do so will result in a zero on that assignment. Therefore, it is critical that you start your work early in the week each week as waiting until the end of the week may cause you to miss deadlines.

Course Structure

Online Discussions/Activities (40% of overall course grade): There will be eight (8) online activities throughout the course. Only six (6) of these count toward your overall course grade as I will drop your TWO lowest scores. These activities are designed to get you thinking critically about the topics/concepts covered in the textbook and lecture. The activities vary and will consist of written interactive discussions, video discussions, and abnormal psychology "lab" assignments. Some of these will require McGraw-Hill Connect (please see textbook section of this syllabus for details). The activities are designed to help reinforce content learned throughout the semester. You will be provided with detailed instructions on Canvas regarding each activity.

Reading Assignments (20% of overall grade): There will be thirteen (13) reading activity quizzes throughout the course based on the textbook readings. Only eleven (11) of these will count toward your final grade, as I will drop your TWO lowest scores. These will be timed and administered via Connect. You must have Connect access to complete these. These must be taken during the week in which they are open as there are no makeups for missed quizzes. No exceptions! Each quiz may include any combination of multiple choice, short essay, fill-in-the-blank, or true-false items.

Exams (40% of overall grade): There will be four (4) exams throughout the course based on the textbook readings. Only three (3) of these will count toward your final grade, as I will drop your lowest exam grade. Exams will be timed and administered via Honorlock on Canvas. Each exam will consist of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, fill-in-the-blank, or true-false questions. These must be taken during the week in which they are open as there are no makeups for exams.

Psychology Department Sona Research Requirement (extra credit 1%): Please see the assignment instructions on Canvas for more details. As this is extra credit, it is not required. Further details will be available in Canvas course announcements.

Turnitin.com: Turnitin.com is a plagiarism detection service available to the faculty at UF. The website searches your work for instances of plagiarism (from previously turned in papers, internet resources and publications). Examples of plagiarism include cutting and pasting. Students who plagiarize may receive a "zero" (E) for the entire course. Please make sure you read the sections on plagiarism in your Student Handbook and the APA manual. It is your responsibility to understand what plagiarism is and any misunderstandings on your part may not be used as excuses. **I submit all your work through Turnitin.com**

Attendance and Participation Policy: Successful completion of this course requires *regular and active participation* in class activities and assignments on Canvas. Lectures and activities will clarify and expand upon information provided in your textbooks. 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>

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated by your grades on class activities, your discussion board assignments, and your exam grades. Letter grades will be assigned according to the grading scale below. **I do not round up grades.**

Online Activities – 40% of overall course grade

Reading Activities – 20% of overall course grade

Exams – 40% of overall course grade

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%			

***A grade of C– is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit.**

Grade Dispute Policy: It is your responsibility to stay on top of your grades in the course. As such, you will have three days (3) after a course grade has posted to dispute the grade. Please note that the three-day timeframe includes weekends and holidays and will not be extended for any reason. The exception to this policy is your final exam grade because there will not be enough time to complete disputes and turn grades in by the university-imposed deadlines. Disputes will NOT be accepted after the last day of classes. If you want to dispute a grade, you must write one paragraph explaining the dispute and one more paragraph explaining why your work is correct, with references to the course material, for each aspect of the work you are disputing (for a total of two paragraphs). Then send a private email to me with this information via Canvas Inbox.

Academic Misconduct: This 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 engaging in academic misconduct, 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.

Use of Artificial Intelligence in Classwork: In this course, every element of class assignments must be fully prepared by the student. **The use of generative AI tools for any part of your work is strictly prohibited and will be treated as plagiarism/academic misconduct.** A zero will be awarded for the assignment and additional sanctions may apply as listed in the Academic Misconduct section of the syllabus.

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 accommodations, 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. 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 so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor is available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helping resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that 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 made through Canvas.

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#).

**CLP3144 Abnormal Psychology – Spring 2026
Class Schedule**

Class Date	Topic	Canvas
Week of January 12	Course Intro/Understanding Abnormal Behavior	Complete Module 1
Week of January 19	Psychological Assessment	Complete Module 2
Week of January 26	Diagnosis and Treatment Exam 1	Complete Module 3
Week of February 2	Ethical and Legal Issues	Complete Module 4
Week of February 9	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Complete Module 5
Week of February 16	Schizophrenia/Psychotic Disorders Exam 2	Complete Module 6
Week of February 23	Depressive and Bipolar Disorder	Complete Module 7
Week of March 2	Anxiety/OCD/ Trauma Disorders	Complete Module 8
Week of March 9	Dissociative/Somatic Disorders	Complete Module 9
Week of March 16	Spring Break	
Week of March 23	Eating/Elimination/Impulse Control Exam 3	Complete Module 10
Week of March 30	Paraphilias/Gender Disorders	Complete Module 11
Week of April 6	Substance Abuse and Addiction	Complete Module 12
Week of April 13	Neurocognitive Disorders/Personality Disorders Exam 4	Complete Module 13/14
Week of April 20	Class ends April 22	
Week of April 25	FINAL EXAMS WEEK APRIL 25 – MAY 1	