

# PSB 4240: Psychobiology of Abnormal Behavior

University of Florida

Spring 2024

**Meeting Times:** M,W,F 1:55-2:45

**Location:** PSY 130

**Instructor:** Matt (Wendel) Friedl, Ph.D.

**Office hours:** ~One hour following class. Other days/times by request.

**email:** Please use Canvas messaging; alternate email: wfriedl@ufl.edu

**Office:** Psychology 017 (basement level) OR Psychology 264. See course Canvas page.

\*I reserve the right to revise the syllabus in order to accommodate the needs of the course. Any updates will be posted to the course announcements section of Canvas.

Graduate TA	Office hours	e-mail
Ariana Burga	Via e-mail appointment	arianab98@ufl.edu

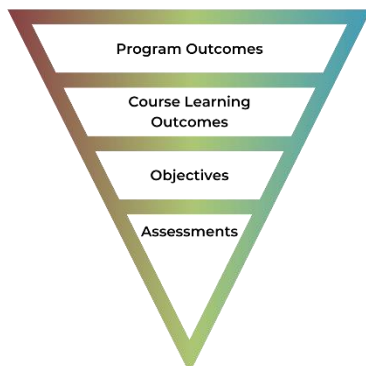
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## Course Description

You will learn about relationships between biological processes (genes, hormones, and neural processes) and psychopathology as it is represented in the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5<sup>th</sup> ed.).

## Course Outcomes and Objectives



The overarching **outcome** of this course is to understand the scientific bases of contemporary biological theories of some common psychological problems and to appreciate the societal impact of mental health issues.

Specific learning **objectives** of the course include: 1) Recognize some common psychological disorders and their biological components; 2) Describe common explanations for the development of psychological

disorders; 3) Compare biological- and behavioral-based approaches to defining abnormal behavior.

Learning objectives will be met through readings, lecture presentations, and discussions both within the Perusall reader application and within assigned small groups.

Accomplishment of course learning objectives will be assessed (see **grading** section of syllabus for details) via quizzes, scoring of Perusall posts, exams, and a group research paper.

## Course Requirements and Policies

### Required Readings

All readings will be from an open-source textbook or from primary source material available on the Canvas page. Additionally, readings will make use of Perusall, a software program designed to make required readings a more interactive and collaborative experience. Perusall will be discussed more during the first week of the course.

The textbook readings will be sourced from is

- Fundamentals of Psychological Disorders, 3rd edition (July 2023) by Alexis Bridley and Lee W. Daffin Jr.

Which can be downloaded for off-line reading from: <https://opentext.wsu.edu/abnormal-psych/>

### Course Prerequisites

PSB 3340 and STA 2023

### Other Requirements

- ACCESS TO OFFICIAL UF E-MAIL

Check your UF e-mail regularly (daily). All course announcements, including any modifications to this syllabus, will be communicated via e-mail and Canvas announcements. Any grade-related information will only be sent to a UF e-mail address or discussed in-person.

- COMPUTING / TECHNOLOGY

This course requires adherence UF's minimum technology requirements (recommendations [here](#)). These include a computer with webcam, microphone, speakers, and access to a stable internet connection.

A wired connection is recommended when taking quizzes and/or exams.

- A dedicated room for online assessments is available in UF Library West. To make a reservation for a time of high demand go to the following website: <http://ufl.libcal.com/spaces?lid=4458&gid=8873>
- Other on-campus computer options can be found here <https://labs.at.ufl.edu/>

For technical support, contact the UF Help Desk: <https://helpdesk.ufl.edu/>.

In the event of a technical problem, a support ticket must be obtained from the UF help desk. Technical support will be able to diagnose and certify the source of any problem. Course

instructor will not respond regarding *any* technical problems that do not have a prior support ticket from the UF helpdesk—include this support ticket # when communicating the problem.

- CANVAS

Course materials and assignments will be posted to the course Canvas page (<http://lss.at.ufl.edu>; click “Canvas Login”)

Be sure to familiarize yourself with the page and how/where to access information during the first week of class.

## Course Policies

- ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). **Accommodations are not retroactive**, so students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodation. Documentation should be provided prior to taking quizzes or exams – the earlier the better. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation (an accommodation letter) to the student and the instructor.

- RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES / UF SPONSORED ACTIVITIES

A student needs to inform the instructor if religious observances of their faith or UF sponsored activities (e.g. sports, student government, etc.) will conflict with scheduled quizzes or examinations **prior to** the class or occurrence of that test or activity.

- ILLNESS OR OTHER PERSONAL EMERGENCIES

For any medical conditions, psychological conditions, illnesses, or injuries that prevent completing scheduled quizzes or examinations, the student should notify the instructor as soon as possible and arrange to provide supporting documentation. The student healthcare center (<https://shcc.ufl.edu>) can provide verifications of visits, as well as excuse notes in certain situations (see <https://shcc.ufl.edu/forms-records/excuse-notes/>). Documentation for any extenuating circumstances can be submitted to the DSO <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>

Which will then notify individual instructors.

- Counseling and wellness center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>
- University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

- SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual Harassment is not tolerated in this class, in the Department of Psychology, or at the University of Florida. Sexual harassment includes: the inappropriate introduction of sexual activities or comments in a situation where sex would otherwise be irrelevant. All UF employees and students must adhere to UF’s sexual harassment policy which can be found here: <https://hr.ufl.edu/forms-policies/policies-managers/sexual-harassment/>. Please review this policy and contact a university official if you have any questions about the policy.

As mandatory reporters, university employees are required to report knowledge of sexual harassment to UF’s Title IX coordinator. For more information about UF’s Title IX office see:

<https://titleix.ufl.edu/>. You can also complete a Sexual Harassment Report online (Title IX) at: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/title-ix-reporting-form/>.

- 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. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the e-mail they receive from GatorEvals. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

- ACADEMIC HONESTY

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

**"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."**

Students who share information pertaining to course content from quizzes or exams will be referred to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (SCCR) Office in the Dean of Students Office (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>).

- LECTURE RECORDINGS

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

Publication without permission from the instructor is prohibited. To "publish" means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section.

### **Grading**

Quizzes, the research paper, and Perusall reading/annotating will be completed on Canvas, while exams will be taken by filling out a Scantron form with a pencil in the classroom.

Quizzes and exams are limited in time, meaning that you really need to know the material.

Final course grades will follow the grading scale shown to the right.

No individual exceptions to this grading scale will be considered. Letter grades will be applied without rounding; for example, 93.499% would be an A- and 93.500% would be the lowest average to earn an A.

No grading curve will be applied unless the final class average is lower than 72.5% (C-). If the average final course grade is lower than 72.5%, an equal number of points will be added to each student's grade until the average is 72.5% (C-).

No extra credit assignments are anticipated. If extra credit is available, it will be announced to the entire class.

- **FINAL GRADE CALCULATION**

	each	total
Exams (2 out of 3)	31%	62%
Quizzes (6)	2.0%	12%
Perusall posts	variable	7%
Group paper		17%
Group attendance		2%

- **EXAMS**

Two non-cumulative exams and one optional cumulative final exam will be offered. If you take both regular exams and are satisfied with your grade, you may skip the final exam. If you miss an exam, or if you do poorly on an exam, you can drop that exam and take the final exam to replace it. The best two exam scores are automatically counted.

Exams are closed book, and you may bring one page of handwritten notes (standard sized paper, front and back).

The two regular within-semester exams will take place in the classroom at regular class time on scheduled days (see course schedule). Be sure to be on time for exams: Anyone arriving after the first person has turned in his/her/their exam will not be allowed to take the exam and thus will receive a 0. Students with DRC accommodations should schedule to take exams at the DRC office at the beginning of the semester.

Each exam will be composed of approximately 30 multiple choice questions. Each exam must be completed within 50 minutes (a regular class period). Any unanswered questions at the end of 50 minutes will be counted as incorrect.

Letter Grade	Range	
A	100%	to 93.5%
A-	< 93.5%	to 89.5%
B+	< 89.5%	to 86%
B	< 86%	to 82.5%
B-	< 82.5%	to 79.5%
C+	< 79.5%	to 76%
C	< 76%	to 72.5%
C-	< 72.5%	to 69.5%
D+	< 69.5%	to 66%
D	< 66%	to 62.5%
D-	< 62.5%	to 59.5%
E	< 59.5%	to 0%

Answers will be indicated on a scantron sheet with a #2 pencil. **Be sure to bring a pencil, your student ID card, and your single page of handwritten notes to class on exam days.**

No new course material will be covered on exam days.

To preserve the integrity of exam materials across classes and years, exam answers will NOT be provided in class. Feedback pertaining to missed questions or correct answers will be provided only during office hours for an individual student. You will never see these exact questions again, so there is no need to memorize them anyway.

- QUIZZES

Approximately every other week there will be a 10-question quiz available on the Canvas course website. Quizzes will cover only new material since the preceding quiz (non-cumulative). Each quiz will be available beginning on the Friday preceding its due date and should be **completed** (not started) no later than 11:59 PM that Sunday (see schedule) for full credit. Any quiz not submitted by 11:59 PM on Sunday will receive an automatic reduction of 20% (starting at 12:00 AM) each day following the due date. One minute late could cost you 20% - Don't wait until the last second to submit!

Each quiz must be completed within 8 minutes of starting it, after which time the quiz will be automatically submitted, and any unanswered questions will be counted as incorrect.

Quiz answers will be available on Canvas for a limited time prior to each exam.

Quizzes are open notes and open book. However, quizzes will be very limited in time, so you will not be able to look up or Google-search every question. Be sure you are well prepared before beginning the quizzes.

Quizzes may be taken twice (different questions will usually appear), and the highest score will be kept.

There will be an initial quiz covering the syllabus. This initial quiz serves both to familiarize students to the structure and timing of the quizzes and to ensure course policies are known. On the initial syllabus quiz only, you will be able to re-take the quiz an unlimited number of times until you score 100%.

- GROUP RESEARCH PAPER

A group research paper on a topic of abnormal psychology not covered during the course will be due towards the end of the semester. A list of topics will be made available on the Canvas course page by the second week of class, and groups will sign-up for a topic (only one group per topic). This APA-formatted paper will include a title page, introduction, discussion, and a

reference section. Papers will be submitted through Canvas and will be scanned by Turnitin.com, a plagiarism detection service.

- Full assignment description and a grading rubric will be posted on Canvas.
- Groups will be assigned in the second week of class.
- As with quizzes, any paper not submitted by 11:59 PM on the day indicated in this syllabus will receive an automatic reduction of 20% (starting at 12:00 AM) each day following the due date.

- PERUSALL DISCUSSIONS AND QUESTIONS

Perusall is a social annotation tool designed to make course readings interactive, akin to social media posting. Note, however, that posts must demonstrate proper written English, including capitalization, spelling, and grammar. A link to Perusall will be in the Canvas course menu, and instructions for using this tool will be provided. Each week, you will be required to access Perusall at least twice as you complete your reading (at least once to complete the reading and at least once to check on comments/answers/replies by others).

Scoring for the overall quality of all posts submitted *on time* (by the end of each Friday) for each assigned reading will be done by Perusall's A.I. scoring algorithm. Any posts submitted after the deadline will not be included in the overall grade calculation. The first assignment of the course will help to clarify what the scoring algorithm looks for in a "substantive" set of posts (see also <https://perusall.com/hubfs/downloads/scoring-examples.pdf>). The number of posts per assignment is not strictly calculated (generally, a minimum of 5, maximum of 10). For the minimum, be sure that 2 posts are clarifications/restatements/elaborations of the text, 2 are questions, and 1 is an add-on/elaboration/attempted answer to another student's question.

Based on the overall body of your annotations, you will receive a score for each assignment as follows

3 = demonstrates exceptionally thoughtful and thorough reading of the entire assignment

2 = demonstrates thoughtful and thorough reading of the entire assignment

1 = demonstrates superficial reading of the entire assignment OR thoughtful reading of only part of the assignment

0 = demonstrates superficial reading of only part of the assignment

At the end of the semester, the (total number of earned points/total number of possible points) will account for 7% of the total grade.

**Attendance & Participation:** Attendance will not regularly be taken except for on designated group work days (most Wednesdays). On these Wednesdays, a brief summary of the assigned daily activity (the activity will be given at the beginning of class) will need to be turned-in on Canvas, and each group member present will receive credit for attendance. Attendance points will be calculated as (number of group-work days attended / total number of group-work days) and this will make up 2% of the overall grade.

Also, content from any class session may be included on the quizzes and exams. Attending class and taking notes is highly recommended.

**Missed exams or quizzes:** All requests to make up missed work must be due to documented extenuating circumstances and must be initiated through the DSO. See <https://care.dso.ufl.edu/instructor-notifications/>

### **Reading & Course Schedule**

The standard week will be traditional “lecture” material on Mondays, group discussions/group work on Wednesdays, and discussion of FAQs from the previous week on Fridays.

- READINGS & DUE DATES



Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	1/08 – 1/12	Course intro. Reading in Perusall Background – What is abnormal?	Syllabus Article: Psychology KSAs
2	1/15 – 1/19	1/15: Holiday-no class Diagnosis & treatment	Text: Module 3
3	1/22 – 1/26	Trauma & stressor related disorders	Text: Module 5
4	1/29 – 2/02	Stress	Article: Stress and Health
5	2/05 – 2/09	PTSD	Article:636,120 Ways to PTSD
6	2/12 – 2/16	Research Domain Criteria (RDoC)	2 short RDoC articles
7	2/19 – 2/23	Developmental & motor- related disorders	Text: Module 16.2
8	2/26 – 3/01	Wed 2/28 Exam 1	Article: Autism & MMR vaccine
9	3/04 – 3/08	Autism Spectrum Disorder	Article: Autism & the environment
10	3/11 – 3/15	Spring Break: no class	
11	3/18 – 3/22	Williams Syndrome	Article: WS Genetics
12	3/25 – 3/29	Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders	Text: Module 12
13	4/01 – 4/05	Schizophrenia	Article: Develop & Schizophr.
14	4/08 – 4/12	Neurocognitive Disorders	Text: Module 14
15	4/15 – 4/19	Famous case studies	Article: Landmark Cases
16	4/22 – 4/24	Wed 4/24 Exam 2 Wed. 4/24 Last day of class	
17	4/29 – 5/03	Wed 5/01 10:00-12:00 Final (opt.)	

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Week	Date	What is due?	Reading
1	1/08 – 1/12	Sunday 1/14 syllabus quiz	Syllabus Article: Psychology KSAs
2	1/15 – 1/19	1/15: Holiday-no class Sunday 1/21 Perusal comments first 2 readings	Text: Module 3
3	1/22 – 1/26	Friday 1/26 Perusal comments Mod. 5 Sunday 1/28 quiz 1 (Mod. 3&5)	Text: Module 5
4	1/29 – 2/02	Friday 2/02 Perusal comments	Article: Stress and Health
5	2/05 – 2/09	Friday 2/09 Perusal comments Sunday 2/11 quiz 2 (2 articles)	Article:636,120 Ways to PTSD
6	2/12 – 2/16	Friday 2/16 Perusal comments	2 short RDoC articles
7	2/19 – 2/23	Friday 2/23 Perusal comments Sunday 2/25 quiz 3	Text: Module 16.2
8	2/26 – 3/01	Wed 2/28 Exam 1 Friday 3/01 Perusal comments	Article: Autism & MMR vaccine
9	3/04 – 3/08	Friday 3/08 Perusal comments	Article: Autism & the environment
10	3/11 – 3/15	Spring Break: no class	
11	3/18 – 3/22	Friday 3/22 Perusal comments Sunday 3/24 quiz 4	Article: WS Genetics
12	3/25 – 3/29	Friday 3/29 Perusal comments	Text: Module 12
13	4/01 – 4/05	Friday 4/05 Perusal comments Sunday 4/07 quiz 5	Article: Develop & Schizophr.
14	4/08 – 4/12	Thursday 4/11 Group research paper due Friday 4/12 Perusal comments	Text: Module 14
15	4/15 – 4/19	Friday 4/19 Perusal comments Sunday 4/21 quiz 6	Article: Landmark Cases
16	4/22 – 4/24	Wed 4/24 Exam 2 Wed. 4/24 Last day of class	
17	4/29 – 5/03	Wed 5/01 10:00-12:00 Final (opt.)	