

**Psychology 203**  
**Abnormal Psychology**  
**Fall Semester- 2020**

Instructor: Jenna Holt, Psy.D., L.C.P. Office: Pierce Science Center- Room 209  
Phone: (540)887-7118  
e-mail: jholt@marybaldwin.edu (this is the best way to reach me)

Required Texts: Sue, D., Sue, D., & Sue, S. (2010). *Essentials of Understanding Abnormal Behavior, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*. Wadsworth, Cengage Learning Publishers. ISBN: 1-133-95635-1

**Course Objectives:**

You will be engaged in a series of activities designed to develop understanding of concepts, theories, and research related to the field of Abnormal Psychology. Through online audio-lecture, videos, discussions, and other components for evaluation (below), you will be acquainted with information about the growing field of abnormal psychology, including assessment, diagnosis, and current ethical issues in the field.

**Course requirements and expectations:**

- You are expected to complete the reading for the chapters **prior** to the week that the discussion for this chapter begins class. Audio-recorded power point presentations that follow each chapter should help you in organizing your understanding of each chapter and understand the points to hone in on while studying for each test.
- You must observe the provisions of the Honor Code. Cooperative study and discussions are encouraged, but aids of any kind are not allowed during tests. When writing papers, you must be careful not to plagiarize others' work- use quotations if you are using direct words. If you do not cite properly, it is considered an act of plagiarism and is a potential honor code violation.
- **Discussion Board participation:** Throughout the semester, I will begin a discussion board "thread" pertaining to the topic of the week. Each thread will open on Monday morning and will close the following Sunday at midnight, so it's important that you stay on schedule with the reading and check in to see if a new thread has been posted. Everyone is required to contribute at least **once per discussion thread, though you are encouraged to also reply to other contributors (required for full points)**, and participation will be graded on *substance and depth*. (In other words, simply stating "I agree" to someone else's contribution is not sufficient.) I give partial points, but am looking for well thought out discussion posts. A couple sentences is not sufficient to obtain full points. I will monitor these discussions closely for violations of discussion board etiquette (a good rule of thumb is "don't submit anything that you wouldn't say to someone's face") to ensure a safe, respectful online space for class members. If I deem a response inappropriate (e.g., rude, disrespectful), I will issue a public warning. If you receive 3 warnings, I will have no choice but to remove you from the discussion forum and you will receive whatever grade you have earned up to that point on the discussion board course requirement.
- **Tests.** Four closed-note, closed-text, timed, **ONLINE**, tests will be given. You will have **one hour** to complete each test. The tests will be set to expire at midnight on the Sunday following the week that the test is scheduled.
- **Reaction papers.** Throughout the class, certain subjects/techniques/ideas will likely pique your interest. You may strong feelings or questions about a topic, regarding its applicability in the

counseling setting or how you feel that it may apply to you. When this happens, I would encourage you to write a 3 page (minimum), double spaced reaction paper on the topic, which you will then send to me. It will not be shared with any of your peers, and will remain confidential. You will be required to write four of these papers during the semester, and the due dates for each of these will be outlined in the syllabus below, though you are ALWAYS welcome to turn them in early! These papers do not need to be formally written- instead, I want your gut reaction or thoughts to something that you have been reading/learning about from the class.

- **Final Paper-** in lieu of a cumulative final exam, a final paper will count as a twenty percent of your final grade. This is an opportunity for you to explore a topic of interest to you in the field of abnormal psychology. The purpose is to encourage you to examine a question in the field of abnormal psychology using both popular media and scholarly sources. The paper will be five to seven pages in length. Guidelines for this paper will be posted on Canvas at the start of the semester. The paper will be due the last day of the semester (see course schedule below).

**Warning:** this class is designed to provide you with informative and interesting material related to the general topic of abnormal psychology. However, sometimes a little information can be a dangerous thing. Please remember that only clinical psychologists can actually diagnose these disorders in others and attempt to avoid “diagnosing” yourself or others you know. It’s a slippery slope and is more often than not inaccurate. If you are worried about a friend or yourself as it relates to class, please feel free to call the counseling center on campus to obtain further direction and aide.

### Course Schedule

| Week of:  | Topic   | Additional Reading           |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Aug 24 <sup>th</sup>  | Introduction<br>Abnormal Behavior                             | Syllabus<br>pp. 2-25         |
| Aug 31 <sup>st</sup>  | Models of Abnormal Bx<br>Assess. and Classification           | pp. 28-55<br>pp. 58-84       |
| Sept 7 <sup>th</sup><br>Wednesday, the 9 <sup>th</sup><br>Friday the 11 <sup>th</sup> | Assessment and Classification<br><b>Test I</b>                | pp. 58-84<br><b>RP 1 due</b> |
| Sept 14 <sup>th</sup>   | Anxiety Disorders   | pp. 87-146                   |
| Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>   | Dissociative & Somatoform<br>Depressive and Bipolar Disorders | pp. 147-170<br>pp. 173-203   |
| Sept 28<br>Friday, Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | Suicide<br><b>Test II</b>                                     | pp. 205-228                  |
| Oct 5 <sup>th</sup>   | Eating Disorders<br>Substance Use Disorders                   | pp. 231-255<br>pp. 257-288   |
| Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>   |   | <b>RP 2 due</b>              |
| Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>  | Schizophrenia & Psychotic Dis.<br>Neurocognitive Disorders    | pp. 291-318<br>pp. 321-344   |
| Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>  | Sexual Dysfunction & paraphilias                              | pp. 347-377                  |

|                                |                           |                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Friday the 23 <sup>rd</sup>    | <b>Test III</b>           |                 |
| Oct 26 <sup>th</sup>           | Personality Disorders     | pp. 381-409     |
|                                | Childhood and Adolescence | pp. 411-440     |
| Oct 30 <sup>th</sup>           |                           | <b>RP 3 due</b> |
| Nov 2 <sup>nd</sup>            | Childhood and Adolescence | pp. 411-440     |
| Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>            | Law and Ethical Issues    | pp. 445-465     |
| Nov 16 <sup>th</sup>           | Law and Ethical Issues    | pp. 445-465     |
| Wednesday the 18 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Test IV</b>            |                 |
| Friday the 20 <sup>th</sup>    |                           | <b>RP 4 DUE</b> |

**Thanksgiving break is the 25<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup> of November**

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> **FINAL PAPER AND ANY OUTSTANDING WORK DUE**

**Grading:** Grades will be determined by the following:

|  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| Test Scores                                | 400 points              |
| Discussion board posts (10 at 20 pts each) | 200 points              |
| Reaction papers (four at 25 pts each)      | 100 points              |
| Final paper                                | <u>200 points</u>       |
|  | <b>900 points total</b> |

**Grading scale (percentage):**

|    |   |            |    |   |           |
|----|---|------------|----|---|-----------|
| A  | = | 92.0-100.0 | C+ | = | 78.0-79.9 |
| A- | = | 90.0-91.9  | C  | = | 72.0-77.9 |
| B+ | = | 88.0-89.9  | C- | = | 70.0-71.9 |
| B  | = | 82.0-87.9  | D+ | = | 68.0-69.9 |
| B- | = | 80.0-81.9  | D  | = | 62.0-67.9 |

NOTE For ALL written work:

1) In the extremely unlikely event that your paper is missing or has been accidentally lost or destroyed, make sure that you have a hard copy of the paper AND a backup disk in addition to the copy that you turn in. This is your record of having completed the assignment and will be used to replace the missing copy.

2) All written work *must be typed and double spaced, with 1 inch margins and 12 pt Times New Roman font.*

**Extra Credit:** Throughout the semester, you will have a chance to earn a **maximum of 12** extra credit points by writing summaries of articles from APA Journals. All extra credit is due by November 20<sup>th</sup> (last day of classes).

Article summaries: Each article summary is worth 4 points. It must be **1 page (not including name, course number, titles, and complete article reference; which belong on a cover sheet).** **The paper must be typed, double spaced, with 1 inch margins and in 12 pt typeface (Times New Roman).** Your summary should focus on what hypotheses were tested, what kind of sample was used, and what was ultimately found. The article should come from a scholarly

journal, see me or a reference librarian if you do not know how to access a scholarly journal. The article itself must deal with an issue covered in class or the book, though not necessarily one reviewed in-depth.

