

Course Syllabus

PSY 325- Abnormal Psychology Spring, 2017

Francis Marion University

Prerequisite: PSY 206 (Introductory Psychology) or permission by the Department

Class Time: MWF 1:30pm-2:20pm

Place: CEMC 210 **Instructor:** Ronald T. Murphy, Ph.D **Office:** CEMC 109D

Phone: 661-1643 **Email:** rmurphy@fmarion.edu

Office Hours: CEMC: MW 9:30am-noon and 2:20pm-4pm; Fri 2:30pm-4pm; & by appointment
Carter Health Sciences Building (Downtown): By appointment Tues & Thurs Afternoon

Course Prerequisite: You must have taken and passed Psy. 206 (Introductory Psychology) in a previous semester before you can enroll in Psy. 325. You cannot take Psy. 206 and Psy 325 in the same semester.

Course Description: Historical survey of various forms of mental illness and maladjustment, including mental deficiency and anti-social behavior. Specialized methods of therapy, research, and theoretical concerns are emphasized.

Required Text: Lyons, C., & Martin, B. (2014). *Abnormal psychology: Clinical and scientific perspectives* (5th ed.), Textbook+. ISBN: 978-1-61882-634-3. Redding, CA: BVT Publishing. Other readings will be assigned on a regular basis.

Course Description & Objectives: This course is designed to familiarize the student with a broad range of topics necessary for an understanding of the basic concepts, applications, and controversies in the field of mental illness. The course will expand students' understanding of disorders from a psychological perspective. In this course, the student will: 1) increase knowledge about psychopathology; 2) understand various career options in this area; 3) enhance critical thinking skills by discussing theory, research data, and practical applications relevant to this area; and 4) improve communication skills by class discussion and presentation assignments.

Learning Process: Lectures are given based on the assumption that YOU HAVE DONE THE ASSIGNED READING FOR THAT DAY. The lectures will be used to review the chapter IN GENERAL, note what topics will be covered in the exams, review some specific topics in detail, enhance the assigned reading, clarify complex or confusing topics, provide additional material, and answer questions about the reading. It would be a serious misuse of our time and your money for the instructor to repeat the book material. The goal is for class discussion to expand upon the basic readings, and be able to review special topics of interest and real-world issues, eg, cultural relevance, schooling, mental disorders, or applications such as treatment. This can only be done if students come to class prepared; otherwise the material covered can only be the basic information that is required to be imparted to students. Also, in this class learning is accomplished by active participation of the students. Students are expected to answer questions, offer opinions or share experiences, and ask questions. Further, at the beginning of each class, a student will briefly present (15 minutes) a summary of material to be covered for that class (see below). This summary should include a thematic or conceptual summary of the chapter ("the big picture"), and key highlights of the assigned readings. Then, the student should briefly offer some creative presentation (video, role-play, news article, etc.) that illustrates a key concept of the chapter.

Missed Classes: You are responsible for getting all information from any class you miss, including syllabus modification, announcements, assignments, and lecture material. Just because you missed a few

minutes of class does not mean you are not responsible for what is announced or discussed. In addition, please do not call the professor to get information about what happened in class (announcements, assignments, etc.). When teaching multiple courses involving many students, teachers cannot respond to each student who requests for information given when they were absent from a class. The appropriate way to get this information is to GET IT FROM ANOTHER STUDENT, and THEN talk to the professor who can fill in gaps or correct misinformation.

Coming Late: Coming to class late is extremely disrespectful to the professor, other students, and the academic environment. You are expected to come to class on time, and measures will be taken to drop you from the class if you are abusive of this expectation. To avoid the disruption caused by latecomers and a "snowball effect" of more students coming later to class, no one will be allowed into the class 5 minutes after class begins, NO EXCEPTIONS. YOU WILL BE REFUSED ADMISSION INTO THE CLASSROOM if you come later than five minutes. If you come to class late (after the start of class but under the 5 min limit) more than 4 times, you will be dropped from the class. For test security reasons, you will not be allowed to take an exam if you show up late for an exam and if any student has already taken the exam and left.

Excessive Absences: Attendance will be taken and a student who is absent more than 4 classes (regardless of excused/nonexcused) is subject to receive an F for the class. There are two reasons for this policy. First, graduate school administrators and potential employers will assume that because a class is on your transcript, you have been exposed to a certain level and amount of material. If you miss too much class, your transcript will be a misleading indicator of your true knowledge level. Second, most students earn the grade on the transcript through hard work and regular attendance, and it would be unfair to allow someone to get the same "credit" for much less work.

Academic Integrity & Academic Environment in Class: If you cheat on an exam or quiz, plagiarize, or commit any other act of academic dishonesty or violation of academic conduct, including being disruptive of the class learning environment (see the student handbook), you will immediately fail the entire course, be dropped from the class (given grade of W/F- Withdrawn Failing), and reported to the Provost.

The university classroom environment is a special place, and the instructor takes great pains to keep it so. In line with this, you are absolutely forbidden from checking email and phone messages, texting, or reviewing Facebook or any other online/phone information during class. You will be asked to leave the class the first time this occurs, and if it occurs again, I will consider dropping you from the course.

If you have an emergency going on where you might need to take a call or leave class early, just speak with the instructor beforehand and we can work out how to help you.

Course Requirements and Grading: Final grade will be based on performance on 3 exams (60% of final grade), an in-class presentation (20%), and a paper (20%). Extra credit can be obtained by completing one review of a research article (up to 3 points extra credit added to final grade). The specifics of these requirements are described below.

A. Exams (60% of final grade). There will be three exams, mostly multiple choice and short answer format, covering material from the lectures and all assigned reading. There are NO MAKE-UP exams. Only extreme catastrophe that you can document should prevent you from taking an exam. If there is an extreme catastrophe for which you can provide documentation, we will come to an arrangement. Also, you can NEVER take an exam earlier or later than scheduled, for test security reasons.

B. In-class presentation (20% of final grade). At the beginning of each class, a student will briefly present a summary of material to be covered for that class. This summary should include a thematic or conceptual summary of the chapter ("the big picture"), and key highlights of the assigned readings. Then, the student should briefly offer some creative presentation (video, role-play, news article, etc.) that illustrates a key concept of the chapter. The entire presentation should take 15 minutes

maximum. Grading for the presentations: Presentation quality (organized, logical, thorough), 50%; Creativity, 50%.

C. Paper (20% of final grade). The topic of the paper should be a description of an abnormal psychological principle, concept, or application at work on television or film. In other words, the students should describe abnormal psychology in action being portrayed on TV or movies (e.g., a character's behavior or therapy). The paper should be not less than 4 and no more than 6 double-spaced typewritten pages, with one inch margins. The paper should include the following sections, with headings: 1) What disorder, principle, or therapy approach is being portrayed? 2) What are the behaviors or actions that are demonstrating the disorder, principle, or therapy approach? 3) How accurate or how well is the psychological concept being demonstrated by the filmmakers and actors?

Papers are due on the Wed. after the last day of class, Apr 26. Late papers will be graded down a full grade. Grading for paper: Use of class lecture or reading material, 50%; overall presentation/organization, 25%; creativity, integration of class material, and quality of discussion (e.g., reasonable and sensible?), 25%. Papers will be handed back for re-writing if there are extensive grammatical and spelling errors.

D. Extra Credit

Research Article Summary (up to 3 points extra credit added to final grade). You can select and review a published research article for extra credit. The article can be from any field and any journal in psychology, as long as it describes a research study and is from a refereed journal. Your article MUST be approved by me for the extra credit before your write and hand in the paper.

Your review will include the following sections with headings: 1) What was the need for the study (problem being addressed)? 2) What were the hypotheses of the study? 3) What were the results? 4) What are the implications of the study? 5) What are the caveats (threats to internal and external validity, etc.)? 6) What thoughts do you have about the study, or what personal reactions do you have to it? The review must be 4 pages double spaced. Grading for the paper: 3 points for paper well organized (including headings) with all sections thoroughly and correctly done (showing great depth of understanding of course material); 2 points for paper with all sections completed but showing limitations in understanding or explanation of the material/section questions; 1 point for paper with all sections but lacking thoroughness or showing very limited or incorrect understanding of class material; and 0 points for above instructions not followed or incomplete paper.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE FOLLOWING WILL ALSO AFFECT YOUR GRADE:

- 1) Failure to follow my instructions or directions regarding class matters and behavior (cell phone/texting, speaking while the professor or other students are speaking, etc.)
- 2) Any unprofessional behavior with me, other faculty or staff, or other students in the class

Reduced grade or failure of Psy 325 will be precipitated by only 1 or 2 incidents of the above, at my discretion. For grade-reduction offenses, I will reduce your grade for every offense, and will most likely just fail you for more than two.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS BY DATE

Psy 325 Course Outline (Spring, 2017)**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Textbook Reading</u>
Week 1 (Jan 9)	Review Syllabus Introduction	Ch. 1

Week 2 (Jan 16)	No Class Monday (MLK Day) Historical Perspectives	Ch. 2
Week 3 (Jan 23)	Contemporary Frameworks	Ch. 3
Week 4 (Jan 30)	Classification, Diagnosis, & Assessment	Ch. 4
Week 5 (Feb 6)	EXAM I	
Week 6 (Feb 13)	Anxiety & Obsessive Compulsive Disorders Feb 13- Last Day to Withdraw From a Course Without Academic Penalty	Ch. 6
Week 7 (Feb 20)	Personality Disorders	Ch. 8
Week 8 (Feb 27)	Sexual & Gender Identity Disorders	Ch. 9
Week 9 (Mar 6)	Schizophrenia & Psychotic Disorders	Ch. 10
Week 10 (Mar 13)	No Class- Spring Break Week	
Week 11 (Mar 20)	EXAM II	
Week 12 (Mar 27)	Mood Disorders & Suicide	Ch. 11
Week 13 (Apr 3)	Substance-Related & Addictive Disorders	Ch. 12
Week 14 (Apr 10)	Neurodevelopmental & Disruptive Disorders Apr 10- Last Day to Withdraw From an Undergraduate Course	Ch. 13
Week 15 (Apr 17)	Legal, Ethical & Professional Issues	Ch. 16
Week 16 (Apr 24)	LAST DAY OF CLASS <i>Extra Credit Article Summary Due Apr 24</i> <i>Paper Due Apr. 26</i>	
Exam Period	EXAM III	

Please note that the schedule and the topics covered, as described above, are tentative and are subject to change without notice.