



Psychopathology
Fall 2024 – PSY 389:001
Friday, 1:00PM – 3:50PM
Central King Building, Room 341
DELIVERY MODE: Face-to-Face

Instructor: Jessyka Venchkoski, LCSW

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00PM – 3:00PM (Please email me in advance if you plan to attend office hours, as well if you need to meet outside of office hours or via ZOOM so that I can email you a link.)

Course Prerequisites/Co-requisites

This course requires a prerequisite/co-requisite of PSY 210.

Course Description

The Psychopathology course explores the ways in which psychological disorders manifest, are evaluated and assessed, and treated. We will look at the models used, the research conducted in this area, and ethical considerations that should be taken into account. Ultimately, we will work toward fostering a better empathetic understanding of those who experiences mental distress.

Course Goals

The purpose of this course is to:

- Compare and contrast different psychological disorders
- Distinguish between behaviors that are usual or unusual and those that are symptomatic of a psychological disorder
- Articulate the methods by which psychological disorders are classified and evaluated
- Describe the models that inform etiology and treatment of psychological disorders
- Explain how scientific research explore psychological disorders
- Critically evaluate statements made and portrayals of psychological disorders
- Develop empathy for the mentally distressed

Course Materials

Textbook- Abnormal Psychology (provided by Lumen Learning) – Chapter presentations will be available on Canvas under the Modules tab

<https://courses.lumenlearning.com/wm-abnormalpsych/>

Course Requirements

This course consists of lectures, in-class small group discussions, weekly discussion board postings, two exams, and a final project. Lectures will integrate assigned textbook chapters with other relevant content. Attendance is required.

Discussion Posts:

Discussion boards and small group work: small group activities, designed to support learning and provide a space for critical discussion and collaboration, are an important part of this course. Canvas discussion boards and in-class activities will be interwoven as follows (see the course SCHEDULE, below). *Responses are due by 1:00PM on the day of the first class covering a given module.*

**** Due to the iterative nature of the assignments, late submissions will not be accepted. ****

Exams:

There is no cumulative final for this course. There will be two in-class exams each covering the same amount of material. Exams will reflect the content focused on in class and will be closed-book/closed-notes. All exams will be proctored.

Note: Make-up exams are allowed only if provided with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, etc.) at least one-week prior to the scheduled exam date, except in case of an unforeseeable emergency. Dean of Students will also need to approve your absence. Make-up exam will not be given if these criteria are not satisfied.

Final Group Project:

This assignment is designed to help you visualize mental illness by creating a piece of artwork that symbolizes a disorder of your choosing based on what you've learned in this class. The purpose of working with a team is to experience expanding your mind to consider others' ideas and to practice integrating opinions of others into your group presentation. More details will be discussed in class but the project involves two parts: 1) artwork (collage, doll, painting, slideshow), and 2) in-class live group presentation explaining your design, what the process of working together looked like/ felt like, and a final message to the class on hope.

Attendance and Participation:

The delivery mode of this course is face-to-face, which means we will meet in person, during the designated class days/times. You are expected to attend all classes. To receive credit, you must be in class on time, stay for the entire time, and contribute to in-class activities and discussions. You must be in class that day to complete these activities. There will be no make-up for in-class activity. Absences are excused only if provided with appropriate documentation (e.g., a doctor's note, a police report, etc.) and DOS excuses the absence. You are allowed one unexcused absence throughout the semester. Please communicate with me if you expect to be late to class, miss class, or have foreseeable plans during the semester which require a discussion about possible accommodations.

Please note that web surfing, texting, side- conversations, tardiness, leaving the class, and similar activities prevent students from being fully present, distracts the professor and other students, and interferes with the learning process.

Course Grading

Course grades will be based on the following:

Assessment type	Percentage
Exam I	20%
Exam II	20%
Discussion Posts	20%
• 12 total	
Final Project	20%
Attendance & Participation	20%
TOTAL:	100%

Letter grades will be determined using the following scale:

Percentage	Letter grade
90% and above	A
85 – 89%	B+
80 – 84%	B
77 – 79%	C+
70 – 76%	C
60 – 69%	D
Below 60%	F

Course Policies

Academic Integrity: Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu.

Use of AI Technologies

You may use AI programs e.g. ChatGPT to help generate ideas and brainstorm, however, you should note that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, or otherwise problematic. AI programs must not be relied upon to complete assignments, as they are not a substitute for your own work. Beware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity. You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material.

Academic Accommodations: If you require academic accommodations, you must file a request with the Office of Accessibility Resources and Services (<https://www.njit.edu/accessibility/>). You should file your request as soon as possible. Retroactive accommodations are not allowed.

Procedures and policies defined in this syllabus are subject to change. If you decide to stay enrolled in this course after receiving this syllabus, I will assume that you have read the entire syllabus and have agreed to all the policies outlined.

SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Readings	Assignments Due (by class)
1	9/6	Introduction to course; Module 1: Introduction to Psychopathology	Syllabus, Mod. 1	Intro/ Module 1 DP & Response to a peer DUE 9/13
2	9/13	Module 2: Psychological Research	Mod. 2	Module 2 DP
3	9/20	Module 3: Etiology and Treatment	Mod. 3	Module 3 DP
4	9/27	Module 4: Anxiety Disorders	Mod. 4	Module 4 DP
5	10/4	Module 5: Obsessive-Compulsive and Stressor-Related Disorders; Exam I prep	Mod. 5	Module 5 DP
6	10/11	Module 6: Dissociative and Somatic Symptom Disorders	Mod. 6	Module 6 DP
7	10/18	Module 7: Mood Disorders	Mod. 7	Module 7 DP
8	10/25	In-person Exam I Group assignment for Final Project		
9	11/1	Module 8: Eating and Sleep Disorders Module 9: Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders;	Mod. 8&9	Module 8/9 DP
10	11/8	Module 11: Schizophrenia	Mod. 11	Module 11 DP
11	11/15	Module 12: Personality Disorders	Mod. 12	Module 12 DP
12	11/22	Module 13: Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence; Module 14: Neurocognitive and Other Disorders;	Mod. 13	Module 13 DP
13	11/27 (Wed.)	Meet with group for Final Project; Module 14: Neurocognitive and Other Disorders; Exam II Prep	Mod. 14	Module 14 DP
	11/29	Thanksgiving Recess – No Class		
14	12/6	Final Projects Presentations		Final Projects
	12/13	Reading Class – No Class		
15	TBD	In-person Exam II		

Note: The content of this schedule might be adjusted/changed by the instructor depending on students' needs.

Important Semester Dates Fall 2024:

November 27- Friday classes meet (Wednesday)

November 29- Thanksgiving Recess- No Classes

December 6- Last day of Psychopathology
December 11- Last day of semester classes
December 13- Reading Day- No Classes
December 15 through 21-Finals