

## **PSCH 270 – Abnormal Psychology**

Winter, 2022

Lecture: Tuesdays/Thursdays, 2:00-3:15 PM

Room: Behavioral Sciences Building, room 145

Format: Virtual & face-to-face

Instructor: Andrea Flynn, Ph.D.

Face-to-face office drop-ins: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10:30 AM-11:30 AM; 1-1:45 PM

Virtual office drop-ins: Please email me so we can find a good time!

Email: [aflynn@uic.edu](mailto:aflynn@uic.edu)

Teaching assistants:

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**Course summary:** This course is designed to provide an overview of various maladaptive behavior patterns. You will also learn about diagnosis, etiology, and treatment of the primary psychological disorders. We will also discuss that there is no objective “abnormality,” per se, but that most psychological disorders represent internal and external patterns along a continuum. This course will be taught from a scientific, research-based perspective.

**Prerequisites:** Students should already have credit for PSCH 100 (Introduction to Psychology). If you have not taken this prerequisite, you will be dropped from the course.

**Course technology requirements:** You will require a personal computer, broadband Internet connection, and Microsoft Word. You may contact ACCC to request and borrow a laptop or be assigned a hotspot for the semester if you do not have the required hardware and internet capabilities. Please reach out to the TA or instructor with any concerns or challenges, and we will do our best to work with you. Please note that data analyses will be conducted in SPSS. You may download a student version of SPSS from the ACCC website. Please reach out to them with any issues or questions, and let your TA or me know if you need further help.

Another option is to access SPSS via the UIC Virtual Computer Lab:

<https://acc.uic.edu/services/teaching-learning/learning-environments/virtual-computer-lab/>

Please note that while our environment has been very virtual over the last several months, this class will utilize face-to-face communication and interaction to the fullest extent possible.

Numerous research studies suggest that electronic device use negatively impacts our ability to learn. Please know that I expect you to be attentive and engaged in class. Please put away your electronic devices/distracting programs/applications during class unless they are absolutely necessary.

**Enrollment deadlines:** The deadline to add or drop a course without a W and last day to complete late registration is January 21, 2022. The deadline to withdraw from the course (with a W on your academic record) is March 18, 2022.

**Late work:** Late work is not accepted in this course. If you submit an assignment late, your grade will be 0 for that assignment.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required and expected for each class meeting. If you miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to get caught up. Please contact a classmate for notes, announcements or other information if you miss class.

**Diversity statement:** I value the perspectives of individuals from all backgrounds reflecting the diversity of our students. I broadly define diversity to include race, gender identity, national origin, ethnicity, religion, social class, age, sexual orientation, political background, and physical and learning ability. I strive to make this classroom an inclusive space for all students. If you see ways I can improve, please let me know.

**Appropriate behavior:** You are expected to behave maturely and professionally in class. Basic standards for this class include that you must:

- be courteous and respectful to others
- express your own opinions in an appropriate manner
- refrain from discriminatory or hateful speech
- use your computer for course-related purposes only

If you fail to follow these rules, points will be taken from your grade. If your behavior is disruptive to me or others in the class, I may ask you to leave the class.

**Plagiarism:** To plagiarize is “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one’s own” (Plagiarism 101 (n.d.) Plagiarism.org. Retrieved December 1, 2014, from <http://www.plagiarism.org/plagiarism-101/what-is-plagiarism/>). Plagiarism includes not only direct copying of source documents, but also paraphrasing others’ written or verbal comments without indicating the original source. Plagiarism is not permitted, and we will use SafeAssign to automatically screen for plagiarism in all documents submitted for this course. According to university policy, the consequences of submitting plagiarized work are a) receiving a failing grade on the assignment; b) receiving a failing grade in the course; or c) being expelled from the university. Please do not plagiarize in this class. If you are struggling with an assignment, please talk to me or your course TA. We can help you.

**Academic integrity:** Students must abide by the academic integrity guidelines established by the university, and described at <http://www.uic.edu/ucatalog/GR.shtml#qa>. Failure to maintain behavior according to these guidelines is evaluated in accord with the Student Disciplinary Policy.

**Disability services:** UIC is committed to full inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of university life. Students who face or anticipate disability-related barriers while at UIC should connect with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at [drc@uic.edu](mailto:drc@uic.edu), or at (312) 413-2183 to create a plan for reasonable accommodations. In order to receive accommodations, students must disclose disability to the DRC, complete an interactive registration process with the DRC, and provide their course instructor with a Letter of

Accommodation (LOA). Course instructors in receipt of an LOA will work with the student and the DRC to implement approved accommodations.

**Religious holidays:** Campus Policy States: The faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago shall make every effort to avoid requiring that student projects be turned in or completed on religious holidays. Students who wish to observe their religious holidays shall notify the faculty member by the tenth day of the semester of the date when they will be absent unless the religious holiday is observed on or before the tenth day of the semester. In such cases, the student shall notify the faculty member at least five days in advance of the date when he/she will be absent. The faculty member shall make every reasonable effort to honor the request, not penalize the student for missing the class, and if an examination or project is due during the absence, give the student an exam or assignment equivalent to the one completed by those students in attendance. If the student feels aggrieved, he/she may request remedy through the campus grievance procedure.

**Incomplete grades:** The University Policy on incomplete grades is as follows: “Course work is incomplete when a student fails to submit all required assignments or is absent from the final examination. Incomplete course work will normally result in a failing grade if it is not completed within the designated time limit. The "I" may be assigned in lieu of a grade only when all of the following conditions are met: (a) the student has been making satisfactory progress in the course; (b) the student is unable to complete all course work due to unusual circumstances that are beyond personal control and are acceptable to the instructor; and (c) the student presents these reasons prior to the time that the final grade roster is due.” “The instructor must submit an Incomplete report with the final grade roster for the "I" to be recorded. This report is a contract for the student to complete the course work with that instructor or one designated by the department executive officer in the way described and by a time indicated on the report. In resolving the "I," the student may not register for the course a second time, but must follow the procedures detailed on the report.” “An "I" must be removed by the end of the student's first semester or summer session in residence subsequent to the incurrance of the "I" or, if not in residence, no later than one calendar year subsequent to the incurrance. When the student submits the work, the instructor will grade it and change the "I" to the appropriate grade.” “If an undergraduate fails to meet the stated conditions, the instructor will assign an "F" for the final grade.” (From

[https://registrar.uic.edu/student\\_records/grading\\_system.html](https://registrar.uic.edu/student_records/grading_system.html)

### **Additional helpful resources:**

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to contact the UIC writing center for mentoring and feedback on their writing. Tutors are trained to help with both initial formulation and organization of documents, as well as editing and feedback on written drafts. You can get more information about the services offered at: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/engl/writing/about/>

Purdue OWL Website: In addition to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7 th edition, Purdue University hosts an incredible website for assisting with APA formatting, the Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL); [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research\\_and\\_citation/apa\\_style/apa\\_style\\_introduction.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_style_introduction.html)).

Office Hours: Use them! These are the most underutilized and most helpful course support for success. If you have a question, are concerned about your performance, or want to connect with one of us about your interest in the field, please make good use of our office hours.

UIC Counseling Center and Crisis Hotline: Completing your course work and maintaining your responsibilities outside of school can be challenging, and many students find themselves struggling and overwhelmed. UIC has some excellent resources for students to use to get extra support. Note that all UIC students are eligible to receive free counseling services at the UIC Counseling Center (312-996-3490, <http://www.counseling.uic.edu>). During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Counseling Center is offering remote mental health services via video or phone. If you are experiencing a crisis, please make use of the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or online chat (<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>), or consider the Crisis Text Line (Text HOME to 741741).

**Readings:** Reading assignments for each week are listed in the syllabus. As the course progresses, I may add additional assigned readings to facilitate your success in this course. These required readings will be available in the Blackboard site for this course. In addition to the assigned readings, you may be asked to complete additional readings for your discussion board posts or short papers. These will be posted on Blackboard.

**Required textbook:**

Comer, R. J. & Comer, J. S. (2021). *Abnormal Psychology* (11<sup>th</sup> Edition). New York, NY: Worth Publishers.

Note: Your textbook is available in either paper or electronic format. It is your prerogative which format to use. You may wish to purchase an older version of the textbook. The content of the older texts will likely be very similar, but please know I will be writing the exams and quizzes using the 2021 version (11<sup>th</sup> edition) of this textbook.

It is recommended that you purchase:

American Psychological Association. (2019). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7<sup>th</sup> ed.). Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

**Grading:** As assignments are completed and graded, scores will be entered into the Gradebook on the course Blackboard site. YOU are responsible for reviewing these grades and notifying myself or our TA ASAP with any concerns about grade entry errors. Further, if you are concerned about your performance in the course related to your grades, it is strongly recommended that you attend my and/or the TA's office hours for guidance. Although your lowest exam, discussion board, and short paper will be dropped at the end of the term, the grade book on Blackboard will not reflect this. You will manually need to drop these scores to calculate your grade.

Letter grades will correspond to percentage of points earned as follows: 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, 70-79% = C, 60-69% = D, and 59% and below = F. Total points in this course: 205.

<b><u>Assignment</u></b>	<b><u>Points</u></b>
Exams (50 points each x 3 exams; lowest exam dropped at end of term)	150
Short papers (25 points each x 3 papers; lowest short paper dropped at end of term)	75
Discussion board posts (10 points each x 3 papers; lowest discussion board post is dropped at end of term)	30

### Course assignments:

<b><u>Assignment name</u></b>	<b><u>Assignment summary</u></b>
Exams	<p>In this course, you will take four exams. Each exam is worth the same number of points (50 points). At the end of the semester, your lowest exam grade of the four exams will be dropped. The first three exams will be non-cumulative with the caveat that each section of the course builds on previous sections. Though I will not explicitly test you on concepts from an earlier unit, you will have to draw on knowledge from previous units on later exams. The fourth exam in the course is cumulative and will be completed during finals week.</p> <p>The exams will occur on Blackboard during the time of our course meeting. You are expected to complete the exams independently and without the use of notes, your book, or the Internet. Please note that all of the course exams are timed and you have exactly 75 minutes to complete them (the duration of a normal class meeting). Thus, you should assume that you will not have time to look up the answers to each question anyway. Blackboard will prohibit you from using more than 75 minutes for the exams so please pace yourself. <u>Please also know that you must take the exams during the time posted in the course schedule or your grade will be a zero (0).</u></p> <p>Please note: It is your responsibility to ensure you have reliable Internet and computer access during exams. On-campus resources are available to you if you believe your Internet access is unstable. I will not accept requests for exam retakes and so forth if you have technology problems. If you have are experiencing hardships related to Internet/technology access, please see me in advance so we can identify a solution.</p>
Short papers	<p>You will complete a series of short papers throughout the semester. Each short paper is worth 25 points. At the end of the term, your top 3 short papers will count towards your final grade. Since 4 short papers will be assigned, this means your lowest score will be dropped at the end of the semester.</p> <p>Short paper assignments will be posted on Blackboard. You are expected to do all of the assignment yourself. All university academic</p>

	<p>integrity/plagiarism standards apply. Please be sure to do your own work to avoid penalties.</p> <p>Every short paper is required to have paraphrased ideas from our class integrated into the paper and cited in APA style. The papers are expected to be approximately 2-4 pages in length, although short paper length will vary by student.</p> <p>All short papers will be due at 11:59 PM on the date listed on the course schedule (below). Late short papers will not be accepted for any reason. All short papers will be graded by your TAs. Please see your TA if you have questions or concerns about a grade you receive on a homework assignment.</p> <p>All short papers will be scanned using the university's plagiarism detection software. All suspected incidents of plagiarism will be filed with the Office of the Dean of Students and will be subject to the Student Disciplinary Policy.</p>
Discussion board posts	<p>You will complete a series of discussion board posts throughout the semester. Each discussion board post is worth 10 points. At the end of the term, your top 3 short papers will count towards your final grade. Since 4 short papers will be assigned, this means your lowest score will be dropped at the end of the semester.</p> <p>The discussion board posts will require you to critically reflect on and apply the course material. These posts are expected to be approximately 1-4 paragraphs in length. Your discussion board posts are required to have paraphrased ideas from the class with citations in APA style. All academic integrity standards articulated by the university apply to your discussion board posts. Posts suspected of plagiarism will be submitted to the Dean of Students office and subject to the Student Disciplinary Policy. Do your own work.</p> <p>You are encouraged, but not required, to reply to your classmates' posts.</p>
Extra credit	<p>You can earn up to 5 points of extra credit by completing the course evaluation at the end of the term. You should take a screen shot of the course evaluation completion page and upload it to Blackboard by the deadline in the course schedule to earn credit. Late submissions will not be graded.</p>

**All written work will be submitted via SafeAssign to screen for plagiarism.**

**Course schedule (subject to change):**

<b><u>Week</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Topic</u></b>
Week 1	1/11/22	Introduction to the course Read textbook chapter 1
	1/13/22	Introduction to Abnormal Psychology Before class: Read chapter 1
Week 2	1/18/22	Research in Abnormal Psychology Before class: Read chapter 2

	1/20/22	Research in Abnormal Psychology Before class: Read chapter 2
	1/23/22	<b>Discussion board 1 due on Blackboard (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 3	1/25/22	Models of Abnormality Before class: Read chapter 3
	1/27/22	Assessment, Diagnosis & treatment Before class: Read chapter 4
	1/30/22	<b>Short paper 1 due on Blackboard (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 4	2/1/22	Assessment, Diagnosis & treatment Before class: Read chapter 4
	<b>2/3/22</b>	<b>Exam 1: Chapters 1-4 &amp; material presented in class Blackboard, 2-3:15 PM</b>
Week 5	2/8/22	Anxiety, obsessive-compulsive and related disorders Before class: Read chapter 5
	2/10/22	Anxiety, obsessive-compulsive and related disorders Before class: Read chapter 5
Week 6	2/15/22	Disorders of trauma and stress Before class: Read chapter 6
	2/17/22	Disorders of trauma and stress Before class: Read chapter 6
	2/20/22	<b>Discussion board 2 due on Blackboard (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 7	2/22/22	Depressive & bipolar disorders Before class: Read chapter 7
	2/24/22	Depressive & bipolar disorders Before class: Read chapter 7
	2/27/22	<b>Short paper 2 due on Blackboard (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 8	3/1/22	Suicide Before class: Read chapter 8
	3/3/22	Suicide Before class: Read chapter 8
Week 9	3/8/22	<b>Exam 2: Chapters 5-8 Blackboard, 2-3:15 PM</b>
	3/10/22	Somatic disorders Before class: Read chapter 9
Week 10	3/15/22	Eating disorders Before class: Read chapter 10
	3/17/22	Eating disorders Before class: Read chapter 10
	3/21/22	<b>Discussion board 3 due (11:59 PM)</b>
	3/22/22 & 3/24/22	<b>No classes: Spring break</b>
Week 11	3/29/22	Substance use & addictive disorders Before class: Read chapter 11
	3/31/22	Substance use & addictive disorders Before class: Read chapter 11
	4/1/22	<b>Paper 3 due on Blackboard (11:59 PM)</b>

Week 12	4/5/22	Sexual disorders & gender variations Before class: Read chapter 12
	4/7/22	Sexual disorders & gender variations Before class: Read chapter 12
Week 13	<b>4/12/22</b>	<b>Exam 3: Chapters 9-12 Blackboard, 2-3:15 PM</b>
	4/14/22	Schizophrenia and related disorders Before class: Read chapters 13 & 14
	<b>4/17/22</b>	<b>Discussion board 4 due (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 14	4/19/22	Schizophrenia and related disorders Before class: Read chapters 13 & 14
	4/21/22	Personality disorders Before class: Read chapter 15
	4/24/22	<b>Short paper 4 due on Blackboard (11:59 PM)</b>
Week 15	4/26/22	Personality disorders Before class: Read chapter 15
	4/28/22	Disorders of childhood and adolescence Before class: Read chapter 16
Week 16: Finals week		<b>Exam 4 (final exam), date/time TBD-Chapters 1-13, all assigned reading &amp; course material</b>