Abnormal Psychology
Stephen F. Austin State University
MWF 11:00 - 11:50 a.m.
Robert T McKibben Education Building - Room 263

Assistant Professor: Sylvia Middlebrook, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Office: McKibben 215E
Office Hours: MW 12:00 – 2:00 pm; R 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.; other days/times by appt.
Phone: (936) 468-4402 Psychology Dept. main number; (936) 468-1455
Email: middlebrs@d2l.sfasu.edu (preferred); middlebrs@sfasu.edu (e-mails to this address must have PSY 375.03 in subject line)
Graduate Assistant: Tessa Thomas; thomasta3@d2l.sfasu.edu; thomasta3@jacks.sfasu.edu
Office: 241; Office hours: MW 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.


Course Description: This course covers the theories and research on the incidence, classification, etiology, and treatment of psychological disorders and abnormal behaviors.

Program Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.

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<tr>
<th>PLO</th>
<th>Proficiency Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>The student will demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends in psychology.</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>The student will understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation.</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>The student will respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes.</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<td>The student will understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues.</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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<tr>
<td>The student will value empirical evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a science.</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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Student Learning Objectives:
1. Students will be able to communicate an understanding of the scientific research and theories pertaining to abnormal psychology.
2. Students will be able to explain the diagnostic system utilized to classify abnormal behaviors, including an understanding of the DSM-5 and multi-axial system of diagnosis.

3. Students will be able to communicate an understanding of the different diagnostic categories of abnormal behavior, the incidence rate, the etiology behind these disorders, and the methods of treatments utilized.

4. Students will have an understanding of how “abnormal” is defined and the potential implications of being labeled “mentally ill.”

5. Students will develop and improve their critical thinking skills within the domain of psychology.

6. Students will learn to better communicate their knowledge and opinions effectively during classroom discussions.

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Course Requirements:

1. **Attendance and Participation:** Consistent class attendance is extremely important to your understanding of the concepts and course material covered in this class. It is an expectation that you will come to class having read the assigned material, and prepared to participate in discussions, respond to questions, and make relevant comments and pertinent observations. Absences cannot be used as an excuse for missing deadlines. This is a fast-paced, advanced level course that will cover substantial amounts of information during each class session. Students are expected to arrive on time. If you arrive late, it is your responsibility to inform the professor of your presence at the end of class. Attendance will be taken on several random dates during the semester, and points may be awarded for attendance or for a brief class activity that may be given that day. If you miss class on a day that attendance is taken, you will not receive attendance points unless you have a medical excuse from a doctor’s office, and you cannot make up the in-class assignment.

2. **Reading:** Students are expected to read ALL assigned materials. Reading should be done in advance of class to maximize your comprehension of the material and to facilitate your capacity to meaningfully contribute to classroom discussion. Reviewing your reading materials after the class will enhance your retention of important information. You will need the textbook in order to successfully complete this course.

Note: We will cover much of the material in the text during classroom lectures and discussion; however, it would not be possible to cover all topics and information in the book, so note that **you are responsible for material from the text whether or not it is covered in class.**

3. **Exams:** There are four (4) non-cumulative exams, and a syllabus quiz. Each exam is worth 100 points, and because these exams cover a substantial quantity of information, preparation for them should be on-going. Stay current in your reading and take notes in class. Although the standard power-points that accompany the text will be posted on d2L, you should not depend on these as a primary study resource. Ultimately, you are responsible for your own success in this class.

On Exam Days: Be on time. Coming into class late after an exam has begun is distracting, and decreases the amount of time you have to finish. When taking exams, students are required to remain in the classroom until exams have been submitted as completed. Bring a large blue Scantron sheet (form 30423) and a number 2 pencil to class on exam days.

*Important note: If your cell phone is in sight at any time during an exam, your test will be taken up and you will receive an automatic zero on that exam.
**Make-up exams:** If you know you have to miss class on an exam day (for university activity, doctor's appt., etc.), please speak with the Professor as soon as you know, and make arrangements to take the exam before the regularly scheduled test date. However, if you are ill or have an emergency on exam day and are unable to make it to class, you must meet **two requirements** in order to be eligible to take a make-up exam:  
(1) **You must inform the professor no later than the start of class that you will be absent and state the reason for your absence.** If you fail to notify the professor either by phone, email, or in person, before the exam has been handed out to the class, you will not be eligible to take a make-up exam.  
(2) **In addition, students must have a formal excuse.** A make-up exam will be scheduled as soon as is reasonably possible depending on the circumstances, and a formal excuse will be required at that time. If you do not bring formal documentation, you will not be able to take the make-up exam.  
*Please note that the make-up exam may vary in format and content from the scheduled exam administered in class.*

4. **Assignments:** There may several in-class assignments (details TBA), as well as several more in-depth assignments to be completed out of class (TBA). D2L dropboxes will be opened for these. More information will be given regarding the specific assignments to provide ample time for completion prior to the due dates. All outside work is submitted through d2L dropbox in a Word document. Work cannot be scanned in. There is no make up for in-class assignments that are missed.

5. **Abnormal Psychology Assessment:** A major case study assignment will be given toward the end of the semester. This will involve reading an in-depth case study, determining the appropriate diagnosis using the DSM-5, carefully analyzing the information provided, and developing a relevant treatment plan for the individual.

6. **Research Participation:** Students are required to earn 10 research points (R points) by participating in departmental research projects. Students must first create a Sona Systems account before signing up to participate in the studies. Please visit the Department of Psychology’s Sona Systems Software in order to create an account: [http://sfasu.sona-systems.com](http://sfasu.sona-systems.com)  
*All R points must be completed by Friday, 12/01/2017.* Note: A small number of extra credit points may be earned by those who complete all R-points by mid-term (Wednesday, 10/18/2017).

7. **Important note and caution:** This course may include videos, power-point slides, clinical information/scenarios, etc., with mature themes, and may contain discussion of sensitive content related to psychological disorders/maladaptive behavior, and serious mental illness. Students should consider these factors when determining if they are appropriate candidates for this course. Students experiencing difficulties have the option of exploring and/or accessing services available via Counseling Services (936) 468-2401. More information can be found at: [http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices](http://www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices)

8. It is strongly recommended that you **check d2L daily** for important announcements, e-mails, assignments, exam info, helpful links, etc. You are responsible for information posted on d2L.  
**Important note:** E-mail from your personal e-mail account that is sent to the Professor’s sfasu.edu e-mail address is often directed to “Junk Mail”; thus, e-mails sent to my sfasu.edu address may not be received or seen, and a delay in response may occur. Therefore, **d2L is the preferred e-mail communication for Dr. Middlebrook and for graduate assistant, Tessa Thomas.**

**Grading System:**

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Four (4) Exams</td>
<td>100 each</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syllabus Quiz</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abnormal Psychology Assessment</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>40</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ten (10) Research Participation 2 points each 20
Attendance 10 points 10
Total possible points: 520

Grade Distribution: Grades are firm!
A = 90% - 100%; B = 80% - 89%; C = 70% - 79%; D = 60% - 69%; F < 60%

Additional Course Information:

Classroom Behavior: Classroom behavior must not interfere with the instructor's ability to conduct the class or the ability of other students to learn from the instructional program (refer to Student Conduct code, policy D-34.1). Inappropriate, unacceptable and/or disruptive behavior may result in a student being asked to leave class, and this student may be subject to judicial, academic, and/or other penalties. The expectation is that you will be respectful of the Professor and the other students in this class. Extended private conversations during lecture are distracting to the Professor and other classmates, and are not acceptable. The instructor reserves the right to ask students to leave class if that student's behavior interferes with the learning or teaching process. Though students are encouraged to participate and to engage in class discussions, it is not necessarily appropriate to discuss detailed personal matters.

***Cell Phones and Electronics: *Cell phones MUST be turned off and out of sight during class.* Texting, social networking, and/or online activities during class are not appropriate and will not be tolerated. These activities are distracting to the Professor and to those around you. When you enter the classroom, turn your cell phone off and put it in out of sight (in backpack, purse, etc.). *The Professor reserves the right to ask students to leave class if they are texting or otherwise using cell phones during class.*

Electronic Use: Use of computers, electronic notepads, phones, etc. is not permitted during class unless the student has documentation of an educational need for such devices from the Office of Disability Services. Students are not permitted to record class lectures unless there is a documented need to do so as indicated by the Office of Disability Services.

If you have questions, please stop by my office (215E), or make an appointment with me.

Additional information:

Academic Integrity (A-9.1): "Academic integrity is a responsibility of all University faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instructions on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by University policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism." -- Stephen F. Austin State University Policies. The policy can be accessed for your review at: [http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic_integrity.asp)

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to (1) using or attempting to use unauthorized materials to aid in achieving a better grade on a component of a class; (2) the falsification or invention of any information, including citations, on an assigned exercise; and/or (3) helping or attempting to help another in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were your own. Examples of plagiarism are (1) submitting an assignment as if it were one's own work when, in fact, it is at least partly the work of another; (2) submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from an Internet source or
another source; and (3) incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper without giving the author due credit.

Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/student_academic_dishonesty.pdf

**Withheld Grades from Course Grades (Policy 5.5)**

At the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic unit head, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F, except as allowed through policy [i.e., Active Military Service (6.14)]. If students register for the same course in future semesters, the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities (Policy 6.1)**

To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/ and http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/academic-accommodation-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf.

**iCare Early Alert Intervention Program:** Students experiencing significant behavioral, attendance, and/or academic difficulties may be considered for referral to student services to provide additional assistance or intervention.

*The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus, including the format, the course content, and/or the calendar based on students' level of comprehension, mastery of material presented, and/or other circumstances.*
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PSY 375.003 MWF 11:00 - 11:50 a.m.
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| Week of: | Syllabus; Introduction; Syllabus quiz  
Ch. 1 Overview of Psychopathology; Changing conceptualizations of Mental Illness  
**Syllabus Quiz (Friday, 09/01/2017)** |
| 1 | Week of 08/28/2017 |
| 2 | Week of 09/04/2017  
Ch. 1 (continued)  
Ch. 4 Assessment & Classification of Psychological Disorders |
| 3 | Week of 09/11/2017  
Ch. 4 (continued)  
Ch. 5 Disorders of Childhood |
| 4 | Week of 09/18/2017  
Ch. 5 (continued)  
Ch. 10 Eating Disorders |
| 5 | Week of 09/25/2017  
**EXAM 1 – covering Chs. 1, 4, 5, & 10**  
Ch. 6 Mood Disorders & Suicide |
| 6 | Week of 10/02/2017  
Ch. 6 (continued)  
Ch. 7 Stress, Trauma, & Psychopathology |
| 7 | Week of 10/09/2017  
Ch. 7 (continued)  
Ch. 8 Anxiety Disorders & Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder |
| 8 | Week of 10/16/2017  
Ch. 8 (continued)  
Ch. 9 Dissociative Disorders & Somatic Symptom Disorder |
| 9 | Week of 10/23/2017  
**EXAM 2 – covering Chs. 6, 7, 8, & 9**  
Ch. 13 Schizophrenia  
Week of 10/30/2017  
Ch. 13 (continued)  
Ch. 14 Personality Disorders |
| 10 | Week of 11/06/2017  
Ch. 14 (continued) |
| 11 | Week of 11/13/2017  
Ch. 12 Substance-Related & Addictive Disorders  
**EXAM 3 – covering Chs. 12, 13, & 14** |
| 12 | Week of 11/20/2017  
Thanksgiving Holidays |
| 13 | Week of 11/27/2017  
Ch. 11 Sexual Dysfunctions & Gender Dysphoria  
Ch. 15 Neurocognitive Disorders |
| 14 | Week of 12/04/2017  
Ch. 16 The Law & Mental Health  
Ch. 2 Neuroscience Approaches & Ch. 3 (Research Methods) – selected topics, time permitting |
| 15 | Week of 12/11/2017  
Finals Week  
**Final Exam : Monday, 12/11/2017, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**  
Chs. 11, 15, 16, selected topics from Ch. 2 & Ch. 3 |

**Dates/materials covered in the above schedule are tentative and subject to change.**