

Syllabus Psychology 281

Introduction to Abnormal Psychology

Instructor's Information



Name: M. E. (Mimi) Vandenberg, MS, Associate Professor of Psychology

Email: Please use the ecampus in course email for all communication with this instructor.

Textbook



Required Textbook

Comer, R. (2011), *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology* (6th ed.). New York, Worth Publishers.

Course Overview

GEC's 4 and 6: Psychology 101 meets the West Virginia University requirements for both GEC's 4 and 6:

- **4. Issues of Contemporary Society:** Students are expected to apply knowledge, methods, and principles of inquiry to contemporary problems, ideas, and/or values.
- **6. The Individual in Society:** Students are expected to develop an awareness of human experience, including both personal and social dimensions.

Course Objectives

1. To consider critically the concept of abnormality.
2. To explore current paradigms of psychopathology.
3. To become familiar with the diagnostic system of the American Psychiatric Association (*DSM-IV*).
4. To understand clinical assessment procedures.
5. To systematically examine the major psychological disorders.
6. To explore treatment approaches for these psychological disorders.

Instruction

This class is taught completely online via ecampus. It is your responsibility to build your own learning experience through the reading, discussions, web links, and learning activities. You must also regularly log into ecampus and keep track of due dates. If you have technical problems with ecampus, thoroughly review the tutorials and information on the ecampus homepage and:

http://www.potomacstatecollege.edu/academics/online_courses_ecampus.html

<http://oit.wvu.edu/>

Course Organization

- **Modules:** The course is organized in a series of **modules**.
 - There are **eight modules**: one module to be completed for each week of the course.
 - Completion of each module is worth a maximum of **100 points** toward your final grade.
 - Each module is comprised of:
 - intended **student learning outcomes** for the chapter
 - several **assignments** designed to facilitate achieving those learning outcomes (**70 points**)
 - **discussion topics (15 points)**
 - a **quiz. (15 points)**

➤ **Modules and their corresponding chapters:**

- Module 1:** Chapter 1: Abnormal Psychology Past and Present
Chapter 2: Models of Abnormality
- Module 2:** Chapter 3: Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and TX
Chapter 4: Anxiety Disorders and Chapter 5: ASD & PTSD
- Module 3:** Chapter 6: Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders
Chapters 7&8: Mood Disorders and Suicide
- Module 4:** Chapter 9: Eating Disorders
Chapter 10: Substance Related Disorders
- Module 5:** Chapter 11: Sexual Disorders and Gender Identity Disorder
Chapter 12: Schizophrenia
- Module 6:** Chapter 12: Schizophrenia
Chapter 13: Personality Disorders
- Module 7:** Chapter 13: Personality Disorders
Chapter 14: Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence
- Module 8:** Chapter 15: Disorders of Aging and Cognition
Chapter 16: Law, Society, and the Mental Health Profession
eSEI

Procedures and Due Dates

- **This instructor will not accept late assignments.**
- Assignments for each week are due by that **Saturday at midnight.** (See calendar)
- Assignments are to be submitted through the **Assignment** tool in each module. The recommended method of submitting your assignments is to create **ONE** document addressing all of the components of an assignment. Save your work on your computer. Attach your document to the assignment submission tool as a **MS Word document**. If you do not have MS Word, copy and paste your submission, **using the HTML Creator**. *Spell checking and careful editing are imperative!*
- Each student must participate in discussions on each week's topics. Students may log on and make comments using the **Discussion** tool at their convenience. **Each student should initiate one comment on each topic, and respond to at least one other student's comment on each topic.** Weekly discussions will close at midnight on Saturdays. Please begin discussions early in the week to allow time for other students to respond to your comments.

- **Assessments:** The quizzes will be available on the homepage each Monday until midnight. (See calendar) Once you begin the quiz, you will have a limited time in which to complete it.
- All students are expected to be assessed on **their own demonstrated knowledge** of the course material. The PSC policy on academic dishonesty (cheating and/or plagiarism) will be strictly followed. This includes the correct citing of the author or other sources in quoted responses to questions assigned. Students are responsible for adherence to all PSC policies as described in the PSC catalog.

Grading

Evaluation and Grading:

Your grade in this course will be determined by your performance on exams, assignments, discussions and assessments according to the breakdown below.

1. Total points available in course = 800

- **Weekly activities total = 100 points/8 weeks**
 - 70 points/week (560 points total) = **Assignments**
 - 15 points/week (120 points total) = **Discussions**
 - 15 points/week (120 points total) = **Quizzes**

2. Grading Scale:

- **A** = 720 - 800 points (90% and above)
- **B** = 640 - 719 points (80 - 89.9%)
- **C** = 560 - 639 points (70 - 79.9%)
- **D** = 480 - 559 (60 - 69.9%)
- **F** = 479 and below (59.9% and below)

Additional Important Information

Grading: The *Potomac State College Catalog* contains additional information about grades.

Academic Integrity:

The integrity of the classes offered by any academic institution solidifies the foundation of its mission and cannot be sacrificed to expediency, ignorance, or blatant fraud. Therefore, I will enforce rigorous standards of academic integrity in all aspects and assignments of this course. For the detailed policy of West Virginia University regarding the definitions of acts considered to fall under academic dishonesty and possible ensuing sanctions, please see the Student Conduct Code at <http://www.studentlife.wvu.edu/judicial.html>. Should you have

any questions about possibly improper research citations or references, or any other activity that may be interpreted as an attempt at academic dishonesty, please contact me *before* the assignment is due to discuss the matter.

Social Justice Statement:

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to foster a nurturing learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

Days of Special Concern: WVU recognizes the diversity of its students and the needs of those who wish to participate in Days of Special Concern, which are listed in the Schedule of Courses. Students should notify their instructors by the end of the second week of classes or prior to the first Day of Special Concern, whichever is earlier, regarding Days of Special Concern observances that will affect their attendance. Further, students must abide by the attendance policy of their instructors as stated on their syllabi. Faculty will make reasonable accommodation for tests that a student misses as a result of observing a Day of Special Concern.

Please consult the college calendar at <http://www.potomacstatecollege.edu> for campus activities, holidays and administrative deadlines.

Americans with Disabilities: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Potomac State College programs and courses will be accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are a student with a disability and may require accommodations for this course or your academic program, please contact the Office of Disabilities Services at 788-6936.