

McKendree University
PSY 320

Military Psychology



Required Text:

Kennedy, Carrie H. and Eric A. Zillmer
(2nd Edition) *Military Psychology: Clinical and Operational Applications*. The Guilford Press

Recommended:

Castner, Brian (2012). *The Long Walk: A Story of War and the Life that Follows*. Doubleday

This course will cover identifying and meeting the needs of today's service members, the role that mental health professionals play in enhancing mission readiness for the military, how mental health professionals respond to disasters, and mental health programs offered to service members. This course will also look at how mental health professionals respond to frequently encountered mental health problems in service members, such as posttraumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, suicidality and substance abuse. Clinical and procedural guidelines for completing fitness-for-duty assessments are also explored.

The mission of McKendree University is to provide a high quality educational experience to outstanding students.

~Responsible Citizenship

~Engagement

~Academic Excellence

~Lifelong Learning

PSY 320 MILITARY PSYCHOLOGY

ONLINE COURSES REQUIRE:

ORGANIZATION, TIME MANAGEMENT, & RESPONSIBILITY

Course Objectives:

1. Students will understand the roles that mental health professionals have in the military.
2. Students will develop an understanding of the most common mental health problems facing today's service members.
3. Students will learn to identify behaviors and conditions that may impact a service member's fitness-for-duty.
4. Students will successfully work independently to apply journal articles to assigned topics.
5. Students will think critically about the needs of the military and the individual service member.

Misc. Info:

- The course is 8 weeks long. There will be something due EVERY WEEK!
- Please pay attention to which chapters we are reviewing – *I have divided them by topic, not by the table of contents.*
- There will be a course-long project based on information covered in Module 1 that will apply information learned in other modules – Do not wait until week 8 to start planning this project!!!
- Discussion Boards (DB) are a place for all people to discuss and share. There is an all-class DB.
- When you take a quiz, shut down all other applications (e.g., email, Facebook, etc.). You have to finish the quiz once you start and you only have one hour.

SELECTED MCKENDREE UNIVERSITY COURSE POLICIES:

Academic Honesty:

Any student detected of cheating or engaging in plagiarism on any exam or paper, or participating in any other form of academic dishonesty, will receive the appropriate sanctions, which can include a failing grade ("F") for the course. Please visit with me regarding any questions. In cases of serious violations, additional sanctions (such as academic probation or suspension) are possible.

ADA Policy:

A student requiring assistance with the technical portions of the course should contact the Instructor or the Academic Support Center. Services for Students with disabilities are provided through the McKendree Academic Support Center (MASC) in order to help the student integrate into the entire university experience. MASC provides coordination and implementation of special accommodations for students with documented disabilities.

Challenges to Academic Decisions:

Students who think that their work has been improperly evaluated or who think that they have been unfairly treated in any academic decision may use the grievance procedures found in the catalog.

Course Deletions/Additions:

Students may drop or add courses according to the schedules posted by the Office of Academic Records for each semester. Drops and adds are not effective until recorded by the Registrar. A course may not be added after one week from the first class meeting.

Email:

Every student is issued a McKendree email account, which is one of the major means of communication from departments such as the Office of Academic Records, Student Affairs and the Business Office. All students are responsible for checking their McKendree email accounts regularly, and are accountable for information disseminated to their email accounts. Failure to read university communications sent to McKendree email accounts does not absolve students from knowing and complying with the content of these communications.

Assignments

The instructor reserves the right to make adjustments to the grading criteria. All students will be notified of any changes to the criteria.

ALL assignments must be done on time. A major part of this online class is taking responsibility and time management. ****You are subject to lose points for late, discussion posts, quizzes, and assignments.**

1. Quizzes 10 points each x 8 = 80

You will have 8 quizzes, one per module. You can use your book and any notes, but you will only have 1 hour to complete the quiz. Don't try to take the quiz without first doing the reading, the discussion board, and going through the power points. When you take an online quiz, close all other websites and pages. Once you start the quiz you can't save and go back; you must complete it all in one setting.

2. Discussion Boards Points 5 x 8 = 40

You will have 8 discussion boards, one for each module. Please answer the question and also respond to at least two other posts. Impress me by using information from the book, thinking critically and creatively, and using appropriate grammar and spelling (it is okay to have some fun too).

0 = No Post

1=Post but did not use book or any critical or creative thinking

2=Post, did not respond to others

3=Average post, with average responses to at least 2 other students

4=Good post, used book, good answer, good responses to 2 other students

5=Excellent post and excellent responses to at least
2 other students

*** Always check discussion posts and respond to classmates and the professor**

3. Individual Journal Entries, Points 25 x 3 = 75

You will have *three* journal entries to write for modules **2, 4, and 6.**

A) For each journal application, you will research 1-2 Professional Journal articles or other applicable resources (book, website).

B) Each entry should be approximately 4 paragraphs.

You should include a brief summary of what you read, what you learned about the field of psychology or the military, and your reaction (such as your interest in this field of military psychology and why). Each entry MUST include at least 2 references from the book and at least 2 references from outside the book (e.g., another book, article, or website). These references also must be cited in each assignment. Include your references at the bottom of your entry.

Example of using and documenting reference:

According to Smith, 2007 on the website www.exceptionalathletes.com, approximately 10% of athletes have a disability.

References

Smith, T.P (2007). Exceptional athletes.
www.exceptionalathletes.com Retrieved
January 5, 2009.

Journal assignments:

- 1) Read Ch 13 in the text; With additional references as stated above, write about what you learned and your reactions, citing two references from the book and two outside of the book. (*due Module 2*)
- 2) Research articles on PTSD treatment. With additional references as stated above, write about what you learned and your reactions, citing two references from the book and two outside of the book. (*due Module 4*)
- 3a) Watch a movie depicting a service member who has experienced combat (examples: *Born on the Fourth of July*, *The Hurt Locker*, *Jarhead*, *The Deer Hunter*, *Saving Private Ryan* or *Brothers*).

OR

- 3b) Read *The Long Walk* by Brian Castner (220 pages)
For 3a or 3b: describe at least 2 symptoms, contributing factors, or behaviors depicted or described that let you know this person has some effects of combat; use at least 2 references from the book to support this. (4 references for this assignment is different - 2 from the text and 2 from either the movie or the book you read).

***All journal assignments should have all components listed in this section for full credit.

Grading based on the following;

No assignment or no required parts completed

Missing either 4 paragraphs, 1 reference, reactions or references are cited

Has 4 paragraphs, only 1 reference, plus reactions and references are cited

Has 4 paragraphs, 2 references, reactions and references are cited

Has 4 paragraphs, 3 references, reactions and references are cited

Complete assignment: 4 paragraphs, 4 references, reactions, and references are cited

4. Final Project: Fitness-For-Duty Evaluation 50 points

By the end of this course, you should have a healthy understanding of what behaviors may disqualify a service member from the military. This project is designed to assess your ability to think critically and apply what you have learned to a fictitious patient. On pg 42-49 of your text, there is a sample Report to Medical Evaluation Board. This will be the outline and format you use for this project.

- A.) Research one of the following diagnoses (hint: start with Diagnostic Statistical Manual IV T-R or the Diagnostic Statistical Manual V to look up diagnostic criteria):
Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Borderline Personality Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, Social Anxiety Disorder, Eating Disorder.
- B.) Create a fictitious patient with this diagnosis; elaborate on how the criteria in this diagnosis are exemplified by the patient (this may be where you need additional resources).
- C.) Using the format starting on pg 42 in your text, write a Report to Medical Evaluation Board on your fictitious patient. Include all sections.

Grading based on the following:

Completion: Did you complete all of the required sections?

Content: Did you develop the presenting illness, making a case for your selected diagnosis?

Grammar, Title Page and References: Did you use proper grammar and include a title page and references?

Critical Thinking and Application: Did you make a case for your recommendation, applying information you have learned throughout the course?

****Remember, a lot of this is created by you; I am looking for thoroughness in the behaviors you describe this patient having.**

5. Participation (includes: timeliness, responsiveness to questions in the discussion area, helpfulness to other students, and attendance presence in the course room). Points = 30

Total: 275 points

PLEASE NOTE: SIMPLY DOING THE MINIMUM WILL NOT GET YOU FULL POINTS. It is completion AND quality for grades. Grades will be determined on a straight percentage. If you get an 89.5% that is an A-, as I round up.

A 94 – 100%	A- 90 – 93 %	B+ 87 – 89%	B 84 – 86%	B- 80 – 83%
C+ 77 – 79%	C 74 – 76%	C- 70 – 73%	D 60 – 69%	F Below 60%

Course Schedule At-A-Glance

Module Week	Chapter	DB All DB Post by Thursday and 2 Responses by Sunday	Quiz – All Quizzes due by Sunday	Journal One journal due every other week (Can work ahead!)	Fitness For Duty Evaluation Project
1:	Overview of Military Chapter 1: History of Military Chapter 2: Fitness For Duty Evaluation	Introduction DB & DB 1	Q1		
2:	Chapter 4: Acute Combat Stress Chapter 7: Post Disaster MH	DB 2	Q2	J1	
3:	Chapter 5: Post- Traumatic Stress Disorder	DB 3	Q3		Choose diagnosis.
4:	Chapter 3: Assessment and Selection of High- Risk Personnel Chapter 12: SERE	DB 4	Q4	J2	
5:	Chapter 6: Clinical Health Psych Chapter 8: Neuropsych Practice	DB 5	Q5		
6:	Chapter 9: Suicide Prevention Chapter 10: Substance Abuse Services	DB 6	Q6	J3	
7:	Special add-on: Family Maltreatment in the Military Chapter 11: Crisis and Hostage Negotiation	DB 7	Q7		
8:	Chapter 14: Ethical Dilemmas	DB 8	Q8		Fitness for Duty Due!

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