

## **PSY 240 ON Syllabus**

### **Psychology 240: Abnormal Behavior**

Pamela Adkins, M.S.,M.A., CCC

pladkins@peace.edu

**Summer 2023 (6/26- 8/14)**

Location: Moodle

**Welcome! Please read this syllabus carefully and mark all due dates on your calendar.**

**Please reserve your proctoring appointments today. Please note that no late assignments (including tests) are accepted. ALL late work will be given a score of ZERO points. There are no exceptions.**

### **Course Description**

PSY 240: Abnormal Behavior

3 credit hours; Prerequisite: PSY 101

Who are you and how are you unique from others? Would you describe yourself as cautious or thrill-seeking? Introverted or extroverted? Flexible or rigid? Understanding your own personality can help you function more productively in work and relationships. Understanding variations in personality allows you to predict other people's behavior so you know what to expect from them. This course examines the different theories about how personality is thought to develop (e.g. psychodynamic, motivational, biological, or cognitive). Through class discussions, readings, activities, and class projects, we will explore the elements of personality, how these elements are organized, and the influence of personality on human behavior.

### **Course Objectives**

Students will be able to:

1. Describe and identify psychological disorders commonly found in the adult population
2. Use the major theories of psychology to explain the etiology and treatment of psychological disorders
3. Accurately diagnose disorders using the DSM-V Classification System
4. Identify methods of research used within the field of Abnormal Behavior
5. Understand and evaluate current research findings in Abnormal Behavior
6. Articulate alternative viewpoints regarding the traditional system of classification, diagnosis and treatment of Abnormal Behavior
7. Enhance knowledge of coping/wellness skills

### **Textbook Information**

REQUIRED TEXT:

Abnormal Psychology 17th Edition

Butcher

ISBN: 9780133852059

### **About Your Instructor and This Course**

I am your instructor Pamela Adkins; I have been an instructor at WPU for the past 2.5 years and am also the Assistant Director of Academic Skills and Personal Advising for TRIO at UNCG. In

addition to that, I am also a Secondary Education Ph.D. student at UNCG. I hold an M.S. in Human Development and an M.A. in Career Counseling.

### **Email/Communication Policy**

Email is the preferred method of communication for this course. Students **must** use their WPU email account for ALL email communications. Emails received from other email accounts (i.e. yahoo, Hotmail) will not receive a response. My email address is: **pladkins@peace.edu**. I try to respond to all emails within 1 business day. If 2 business days have passed and you haven't received a response from me, please check in with me. It's possible I didn't receive your message. I am also available for phone and Skype appointments (all must be scheduled in advance).

### **Online Course Information**

All online courses in the School of Professional Studies are fully online and require the use of Moodle. Weekly readings, activities, and assignments will be listed in Moodle. If you have any problems accessing Moodle please contact Dr. Lori McClaren, Executive Director of SPS at 919-508-2367 or [lmccclaren@peace.edu](mailto:lmccclaren@peace.edu).

### **Late and/or Missed Assignments and Exams**

**Late and/or missed assignments and exams will not be accepted. All late and missed assignments will receive a grade of zero points.** All weekly assignments have a deadline of 11:59 pm on the Sunday of the week they are assigned. **The exception is the Final Exam and the final reaction paper, which are due by 11:59 pm on the final Saturday.** Students with serious, mitigating circumstances that prevent them from completing assignments or exams on time should contact the instructor as soon as possible via email: [pladkins@peace.edu](mailto:pladkins@peace.edu), **prior to the assignment or exam deadline**. Students in this situation should be prepared to provide documentation/verification of the emergent circumstance that prevents them from submitting work on time. In these cases, a contract will be established outlining the conditions for an extension. **If the instructor finds the reason for a late and/or missed assignment or exam unacceptable, zero points will be given.** Interactive/peer response posts are **NOT** accepted for credit after the weekly 11:59 pm Sunday deadline. Chances are (if you post after this time) your fellow students will not have an opportunity to read and respond to your posts as they have likely moved on to the current unit and its assignments.

### **Proctoring Policy**

All online courses at William Peace University require one proctored exam. Any student who fails the proctored exam will receive an automatic failing grade in the course, regardless of any other grades received.

### **Plagiarism policy (from student handbook):**

**Plagiarism is theft; it is the *deliberate or accidental* use of a source's words, interpretation, or information *without properly quoting or paraphrasing and acknowledging that use*.**

In both the professional world and the academic world, plagiarism is punished. In the professional world, charges of plagiarism, when proven, carry potentially enormous financial penalties. In the academic world, universities and colleges punish plagiarism with varying degrees of severity, with the penalties ranging all the way from expulsion from the school, to

automatic 'F' in the course, down to automatic 'F' on a particular project or paper.

**There are only two ways to avoid plagiarism:**

1. **Quote and Citation**: Use the source's exact words, place quotation marks at the beginning and end of them, and insert a citation immediately at the end of the quotation according to the standards of the discipline.

1. **Paraphrase and Citation**: Transform (paraphrase) the source's words and information entirely into your own style of writing, and insert a citation at the end of this paraphrase. If what you write still echoes the source's words and style, you have plagiarized. If you fail to insert a citation, you have plagiarized.

**Honor Code**

All students in this class will be held to the William Peace University Honor code. The William Peace University Honor code is as follows:

*On my honor as a William Peace University student, I will not lie, cheat, or steal; nor will I condone the actions of those who do.*

**Course Assignments, Grading, and Point System**

This course is graded on a 1000-point system. Each assignment and exam is worth a certain number of points. The maximum total points at the end of the course is 1000. Your final course grade will be determined per the scale below.

**A:** 900-1000 total points (Exceptional mastery of the material and exceptional performance)

**B:** 800-899 total points (Effective command of the material and strong performance)

**C:** 700-799 total points (Mastery of material)

**D:** 600-699 total points (Inadequate demonstration of mastery of material)

**F:** 599 total points and below (Failure to grasp material)

**Point Breakdown for Coursework:**

**100 Points:** First Reaction Paper (Journal Article)

**100 Points:** Second Reaction Paper (Journal Article)

**100 Points:** Discussion Board #1 participation: Treatments for Mental Illness

**100 Points:** Discussion Board #2 participation: Physician-Assisted Suicide

**100 Points:** Discussion Board #3 participation: Insanity Defense

**200 Points:** Case Study Paper

**150 Points:** Midterm Exam

**150 Points:** Final Exam

**Total Possible Points: 1000**

### Grading Rubric for Case Study paper:

#### **200 points**

Provided a detailed, thorough description of patient symptoms and diagnosis. Used and cited research materials appropriately. The paper shows a thorough understanding of the diagnostic process and application of journal material to the case.

#### **100 points**

The Paper included a description of symptoms and diagnosis but they were not clearly described and/or did not show mastery of the material. Comprehension and summary of journal material unclear or only adequate. Research and writing show only adequate effort.

#### **0 points**

The paper was not turned in, it was turned in late, or little effort was put into it.

**Please note:** Written papers must be typed and double-spaced with all sources cited appropriately using APA format ([APA template](#), feel free to make a copy and use). Edit papers carefully for spelling and grammatical errors. **Points will be deducted for spelling, grammar, and other errors.**

---

### **Weekly Activities/Assignments Table for PSY 240**

#### **Week 1 (6/27-7/2)**

- \* Our topics for the week: Abnormal Psychology: An Overview; Historical and Contemporary Views of Abnormal Behavior; Causal Factors and Viewpoints
- \* View the Discovery Channel slideshow “An Illustrated History of the Mental Asylum”
- \* Read the article about the Dorothea Dix Hospital in Raleigh
- \* Read the essay by NAMI Executive Director regarding shootings and mental illness

#### **Readings**

- \* Read your textbook Chapters 1-3

#### **Assignment Journal article #1**

##### **Date Due: Sunday, 11:59 pm**

\* The ability to analyze and summarize journal articles is critical to competency in the field of Abnormal Psychology. For this assignment, please select a journal article from the Psycinfo database (link through the WPU library website) that relates to some aspect of our textbook readings or area of abnormal psychology that is most interesting to you. (Examples: schizophrenia, ADHD treatments, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) The article topic is entirely your choice. Properly cite the article using APA format (example: Smith, J. (2010). Treatment Approaches for Post-Partum Depression. *Monitor on Psychology*, Vol. 40 (8), pp. 52-55) Then thoroughly summarize it. This paper should be typed, double-spaced, and a minimum of 1 1/2 pages long. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation will be graded as part of this paper. An excellent set of guidelines for this assignment can be found here:

<https://www.manuscriptedit.com/scholar-hangout/journal-article-review-in-apa-style-2/> I encourage you to read the guidelines carefully before completing this assignment.

---

## **Week 2 (7/3-7/9)**

\* Our Topics: Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis; Stress and Physical and Mental Health; Panic, Anxiety, Obsessions, and Their Disorders

### **Readings**

\* Read chapters 4, 5, and 6 of your textbook

### **Assignments:**

#### **Due Sunday at 11:59**

\* Watch the video clip about a spider phobia and treatment

\*Discussion #1

Participate in our online discussion board. Discuss treatments for mental illness. Do you believe talk therapy is as effective as medication? Do you think children should be given psychiatric medications? **(Note: for full credit for discussion board responses, you must write one post of at least 100 words responding to the questions above, and respond to two of your classmates' posts with at least 50 words per response.)**

---

## **Week 3 (7/10-7/16)**

\* Our Topics: Mood Disorders and Suicide; Somatic Symptom and Dissociative Disorders

### **Readings**

\* Read chapters 7 and 8 of your textbook

### **Assignments**

#### **Date Due: Sunday, 11:59 pm**

\* Watch the video clip regarding suicides in the U.S. military.

\*Read the column written by Brittany Maynard on why she chose to end her life.

\*Complete Journal Article #2

\*Participate in our online discussion board topic: Assisted suicide for terminally ill patients in the United States is a topic that is frequently debated in the media, particularly with the recent media coverage of American woman Brittany Maynard, who moved to Oregon following her diagnosis of terminal cancer. What are your thoughts on physician-assisted suicide? Should terminally ill patients be allowed to choose to end their own lives? Why or why not? If you think that patients should be allowed the right to physician-assisted suicide, what criteria do you believe should be in place before the patient is provided with the medication? **(Note: for full credit for discussion board responses, you must write one post of at least 100 words**

responding to the questions above, and respond to two of your classmates' posts with at least 50 words per response.)

---

#### **Week 4 (7/17-7/23)**

\* Our Topics: Eating Disorders and Obesity; Personality Disorders

#### **Readings**

\* Read chapters 9 and 10 of your textbook

#### **Assignments**

**Date Due: Sunday, 11:59 pm**

\* Watch the video clip regarding personality disorders

\* Read from the interview with actress Glenn Close

**\*Midterm exam due by Sunday, 11:59 pm.**

---

#### **Week 5 (7/24-7/30)**

\* Our Topics: Substance-Related Disorders; Sexual Variants, Abuse, and Dysfunctions; Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders

#### **Reading**

\* Read Chapters 11, 12, and 13 of your textbook

#### **Assignments**

**Date Due: Sunday, 11:59 pm**

\* Submit your Case Study paper. Assignment is outlined below.

Depictions of people with mental illness are found in many TV shows and movies. For this assignment, you will need to watch a film or TV show that involves a character with some form of psychopathology.

In your paper, thoroughly describe the character's behaviors and symptoms, and provide a diagnosis based on the DSM-V criteria.

Then, access the journal article database through the WPU library website, and choose one article that focuses on the diagnosis or etiology of the particular form of psychopathology or disorder shown in the movie or TV show you chose. You must choose a scholarly journal article. Blogs, websites, and other non-journal sources are not acceptable. Read the article, thoroughly summarize it, then discuss how it relates (or doesn't relate) to the character. This paper should be typed and double-spaced, **minimum 5 pages**. Use APA format and cite resources appropriately.

---

#### **Week 6 (7/31- 8/)**

\* Our Topics: Neurocognitive Disorders; Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence (Neurodevelopmental Disorders)

**Readings**

- \* Read chapters 14 and 15 of your textbook
- \* Read the essays discussing perspectives on the insanity defense

**Assignments****Date Due: Sunday, 11:59 pm**

- \* Participate in our online discussion board question: What's your perspective on the insanity defense? Should people who commit crimes be allowed to use this defense? Is it overused? (Note: for full credit for discussion board responses, you must write one post of at least 100 words responding to the questions above, and respond to two of your classmates' posts with at least 50 words per response.)
- 

**Week 7 (8/7-8/13)**

- \* Our topics: Psychological Treatment; Contemporary and Legal Issues in Abnormal Psychology

**Readings**

- \* Read chapters 16 and 17 of your textbook.

**Assignments****Date Due: SATURDAY, 11:59 pm**

- \* Final proctored exam 8/13
- \* Reaction paper

Write a 1-1 ½ page paper answering the following questions: Has your perspective on mental illness and mental health changed after studying the material in this course? If so, how? What aspect of Abnormal Psychology is most interesting to you? What aspect is least interesting to you? Why? How will you apply what you have learned in this course to your life?