

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Fall 9-1-2020

PSYX 340.R01: Abnormal Psychology

Kelly Davis

University of Montana, Missoula, kelly2.davis@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Davis, Kelly, "PSYX 340.R01: Abnormal Psychology" (2020). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 11477.
<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/11477>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Syllabus – Psyx 340 – Fall 2020

Abnormal Psychology

Meeting Location and Times

Remote Delivery via Zoom: Link available on Moodle

MWF 11:00-11:50 am

Instruction dates: August 19-November 18, 2020

Final Exam: Friday, November 20 from 8:00 am-10:00 am

Instructor Information

Instructor: Kelly Davis, MA, LCPC

Office: Skaggs Bldg. 360

Email: kelly2.davis@umontana.edu (the best way to contact me)

Virtual Office Hours: Mondays 12:00-1:30 pm, Fridays 9:00-10:30 am, or by appointment

Teaching Philosophy

There are many ways of teaching this course as there are instructors; accordingly, I teach with a certain set of biases and assumptions that it is important to make clear. First, I am biased toward *scientific* explanations of human behavior, those that are grounded in both theory and data, and I will focus primarily on these explanations throughout the course. Second, I have a bias in favor of a certain type of students: those who work toward their full potential. I will facilitate your learning of the material in class, in my office hours, via email, and on the discussion board as long as you demonstrate an eagerness to learn. Finally, I believe that students learn best through active engagement with the material. This is reflected in the fact that I supplement material from your text with case studies or anecdotes, I offer extra credit for going above and beyond reading the text for the course, and I welcome in-class discussion (as much as is possible with our cozy group of 90 or so students).

Course Guidelines and Policies

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Academic Misconduct

You are expected to adhere to the University's [Student Conduct Code](#) with regard to academic integrity. Academic misconduct in this course will result in an academic penalty commensurate with the offense as well as possible disciplinary action by the University.

Incompletes

Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing "incomplete" grades after one year has passed since the "I" was granted.

Pass/No Pass

For students taking this course P/NP, a P is a grade of A, B, or C. A NP is a grade of C-, D, or F.

Course Description

Psyx 340 is an overview of the major theories, diagnostic categories, and treatment approaches for behavior disorders. Psyx 100 is the only prerequisite.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Gain a better understanding of, and appreciation for, variations in human behavior
- Understand the historical development of classification systems for behavior disorders
- Assess our current diagnostic system and think critically about its strengths and limitations
- Understand the major classifications of mental disorders and formulate a basic working knowledge of different diagnoses
- Compare how the basic treatment approaches address the criterion behaviors of each disorder
- Integrate knowledge of current controversies in the field of abnormal psychology into your understanding of human behavior

Course Grading/Evaluation

The grading scale for this course is based on a 10-point system using plus/minus grades (94-100% is an A, 90-93% is an A-, 87-89% is a B+, etc.). Your grade in this course will be computed from **four equally weighted** exams. The first three exams will be administered via Moodle during class, the last via Moodle during the time allotted by the University for our Final. No exams will be given before the scheduled date, and there will be no make-up exams except in the event of an *emergency* (with a note documenting the emergency) or *required university-sanctioned activity*. Since this class has been moved to a remote delivery this semester, exams will be made available during the scheduled class time but will remain open for 24 hours to allow students some flexibility as to when they complete the exams. The exams will be primarily composed of around 20 multiple choice questions, but there will also be a few (4-5) short answer questions for each exam. The final exam is not cumulative but will focus on material from the last 3 weeks of class, as noted in the schedule.

Extra credit will be made available on the Moodle site for the class (see *Supplemental materials* below). Each of the first three extra credit assignments can add up to three points to the exam that follows it; extra credit for each unit must be turned in on the dates noted on p. 3-4 of this syllabus. **I will not accept late extra credit assignments.** The fourth extra credit is based on in-class brief assignments that include short questions and reactions to topics discussed in class or in the reading. You cannot lose

points for these brief assignments, but your scores on them (up to 1 point each) can add up to 5 points to your grade on the final exam.

Required Materials

Comer, R. J. (2018). *Abnormal Psychology, Tenth Edition*. New York, NY: Worth Publishers. ISBN: 1319066941.

Supplemental Materials

A website for the course is available through Moodle. Here you will find a copy of this syllabus, all materials needed to complete extra credit assignments, study guides, a copy of each day's lecture slides, and a discussion board for posting/answering questions about the class. Grades will be posted on the site. I will also post suggestions for optional readings if you are interested in further information about a particular topic.

Course Schedule

Dates	Topics and Required Reading (Comer Chapters)	Extra credit available (see website for details)
Week 1 (8/19, 8/21)	History of abnormal psych. (Ch. 1)	
Week 2 (8/24, 8/26, 8/28)	Research methods (Ch. 2)	
Week 3 (8/31, 9/2, 9/4)	Theoretical perspectives / models (Ch. 3)	Extra Credit #1 Psychology in the News Due 9/7
Week 4 (Holiday 9/7) (9/9, 9/11)	Exam 1: Wednesday 9/9 Assessment, diagnosis, and treatment (Ch. 4)	
Week 5 (9/14, 9/16, 9/18)	Ch. 4, Continued Anxiety and related disorders (Ch. 5)	
Week 6 (9/21, 9/23, 9/25)	Trauma and stress-related disorders (Ch. 6)	
Week 7 (9/28, 9/30, 10/2)	Exam 2: Friday 10/2 Ch. 6, Continued (Dissociative disorders)	Extra Credit #2 Answering questions with PsycINFO Due 9/30
Week 8 (10/5, 10/7, 10/9)	Depressive/bipolar disorders (Ch. 7)	
Week 9 (10/12, 10/14, 10/16)	Treatment for mood disorders (Ch. 8)	
Week 10 (10/19, 10/21, 10/23)	Treatment of mood disorders, suicide (Ch. 8, 9)	
Week 11 (10/26, 10/28, 10/30)	Exam 3: Friday 10/30 Eating Disorders (Ch. 11)	Extra Credit #3 Due 10/28

Week 12 (11/2, 11/4, 11/6)	Substance Use Disorders (Ch. 12)	
Week 13 (Holiday 11/11) (11/9, 11/13)	Schizophrenia and Related Disorders (Ch. 14)	
Week 14 (Last week of Classes) (11/16, 11/18)	Personality Disorders (Ch. 16)	
FINAL EXAM	Exam 4: Friday November 20 8:00 am-10:00 am	