

Syllabus

**ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**

PSY 251.40 (3 credit hours) – Tues, 6:00PM – 8:54PM

Location: Jackson North Campus, Room 107

**Instructor:** -----Timothy Wilkins, MA, TLLP, LLPC

**Contact Info:** ----- WilkinsTimothyJ@jccmi.edu

**Required text:** Abnormal Psychology: Clinical Perspectives on Psychological Disorders,  
8<sup>th</sup> edition (Whitbourne, Halgin)

Text Book Zero - The textbook is available in a digital format and may be purchased in the bookstore.

**Course Description:**

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Survey of those behaviors that do not fit the norm of society, including causal factors, specific disorders and treatment methods. **Prerequisite: PSY 140**

What is considered normal? How have humans throughout history understood psychological disorders? How do Psychologists use the diagnostic system to help their patients? These questions and many more will be addressed throughout this course.

**Course Goals:**

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1. **Knowledge:** Develop a general understanding of the key concepts and ideas found in the discipline of Abnormal Psychology including key terminology, contributors, and theories. Satisfy Jackson College requirements for:
    - a. **GEO 5:** Understanding Human Behavior & Social Systems
  2. **Process:** Learn how to think critically, ask questions, and investigate using scientific and research methods. Satisfy Jackson College requirements for:
    - a. **GEO 7:** Critical Thinking
  3. **Application:** Develop a general understanding for how the key concepts are applied in the field of abnormal psychology and related fields. Understand how psychologists and helping professionals utilize an understanding of abnormal psychology in practice.
  4. **Growth:** Hopefully students will take these ideas and concepts and find some items interesting and applicable to life in various ways.

**Expectations:**

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- Students are expected to **attend class**. You make this class a unique and beneficial experience. You will learn more from each other than from the instructor or the text.
  - Students are expected to **read** the chapter and provided materials **prior to class**; this is critical in order to promote useful in-class discussion.
  - Students are expected to **contribute** to class by asking questions and responding to peers. Come with your thoughts/reactions/questions/response.
  - Abide by Jackson College's **academic honesty** policy.

**Grading:** Student's course grade will be comprised as follows:

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- (10%) ----- **Weekly reading quizzes** – At the beginning of each class students will complete a 5 question quiz on the reading for that week's chapters. There will be a total of 11 quizzes. Students who complete all 11 quizzes will get extra credit for the 11<sup>th</sup> quiz.
  - (10%) ----- **Weekly reflection** – After each lecture, students are required to submit a reflection containing their key learnings/takeaway from the lecture. Reflections are to be posted on JetNet, and will be due prior to the next class period. Late reflections not accepted.
  - (15%) ----- **Research article response paper** – Students will complete one response paper involving current research related to one or more of the topics covered in class. Pick a research article that is related to a topic in class, summarize the article, and write your response. Responses can discuss how this relates to your profession or life experience, or students can offer a critical response/critique of the article. The primary article must have been written within the past 5 years. Papers shall be in APA format, and must contain at least 3 references. Papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late papers will be downgraded by 1 letter grade for every day they are late.
  - (15%) ----- **Presentation** – Students will select a psychological disorder from the DSM-5, make a presentation which explains the disorder in detail including; a detailed description of the disorder, and explanation of the qualifying criteria for the disorder, and provide examples of how this disorder impairs functioning in daily life. No 2 students can explain the same disorder.
  - (50%) ----- **Examinations** – Students will complete 2 examinations throughout the semester, demonstrating their knowledge in the topics covered. Exams will focus on salient people, ideas, theories, and applications of the material. Questions on the exam will be built from the reading and the lecture material. There will be no make-up exams.

**Grading Scale:**

<u>Final Percentage</u>	<u>Grade</u>
93-100	4.0
89-92	3.5
82-88	3.0
78-81	2.5
70-77	2.0
66-69	1.5
60-65	1.0
55-59	0.5
0-54	0.0

**Special Circumstances:** The grade, “I” will be considered when the student’s work is incomplete due to an extenuating circumstance such as a documented health issue, death of a family member, or other extreme case. The grade “W” will be assigned if a student withdraws from the course prior to the end of the semester. Withdrawals must be completed per Jackson College official policy.

**Classroom Environment/Policies:**

I am going to be reasonable with classroom “rules”, and I expect students to be reasonable in return. Please only use cell phones for critical communication. Please only use laptops if it is necessary for the class (taking notes, referencing the eBook, etc.).

Late work/missed quiz or exam policy: If you are going to miss class, inform the instructor ahead of time and make sure you can afford to miss the weekly quiz. There will be no make-up quizzes. Research Papers are to be turned in by the beginning of class on the required due date. Late papers will be penalized by 1 full letter grade for each day that the paper is late. There will be no make-up examinations. If there is a documented emergency (such as a last minute doctor visit, or funeral), the instructor must be informed prior to the exam in order to make necessary accommodations.

**Accommodations:** If unique accommodations are necessary for test taking or any other reason, please inform the instructor within the first two weeks of the semester.

**Course Schedule:**

Week	Date	Topic	Chapters	Critical date
-	9/5	NO CLASS		
1	9/12	Introduction	-	
	9/19	<b>NO CLASS (inservice day)</b>		
2	9/26	Diagnosis & Treatment	1, 2	Syllabus signature
3	10/3	Assessment & Theory	3, 4	
4	10/10	Neurodev. & Cognitive	5, 13	
5	10/17	Depression, Bipolar	7	
6	10/24	Anxiety, OCD, Trauma	8	
7	10/31	<b>MIDTERM</b>	Ch.1-8	Exam 1 - 10/31
8	11/7	Dissociative, Somatic, Eating	9. 10	
9	11/14	Sexual, Gender Dysphoria	11	
10	11/21	Substance-related Disorders	12	Research Paper DUE
11	11/28	Schizophrenia spectrum	6	
12	12/5	Personality Disorders, Ethics	14, 15	
13	12/12	Presentations		Presentation DUE
14	12/19	<b>FINAL</b>		Exam 2 - 12/19

**Note: Every effort will be made to maintain the schedule as listed. However, the schedule is subject to change at the sole discretion of Instructor Tim Wilkins.**

## PSY251.40 Course Syllabus Contract

This syllabus is a contract between the instructor and the student. By signing this syllabus, the student understands the primary course objectives, expectations, requirements, and schedule (the instructor reserves the right to change the course schedule). I hereby understand and agree to the requirements in this syllabus.

Name (printed):

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Signature:

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Date:

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