PSYC 2312 INTRODUCTION TO ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY (CRN 10825)

Fall 2023 Mon & Wed 10:30 to 11:50 a.m.

Adolfo J. Alvarez, M.A., Adjunct Faculty and Psi Chi Faculty Advisor
Prospect Hall, Room 208 Telephone: (915) 747-6589 Email: adolfoa@utep.edu

OFFICE HOURS: TBA

I teach several classes so it is impossible for me to remember each one of my students. Therefore, please include your full name and the CRN of this class in all your emails to me.

TEACHING ASSISTANT (TA)

I will give you the TA’s contact information as soon as one is assigned.

COURSE PREREQUISITE

1301 Introduction to Psychology.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


Make sure that you get this textbook because another instructor is using a similar textbook to ours.

I have used the textbook before so the UTEP bookstore may used and new books.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will be an overview of a variety of mental disorders, particularly the most common ones, such as anxiety, depression, childhood disorders, and others. We will cover the history, myths, causes, and past and present treatments of mental disorders.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After completing the course, you will be able to:
1) Know how mental disorders have been viewed throughout history; 2) Know how the major theoretical models explain mental disorders; 3) Know how mental disorders are diagnosed and treated; 4) Learn the symptoms of mental disorders, and 5) use critical thinking skills.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is not required but I recommend that you attend.
CLASS COMPORTEMENT

Using cell phones and earbuds during class is prohibited. Please be respectful to me and to your fellow class students by not using them during class. Using cell phones during class are a distraction and may hinder your grade. The same applies to sleeping in class.

EXAMS

There will be five tests. Each test will be worth 100 points. The test questions will be based on the lectures, the presentations by the guest speaker(s), textbook, videos, and the syllabus, and on the presentations by guest speakers. There will be questions from the book on material that will not be covered during the lectures. Bring two green Scantrons (Form No. 882-E) for the tests.

If you miss one test, you will have the opportunity to make up for it by taking a comprehensive makeup exam at the end of the semester. If you have a documented and verifiable military reason or are hospitalized, you will need to provide documentation which must contain all of the following: (1) A legible name of the person who writes the documentation, (2) Title of the person writing the documentation; (3) Signature of that person; (4) A legibly written phone number, and (5) Be written in official stationery. If any one of the above five points are not met, I will not grant authorization to take the comprehensive makeup. I reserve the right to call the person who signs the documentation to ensure the validity of the document. It is extremely important that you are not out of town on the day of the final test.

EXAM RULES

The following rules will be enforced during tests: (1) Students will not be allowed to go to the bathroom once a test has started. (2) No headphones caps, hats, or hoodies will be allowed. (3) Students who arrive late will not be allowed to take the test if another student has already finished and has left the classroom.

SONA STUDIES & CREDITS

You will be required to participate in the “SONA studies” and complete four (4) “SONA credits.” You will earn one “credit” for each hour that you participate as a subject in the SONA studies Experiments that last half an hour accrue 0.5 “credits”; those that last one hours accrue one “credit,” and so forth. Each “credit” is worth 10 points. The SONA studies vary in length, and are conducted in-person or on-line. The instructions on how to sign up and how to participate in the SONA studies are posted in Blackboard in the tab titled “Syllabus, SONA, & Summaries.” The last day to participate in the SONA studies is the last Friday before dead day. No exceptions.

SUMMARIES of RESEARCH ARTICLES

If you cannot or do not want to participate in the SONA studies, you can write summaries of four (4) research articles that will be posted in Blackboard. Each summary will be worth 10 points. The requirements for the written summaries are posted in Blackboard in the tab titled “Syllabus, SONA & Research Summaries.” Email the summaries to my TA, not to me.
The last day to email the summaries TO YOUR TA is Friday, before dead day. No exceptions.

You can combine any number of SONA research credits with any number of written summaries. For example, you can participate in three SONA credit experiments and write one summary or participate in three SONA credit experiments and write one summary. **The maximum points for both SONA credits and for the summaries are 40 points. Please email our TA if you have any questions about the SONA studies and the summaries.**

You will be required to see the movie *A beautiful mind* (starring Russel Crowe). The movie has been posted on your home page of Blackboard. The movie is autobiographical and depicts schizophrenia, a mental disorder. I will ask questions about the film when we discuss schizophrenia. I will give you information about the test questions when we discuss this disorder.

**PASS REVIEW SESSIONS**

UTEP and I are committed to helping you succeed in this course. For this reason, UTEP created the Miner Learning Center (MLC) to help students succeed in challenging core-curriculum classes, such as this class. The MLC offers free review sessions through the Peers Assisting Student Success (PASS) program. The person who will conduct the reviews for you is called the “PASS Leader.”

Paola Zuniga will be your PASS leader. She was selected as your PASS leader because she took this class a few semesters ago and excelled in it. Paola will attend our lectures and she will give a review of the lectures. You can contact Paola at pazuniga@miners.utep.edu

I strongly encourage you to attend all the PASS reviews, even though they are not mandatory. The MLC has conducted research on the effectiveness of the PASS reviews and has found that that students who attend the reviews get better grades than those that do not.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Students involved in academic dishonesty will be referred to the Office of Student Conflict and Resolution+ and will be disciplined. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

**CENTER FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND SUPPORT SERVICES (CASS)**

If you have a disability I strongly recommend that you take advantage of the services mandated by federal law. Contact CASS at 747-5148 or at cass@utep.edu to request accommodations within the first two weeks of the semester.
SCHEDULE: TBA

The schedule is subject to change. I will inform you of any changes via Blackboard or an email, or in my recorded lectures, but it is your responsibility to be aware of any change.