



**PSYC 2312 INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOPATHOLOGY (CRN 23382)**

Spring 2026 Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 12:30 to 1:20 p.m.

Psychology Bldg. 308

Yellow

F: Syll MWF Spring 2026 Psychopathology CRN 23382



**INSTRUCTOR**

Adolfo J. Alvarez, M.A., Adjunct Faculty and Psi Chi Faculty Advisor

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**OFFICE HOURS+**

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays+: 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays+: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

In case you cannot meet at these times, we can schedule another time that is suitable to you and me; just email me to schedule an appointment.

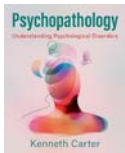
I very much enjoy meeting and getting to know my students. So please feel free to come to my office to chat, to discuss the course material, your degree plan, your career goals, or any other topic you would like to discuss. Don't be shy! 😊

**TEACHING ASSISTANT**

To be announced

**MINER LEARNING CENTER (MLC) TUTOR:** Jamayne Acker Email: [jsacker@miners.utep.edu](mailto:jsacker@miners.utep.edu)

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**





Carter, K. (2023). *Psychopathology: Understanding psychological disorders*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 978-1-108-43751-6 Paperback. I used the same textbook last semester, so UTEP's bookstore might have used textbooks (as well as new ones). I placed a copy of our textbook in the Reserve Section of the library. Go to the front desk to borrow it.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Welcome!** Introduction to Psychopathology is a very interesting and complex subject. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) estimates that one in five people in the United States has a mental disorder, so you or someone you know may have direct or indirect experience with psychopathology. In my own family, there is mental illness. We will review many topics, including the historical approaches to abnormal behavior, its classification, symptomatology, and the most common treatments. The prerequisite for the class is PSYC 1301 Introduction to Psychology.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND UNIVERSITY LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

Student Learning Objectives+	Outcome
Demonstrate the ability to know and describe how mental disorders have been viewed throughout history and the causes of stigma toward people with mental disorders+	Develop empathy for individuals with mental disorders
Demonstrate the ability to know and describe how the major theoretical models explain mental disorders+	 Critical Thinking Skills
Demonstrate the ability to know and describe the symptoms of mental disorders, and the most commonly used treatments+	 Critical Thinking Skills

**ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY**

UTEP is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students with documented disabilities to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with federal laws. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). Contact CASS at 915-747-5148, or [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

**ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES, and DROP POLICY**

I want you to succeed in this course. One way that helps you succeed is by attending every class; thus, attendance will be mandatory. Per UTEP's catalog, "At the discretion of the instructor, a student can be dropped from a course because of excessive absences or lack of effort. A grade of "W" will be assigned before the course drop deadline and a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline." See Policies and Regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list

of excused absences. Based on the aforementioned, if you have four or more absences+ you must make an appointment to meet with me to discuss your absences. I reserve the right to lower your final grade by one letter grade or you may be dropped from the class. I do not want to do this, so don't miss classes. If you decide to drop the class, contact the Registrar's Office.

### **CLASS COMPORIMENT**

Sleeping, using cell phones, and earbuds during class is prohibited. Doing so is a distraction and will hinder your grade. Please be respectful to me and to your fellow students by not doing it. Students who do not follow these rules will be asked to leave the classroom. Of course, you are allowed to use your cell for emergencies.

### **COMMUNICATION BETWEEN YOU AND ME**

Please email me through your UTEP email (not through Blackboard). I will try to respond within 48 hours (excluding weekends). I teach more than one class so please **write "MWF" on the subject line**.

### **EXAMS and EXAM RULES**

There will be five multiple-choice tests. Each test will be worth 100 points and will consist of questions from the lectures, textbook(s), videos, guest speakers, and a few questions about this syllabus, but only on information that has the symbol +. Bring a pencil and green Scantron (Form No. 882-E) for the tests.

If you miss a test for a valid reason (such as a documented military or medical reason), you will have the opportunity to make up for it by taking a comprehensive makeup at the end of the semester on "day dead." You will need to provide documentation which must consist of all of the following: (1) A legible name of the person who writes the excuse letter, her or his title, and a corresponding signature; (2) A legibly written phone number, and (3) Be written in official stationery. If any one of the above points are not met, I will not grant authorization to take the makeup. I reserve the right to call the person who signs the excuse letter.

On test days, please go to the bathroom before the exam has started as students will not be allowed to go to the bathroom after the test has started. No headphones, caps, hats, or hoodies will be allowed. (Headphones are not allowed during any of the lectures.) 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 and SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES**

You will be required to participate in the "SONA studies" and complete two and a half "SONA credits." You will earn two "credits" for each hour that you participate in the **in-person** studies, and one "credit" for each hour of the **online** studies. You will earn half a credit by just signing into the system and answering a brief questionnaire. The instructions on how to sign up and how to participate in SONA are in Blackboard's Home Page. Instead of doing SONA, you can write summaries of research articles that will be posted in Blackboard. You can select any articles from the list. The instructions on how to write the summaries are in the Home Page.

You can combine the SONA credits with the summaries, as follows:

- 1) Do one online SONA credit and write two summaries,
- 2) Do one in-person SONA credit and write one summary, or
- 3) Write three summaries and not do any SONA studies.

The maximum points for the SONA credits and/or for the summaries are 40 points. The summaries should be given to me as hard-copies, and the last day to turn them in to me is Friday, April 18. The last day to participate in SONA is Friday, May 9. I will discuss SONA during our first class. You can read and see a video about SONA in Blackboard. Please contact the SONA staff at [sona@utep.edu](mailto:sona@utep.edu) if you have any further questions.

### **GRADING**

Each test is worth 100 points. Each in-person SONA credit is worth 20 points, and each on-line study is worth 10 points. Each summary is worth 20 points. The maximum points for SONA and/or for the summaries are 40 points.

The final grade will be based on the following point scale:

F = 0 -323      D = 324- 377      C = 378 - 431      B = 432- 485      A = 486 - 540

The grade on each test is based on the following percentage scale:

F = 0 – 59%      D = 60 – 69%      C = 70 – 79%      B = 80 – 89%      A = 90 – 100%

### **GUEST SPEAKERS, LETTERS TO THEM, and OPINION ESSAYS**

We will have guest speakers who will talk about their mental disorders. You can earn five extra points by (1) attending each speaker's presentation **and** (2) by writing your opinions about each presentation or writing a letter to each speaker. Each letter or opinion essay will be worth five extra points. Instructions on the letters and the opinion essays are posted in Blackboard's Home Page. The letters and opinion essays must be type written, and must be handed in to me **one week** after each presentation. If you have a documented and valid reason for being absent on the day of a

presenter you can do one in-person SONA study (or two on-line studies) instead, but you must get my permission by talking to me in person.

### **ILLNESS PRECAUTIONS**

Please stay home if you have symptoms of a communicable illness. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work on appropriate accommodations.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY**

Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed by certain deadlines.

### **MOVIES**

Since many people like movies (I hope you are one of them), and to complement my lectures, I have selected movies that you will be required to watch. I selected these movies because they depict real life people that have lived with a mental disorder and others are good representations of a mental disorder. All of the movies were nominated for awards and some won one or more Oscars. The movies are: *A beautiful mind* (starring Russel Crowe), *The professor and the madman* (starring Mel Gibson and Sean Penn), *Rain Man* (Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman), *Temple Grandin* (Claire Danes), and *Concussion* (Will Smith). Do pay attention to each movie because there will be test questions on each film.

### **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 one. The MLC offers free review sessions which will be conducted by the "MLC tutor." Your "MLC tutor" will be Jamayne Acker. His email is [jsacker@miners.utep.edu](mailto:jsacker@miners.utep.edu) The MLC will e-mail you a survey asking you to indicate your preferred meeting times for the reviews. Completing the survey does not obligate you to attend the review sessions. I strongly encourage you to attend all the reviews, even though they are not mandatory. Research has found that students who attend the reviews get better grades than those who do not.

### **STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS**

Students sometimes earn low grades in this class because they do not invest the time needed to succeed in the course. You should spend, on average, **7.5 hours per week** studying for this class in addition to spending three hours per week attending this class. Thus, you should commit approximately 10.5 hours per week to succeed. You should be reading all of the assigned chapters, and you should be reading these chapters more than once (that is, twice, three times, or more). Most importantly, you should interact with the material! Write comments in the margins of the text, type up additional notes, discuss the material with your family and friends or just close the door to your room and review the material aloud. Actively engaging material is absolutely critical for your success in any course. Passively reading a chapter is useless. At the University level, you are expected to master material in a deep manner. Therefore, you need to commit the type of time and energy described above to get the results you want. As I mentioned above, you can increase your likelihood of success by attending the MLC's weekly review sessions. In addition, I strongly recommend that you read and learn the material of the chapters we are going to cover **before** I lecture on the topics. This way, my lecture will be a review of what you have already learned.

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY, PLAGIARISM DETECTING SOFTWARE, and ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Academic dishonesty is prohibited by UTEP. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Some of your written assignments may be submitted to SafeAssign, a plagiarism detecting software. SafeAssign is used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase. The use of generative AI tools such as Chat GPT is not permitted in this course. Instances that violate the above guidelines will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution.+

### **RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS**

UTEP offers many resources to you to help you succeed. Please go your "Home Page" to see the services that are available to you.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

The schedule is subject to change. I will inform you of any changes via Blackboard, an email, or in my lectures, but it is your responsibility to be aware of any changes. Introductory-level classes are sometimes difficult because of the large amount of information covered, so do not fall behind in your readings or your class attendance.

				<b>Discussion/Lecture Topics</b>	<b>Required readings</b>
1	Wed	Jan	21	Logistics & Introduction to Psychopathology	Ch. 1
2	Fri	Jan	23	Introduction to Psychopathology	Ch. 1
3	Mon	Jan	26	Historical Views: Past & Present	
4	Wed	Jan	28	Historical Views: Past & Present	
5	Fri	Jan	30	Perspectives: Theories & Treatments	Ch. 2
6	Mon	Feb	2	Perspectives: Theories & Treatments	
7	Wed	Feb	4	Sleep-Wake Disorders (Ds) Visit SONNO Sleep Center at 3:15 p.m. 2311 N. Mesa (Tentative)	Ch. 7 Pp. 230 - 249
8	Fri	Feb	6	Sleep-Wake Ds	
<b>9</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Test 1 on topics covered during this test period</b>	
10	Wed	Feb	11	Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, & Related Disorders	Ch. 4
11	Fri	Feb	13	Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, & Related Disorders	
12	Mon	Feb	16	Guest speaker on Generalized & Social Anxiety Disorder	
13	Wed	Feb	18	Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, & Related Disorders	
14	Fri	Feb	20	Trauma & Stress-Related Ds & Dissociative Identity D	Ch. 5
15	Mon	Feb	23	Trauma & Stress-Related Ds & Dissociative Identity D	
16	Wed	Feb	25	Trauma & Stress-Related Ds & Dissociative Identity D	
17	Fri	Feb	27	Trauma & Stress-Related Ds & Dissociative Identity D	
<b>18</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Test 2 on topics covered in this test period</b>	
19	Wed	Mar	4	Mood Disorders: Depression	Ch. 6
20	Fri	Mar	6	Mood Disorders: Depression	
21	Mon	Mar	9	Mood Disorders: Depression & Suicide	
22	Wed	Mar	11	NAMI Guest speaker	
23	Fri	Mar	13	Mood Ds: Bipolar Ds	Ch. 6
				March 16 to March 20. Spring Break	
24	Mon	Mar	23	Psychotropic medications Guest speaker: Magda Rozmiarek, MS in Psychiatric Nursing, Board Certified Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner	Ch. 1 Biological Treatments: Pp. 41 - 45
25	Wed	Mar	25	Bipolar Ds	
				Friday, March 27. César Chávez Day. No class	
<b>26</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Personality Ds</b>	<b>Ch. 12, excluding section on Antisocial Personality D</b>
27	Wed	Apr	1	Personality Ds	
				Friday April 3. Spring study day. No class	
<b>28</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Test 3 on topics covered during this test period</b>	
29	Wed	Apr	8	Disruptive, Impulse-Control & Conduct Ds	Ch. 10
30	Fri	Apr	10	Antisocial Personality Disorder	Ch. 12 Pp. 389 - 403
31	Mon	Apr	13	Antisocial Personality Disorder & Psychopathy	Psychopathy not in textbook
32	Wed	Apr	15	Schizophrenia & Psychotic Disorders Movies A beautiful mind & The professor and the madman	Ch. 13
33	Fri	Apr	17	Schizophrenia & Psychotic Disorders	
<b>34</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Test 4 on topics covered during this test period</b>	
35	Wed	Apr	22	Neurodevelopmental Disorders Movies Temple Grandin & Rain Man	Ch. 14
36	Fri	Apr	24	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	
37	Mon	Apr	27	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	
38	Wed	Apr	29	Guest speaker(s) on Autism Spectrum Disorder	
39	Fri	May	1	Neurocognitive Disorders Movie Concussion	Ch. 14
40	Mon	May	4	Rehabilitation Science psychopathology-related disorders	Topics not in textbook
41	Wed	May	6	Eating Disorders or Substance-Related & Addictive Ds Topic to be announced	Ch. 9 or 11
				Friday, May 8. Dead Day. No class	
<b>42</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Final exam at 1:00 p.m.***</b> In same classroom	