

**SYLLABUS: INTRODUCTION TO ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY  
PSYCHOLOGY 2312, Fall 2015**

**Meetings:** Tuesdays, 6:00PM to 8:50PM, Business Building Room 340

**Instructor:** Donna Nesbit-Veltri, Ph.D., Telephone 915-867-4644, DAVeltri@Utep.edu  
Since I work full time, and do not have an office at UTEP, I will not have office hours during the week. I can meet by appointment on weekends, but my Teaching Assistant will also have regular office hours.

**Text:** Ronald J. Comer (2015). *Abnormal Psychology* (8th edition. DSM-5 Update Edition). New York: Worth Publishers. (ISBN-13 978-1-4641—7170-3) (ISBN-10: 1-4641-7170-X)

**Class Schedule – Any changes will be announced in class or by email**

**August 25,** Introduction to Course, Review of Syllabus, Chapter 1 Abnormal Psychology Past and Present

**September 1,** Chapters 2 Research in Abnormal Psychology and 3, Models of Abnormality

**September 8, QUIZ #1,** Chapter 4, Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment

**September 15,** Chapters 5, Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders, and 6, Disorder of Trauma and Stress

**September 22 QUIZ #2,** Chapters 7, Depressive and Bipolar Disorders and 8, Treatments for Depressive and Bipolar Disorder

**September 29,** Chapter 9, Suicide, and review for Mid-term

**October 6,** Chapter 10, Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms

**October 13, QUIZ #3,** Chapter 11, Eating Disorders

**October 20,** Chapters 12, Substance Use and Addictive Disorders and 13, Disorders of Sex and Gender

**October 27, QUIZ #4,** Chapter 14, Schizophrenia

**November 3,** Chapter 15, Treatments for Schizophrenia and Other Severe Mental Disorders

**November 10,** Chapter 16, Personality Disorders

**November 17, QUIZ #5,** Chapter 17, Disorders Common Among Children and Adolescents

**November 24,** Chapter 18, Disorders of Aging and Cognition

**December 1,** Chapter 19, Law, Society and the Mental Health Profession, and review for final

## Course Objectives:

Students will understand and be able to identify:

1. The fundamental **definitions of abnormal behavior**
2. The format and underlying logic of the **DSM-IV diagnostic classification system**
3. Defining **features of major DSM-IV disorders**
4. The **causes or proposed causes** of selected disorders according to the leading theoretical models
5. Methods of **treatment, intervention, and assessment** of psychological disorders
6. Role of the **scientific method** in understanding and treating psychological disorders

Attainment of these objectives will be assessed through quizzes and midterm and final examinations.

## Grading:

1. There will be five **quizzes**. You may miss or drop one of these. Together the remaining four quizzes will count for 50% of your total grade. Students who arrive more than five minutes after the beginning of a pop quiz (a) will not be allowed to take it, and (b) will be considered to have missed the quiz.
2. There will be a **midterm exam** on October 6, during the regular class time. It will cover everything studied in the course up until that date. Most questions will be about the readings, but some will be from lectures. The midterm will count for 25% of your grade.
3. There will be a **final exam** as scheduled on finals week by UTEP. It will cover everything studied in the course after the midterm. The final will count for 25% of your grade.

Students who arrive more than ten minutes after the beginning of the midterm or the final will not be allowed to take the test and will be considered to have missed it.

4. There are no **make-up exams** for the midterm or final without prior arrangement. If you will miss the midterm or final, you must make arrangements **BEFORE** it is given. If you miss it without making prior arrangements, you will receive a failing grade for that test.
5. **Helpful hint:** The quizzes are intended to keep you up-to-date on the readings, and to help prepare you for the exams, and will cover the assigned reading and anything covered in lectures up to that date, even though the material may not have been covered in class. The Midterm and Final will cover a combination of material from the readings as well as material that may have been covered in class lectures.

The midterm and the final are multiple choice, and students must bring their own scantrons (green) and a number 2 pencil to class. Quizzes may be short answer or multiple choice, and this will be announced the week in advance of the quiz. If multiple choice the above applies with the scantrons and pencils.

6. There are no opportunities for "extra credit" in this class. Your grade depends entirely on your performance on the quizzes and exams.
7. If you want to get in touch with me or set an appointment, the best way is to send me an e-mail at [daveltri@utep.edu](mailto:daveltri@utep.edu). I will only be able to set appointment on weekends, as I do not have an office at UTEP and I work full time during the week. My Teaching Assistant will have office hours, to be announced, to assist you.

8. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or visit their office located in UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at [www.sa.utep.edu/cass](http://www.sa.utep.edu/cass)