

**SYLLABUS:**     **ADVANCED ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
                  PSY4312, CRN27624  
                  Tuesday, 6:00PM - 8:50PM, PSYC Rm. 307

**Instructor:**     Donna Nesbit-Veltri, Ph.D., Telephone 915-867-4644

If you want to get in touch with me or set an appointment, the best way is to send a text message to my personal telephone number as noted above. If the communication is not urgent, please e-mail at [daveltri@utep.edu](mailto:daveltri@utep.edu).

Office Hours: Tuesday, 5:00 – 6:00PM (before class) or by appointment

**\*\*TEACHING ASSISTANT, TO BE ANNOUNCED\***

**TEXTBOOKS:**    Psychopathology: History, Diagnosis and Empirical Foundations, Second Edition, Craighead, W.E., Miklowitz, D.J., Craighead, L.W. (2013) John Wiley and Sons, ISBN: 978 -1-118-10677-8 (cloth)

Desk Reference to the Diagnostic Criteria from DSM-5™ (2013), American Psychiatric Association, ISBN: 978-0-890-42556-5

**Class Schedule – (tentative)**

**The reading associated with the topics should be read prior to class and you should arrive ready for discussion. Readings will be assigned prior to their coverage in class. Material covered in class will not be restricted to book chapters but if additional reading is required you will be notified.**

January	17	Introduction to class, review of syllabus and course requirements
	24	SAC assessment, Issues in diagnosis and other issues in Abnormal Psych.
	31	Major Depressive Disorder, Persistent Depressive Disorder (MDD/PDD)
February	7	MDD/PDD, documentary
	17	<u>Group presentation #1 due, Reflection paper #1 due</u> , Bipolar D/O
	21	Continue Bipolar D/O
	28	Movie and discussion
March	7	<u>Group presentation #2 due, Reflection paper #2 due</u> , Begin Schizophrenia/PSDs
	14	SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS
	21	Continue Schizophrenia and Psychosis Spectrum
	28	Movie and discussion,
April	4	<u>Group presentation #3 due, Reflection paper #3 due</u> . Begin Personality Disorders
	11	Borderline Personality Disorder, documentary (if we have time), NPD
	18	Begin Psychopathy/ASPD

April 25      Group presentation #4. Psychopathy and ASPD  
May 2        Last class, finish Psychopathy and ASPD

### **Course Objectives:**

This course is an honors course, and as such, involves activities which require a deeper understanding and analysis of the material than an introductory course. By the end of the course you will achieve the following objectives:

- An in-depth, complex understanding of the presentation of the disorders covered, and subtleties of differential diagnosis.
- Knowledge of current empirical research regarding evidence-based treatments for the diagnoses covered.
- A thoughtful and critical understanding of the importance of being able to understand, challenge and analyze information regarding these disorders in everyday life, rather than just accepting what the popular media presents.
- To have an understanding of the material appropriate at an honors program course level to focus on possible directions for future research.
- An ability to express the above understanding verbally and writing.

### **Grading:**

Your grade will be based on the following evaluation opportunities:

Group presentation: Each student will be a member of a group which will present a journal article which will be associated with a class topic. There will be 40 possible points for this presentation. The time allotted for each presentation will be approximately 30 minutes. You will be evaluated on your presentation on a number of variables, which will be communicated to you in advance, including demonstrating your understanding of the article, effective communication, and how well you relate it to the class topic. The dates, topics and group membership will be drawn randomly.

Final paper: This paper will cover a disorder of your choice, for 50 points. You may choose any disorder, and it is suggested that you cover a disorder that we do not cover in class. **It must be a mental disorder included in the DSM5, or one that is being considered for inclusion in the next DSM.** This will give you an opportunity to learn more about an area of interest that will not be covered, however, disorders covered in class will not be prohibited. The paper will be due May 2, (last day of class) but you must propose and have the topic cleared by me by February 28. You will need to propose a question about the disorder which you will analyze within the paper. You will need to use at least 5 book or journal references that are not already covered in the textbook's bibliography. The paper should be at

least 10 pages long, double spaced, American Psychological Association format. For more information on the proper usage of the APA format, refer to: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. Papers that do not follow the APA format will not be accepted.

Essay quizzes: On assigned reading and class material, 5 points each. These will require information from assigned readings, as well as class discussions. They will require you to integrate information and demonstrate an understanding of readings and other presented material and will be given in the beginning of the class before the new material is presented. There will be 11 opportunities, drop the lowest or miss one, for a total of 50 points.

Reflection papers: There will be three (3) reflection papers required on material covered in class. These will be two page papers in which you demonstrate an understanding of material covered in class and explain your viewpoint regarding the material. The information and class period upon which they will be based will be announced in advance. These will count for 10 points each, for a total of 30 points. They will be due the following week after the covered class material. You will be provided information on the recommended structure of a reflection paper, and what I will be looking for in these papers.

Participation: Group exercises will be an important and regular part of this class. Participation is required and an important part of an honors class. Your appropriate and insightful participation will be tracked throughout the semester for a total of 30 points.

**ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED:**

Make-ups for any in class assignments and examinations will not be given, with the exception of absences which are documented emergencies, at my discretion.

The opportunities for being evaluated will add up to 250 points.

Essay quizzes:	50 points
Paper:	50 points
Reflection Papers:	30 points
Presentation:	40 points
Participation:	30 points
Final Exam:	50 points, comprehensive essay exam

Your grade will be based on what percent of the total points you obtain, based on the following scale:

A=90%-100%; B=80-89%, C=70-79% and D=60-69%. Anything less than 60% is an F.

This class has been designated as a Liberal Arts Honors Program [LAHP] course. It has received this designation because it features at least five of the Honors course criteria, which include student

leadership, advanced readings and/or reviews, opportunities for intensive writing, opportunities for intensive research, opportunities to utilize technology, opportunities to make extensive use of campus resources, community-based experiences, pre-professional opportunities, and development of critical thinking. In broader terms, this course is honors-designated because of its creativity and/or intellectual rigor, both of which are integral components of the Liberal Arts Honors Program. No additional coursework is necessary for this course to count towards the LAHP Honors minor. If you are not a member of the LAHP, and are interested in the program, please visit the LAHP website at [utep.edu/lahp](http://utep.edu/lahp) or contact LAHP Director Michael Topp at [mtopp@utep.edu](mailto:mtopp@utep.edu). If you join the Liberal Arts Honors Program, this course will count towards the LAHP minor!

SAC pre-assessment: All students will be given a quiz on January 24<sup>th</sup> to assess your knowledge of Intro to Abnormal. You will not be graded on the actual quiz, but it will count as one essay quiz regardless of how you score on the actual quiz (you will get 5 points for doing it.) This pre-assessment assists the University in obtaining accreditation.

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)

\*\*Please follow all aspects of the UTEP policy regarding academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty which can be viewed in detail at <http://sa.utep.edu/osccr/academic-integrity/>. It is suggested you review the policy thoroughly to ensure you uphold these principles. Any finding of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, cheating or collusion, will be taken very seriously. \*\*