



**Advanced Abnormal Psychology**  
PSYC 4312 CRN 17529  
**University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Fall 2015**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Dr. Jennifer Eno Louden

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**Office:** Vowell Hall room 204

**Office hours:** Wednesdays 9:00-10:15 and by appointment

Note: my office is located in a building that is not ADA accessible. If you need to meet in a different location, please let me know.

**COURSE TIME AND LOCATION**

MW 12:00-1:20pm, Education Building room 301

**REQUIRED READINGS**

In addition to the chapters and journal articles listed in the course schedule, the following texts are required:

Jamison, K. R. (1995). *An Unquiet Mind: A Memoir of Moods and Madness*. New York: Vintage Publishing.

McLean, R. (2005). *Recovered, not cured: A journey through schizophrenia*. Allyn & Unwin.

Michaud, S., & Aynesworth, H. (2000). *Ted Bundy: Conversations with a killer*. Authorlink.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will provide an in-depth examination of specific mental disorders. Although a brief review of general definitional issues related to mental illness will be discussed, all students are expected to have completed previous coursework in abnormal psychology and have an understanding of psychopathology. We will focus on diagnosis, treatment, and current research related to specific disorders. In addition, accounts of persons living with these disorders will be presented and discussed. Students should note that some of the symptoms and behaviors associated with serious mental illness may be upsetting to some. By enrolling in this course, students commit to discussion of these issues in a manner that maintains respect towards individuals with these disorders and their loved ones.

This course is designed to serve as an introduction to graduate-level coursework, and as such, the level and pace of readings will be challenging.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Describe best practices for assessing and treating the mental illnesses covered
- Describe recent empirical findings regarding causes of the mental illnesses covered
- Discuss issues related to serious mental illness in a sensitive manner

**EMAIL**

Email is the most effective way to communicate with me. I will do my best to respond to your messages in a timely manner, but please allow 24 hours for a response (longer on weekends and holiday breaks). Please include "PSYC 4312" in the subject line of emails (so I know you are one

of my students), and be sure to include your full name in the message (so I know who I am communicating with).

### **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes: cheating on exams or assignments, forgery, and plagiarism. Students caught engaging in academic dishonesty may receive an "F" for the course. Please review UTEP's policy statement on academic dishonesty: <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>

### **DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS**

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).

### **HONORS DESIGNATION**

This course is designated as an honors course for students enrolled in the Liberal Arts Honors Program. The course requires intensive writing, advanced readings, and critical thinking. More information about the program is available at [academics.utep.edu/lahp](http://academics.utep.edu/lahp).

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Class Participation:** To do well in this course, you need to attend every class session, listen actively, and contribute to the class discussion of the material. Material presented in lecture and films shown during class will not be available at any other time. Although I will not take attendance in this course you will not be able to do well on the exams if you miss class.

**Research Paper:** *50 points.* You will select a mental disorder from DSM-5 that we are not covering in detail in this course and write a research paper on it. Detailed instructions will be posted to Blackboard no later than the second week of class. Papers are due in class on 11/18. Additional deadlines for the paper assignment (e.g., topic approval) will be announced via Blackboard.

**Exams:** *150 points, total.* Three non-cumulative essay exams will be administered, each worth 50 points. You may bring your readings and notes to the exams, but you cannot use a laptop computer or any other technology during the exams. It is your responsibility to ensure you are able to take the exams when they are scheduled. The only reasons I will make exceptions to the exam schedule are (a) observance of religious holidays, (b) participation in UTEP-sponsored activities (e.g., sports competitions), and (c) military duty. If you expect to miss an exam for any of these reasons, you must alert me before the end of the first week of the semester and submit relevant documentation. In extremely rare situations, students who miss an exam due to a dire emergency (e.g., death of a family member, serious illness) may be allowed to complete an alternate assignment to make up points from a missed exam. If this applies to you, you must visit me during office hours and provide written documentation of the emergency. Whether the alternate assignment is offered is completely at my discretion.

## GRADING

Grades will be based on the total number of points earned (out of a possible 200) using the following scale:

180 and above	= A
160 to 179.9	= B
140 to 159.9	= C
120 to 139.9	= D
119.9 and below	= F

Any questions or disputes regarding grades must be raised in writing within ten days of the grade being released. Grades will only be changed in cases of administrative error.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Adjustments to the course schedule are unlikely, but may occur. Adjustments will be announced in class and via Blackboard.

Readings must be completed by the earliest date listed below:

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	8/24	Course introduction	
	8/26	Definitional issues in abnormal behavior	Widiger
2	8/31	Causes of mental illness	Review
	9/2	Causes of mental illness	chapter
3	9/7	NO CLASS—LABOR DAY	
	9/9	General issues in treatment and assessment of mental disorder	
4	9/14	Schizophrenia spectrum disorders	Trotman
	9/16	Schizophrenia spectrum disorders	
5	9/21	Schizophrenia spectrum disorders	
	9/23	Manifestation of schizophrenia	McLean
6	9/28	Treatment of schizophrenia	Silverstein
	9/20	<b>EXAM 1</b>	
7	10/5	Mood disorders: Definitions and assessment	DSM
	10/7	Mood disorders	section on depressive disorders
8	10/12	Assessment of mood disorders	Miklowitz #1
	10/14	Bipolar disorder	
9	10/19		
	10/21	Manifestation of bipolar disorder	Jamison
10	10/26	Manifestation of bipolar disorder	
	10/28	Treatment of mood disorders	
11	11/2	Treatment of bipolar disorder	Miklowitz #2
	11/4	<b>EXAM 2</b>	
12	11/9	Overview of personality disorders	Skodol

	11/11	Assessment of personality disorders	
13	11/16	Definitions and assessment of psychopathy	Scott
	11/18	Psychopathy <b>Research paper due</b>	
14	11/23	Psychopathy	Michaud
	11/25	Research on psychopathy	
15	11/30	Treatment of psychopathy	Salekin
	12/2	Stigma of mental illness	
	12/11, 1:00PM	<b>EXAM 3</b>	