

South Plains College
Common Course Syllabus: PSYC 2320
Last revised 8/2026
Fall 2026

Department: Behavioral Sciences

Discipline: Psychology

Course Number: PSYC 2320

Course Title: Abnormal Psychology

Available Formats: Conventional

Campuses: Levelland, Reese

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to the psychological, biological, and sociocultural factors involved in the development, diagnosis, and treatment of psychological disorders. It includes a review the historical understanding of abnormal behavior and the development of modern diagnostic systems. It includes discussion of psychological research as it relates to mental health and psychological functioning as well as legal and ethical issues.

Prerequisites: PSYC 2301 General Psychology

Credit: 3 **Lecture:** 3 **Lab:** 0

Textbook: Abnormal Psychology 3rd Edition (2024) by Alexis Bridley, Washington State University and Lee W. Daffin Jr., Washington State University, Publisher: Washington State University

This is a free OER textbook and a PDF version will be available on Blackboard. Additionally, the textbook can be accessed using the URL below.

URL: <https://opentext.wsu.edu/abnormal-psych/>

Supplies: none unless specified in the specific instructor information

Course Evaluation: See the instructor's course information sheet for specific items used in evaluating student performance. However, all courses will have multiple exams and a written assignment that is designated by the instructor.

Student Code of Conduct Policy: Any successful learning experience requires mutual respect on the part of the student and the instructor. Neither instructor nor student should be subject to others' behavior that is rude, disruptive, intimidating, aggressive, or demeaning. Student conduct that disrupts the learning process or is deemed disrespectful or threatening shall not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action and/or removal from class.

For information regarding official South Plains College statements about intellectual exchange, disabilities, non-discrimination, Title V Pregnancy Accommodations, CARE Team, and Campus Concealed Carry, please visit <https://www.southplainscollege.edu/syllabusstatements/>.

SPC Bookstore Price Match Guarantee Policy:

If you find a lower price on a textbook, the South Plains College bookstore will match that price. The difference will be given to the student on a bookstore gift certificate! The gift certificate can be spent on anything in the store.

If students have already purchased textbooks and then find a better price later, the South Plains College bookstore will price match through the first week of the semester. The student must have a copy of the receipt and the book has to be in stock at the competition at the time of the price match.

The South Plains College bookstore will happily price match BN.com & books on Amazon noted as *ships from and sold by Amazon.com*. Online marketplaces such as *Other Sellers* on Amazon, Amazon's Warehouse Deals, *fulfilled by Amazon*, BN.com Marketplace, and peer-to-peer pricing are not eligible. They will price match the exact textbook, in the same edition and format, including all accompanying materials, like workbooks and CDs.

A textbook is only eligible for price match if it is in stock on a competitor's website at time of the price match request. Additional membership discounts and offers cannot be applied to the student's refund.

Price matching is only available on in-store purchases. Digital books, access codes sold via publisher sites, rentals and special orders are not eligible. Only one price match per title per customer is allowed.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course syllabus and policies, as well as notify students of any changes, at any point during the semester.

Instructor's Course Information: Dr. Harris (DOWNTOWN 2013)

Course Information: PSYC 2320_001 Abnormal Psychology

Monday and Wednesday: 11:00am-12:15pm, ADMIN Rm 155

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday: 12:30pm-2:00pm in Levelland (ADMIN Rm152)

Tuesday & Thursday: 10:00am-11:00am and 12:30pm-2:00pm Downtown (Rm 2013)

Friday: 10:00am-11:00am

Email Address: jharris@southplainscollege.edu

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Student Conduct: The student handbook clearly defines appropriate classroom conduct. A student can be asked to leave the class for inappropriate conduct. You should not disrupt the class since you interfere with the learning process for your peers. Talking, sleeping, cell phones ringing, or other disruptive behaviors will result in a warning and then can result in the student being dropped from the class. If you must have a phone for sick children or emergency reasons, please put the phone on vibrate because a ringing/singing phone is very disruptive to the class.

Late Work and Missed Assignments: Work is due on the dates assigned and cannot be made up if missed. Assignments are due on the date assigned and there is a late penalty for each day the work is late (10 pts per day).

Appeal Process: The process of appeal is outlined in the college catalog. Basically you would need to talk to the instructor, the department chair, and then the dean if the problem is not resolved. Be sure to start with your instructor.

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Writing Style: All written assignments should be presented using the conventions of Standard Written English. South Plains College requires all students to become proficient in "academic English," a form of English that is typically used in academic, professional, and business contexts. While slang, regional idioms, and informal kinds of self-expression are appropriate in some contexts, they are out of place in academic writing. Writing instructors and professors in courses across the campus expect all students to demonstrate proficiency in using the conventions of academic English in their written work, whether it is in-class exams or take-home essays.

Academic Integrity: See College Catalog "Offering the work of another as one's own, without proper acknowledgement, is plagiarism..." Students found guilty of plagiarism will fail the work in question for the first offense and will be dropped from the course should a second offense occur. For further information and examples please see www.plagiarism.org

Grading Policy/Procedure: Your grade will be based upon a percentage of the total points with (900-1000 points) 90%=A; (800-899 points) 80%=B; (700-799) 70%=C; (600-699 points) 60%=D; (< 599 points) 59% and below = F.

	POINTS POSSIBLE	POINTS EARNED
EXAM 1	150	
EXAM 2	150	
EXAM 3	150	
EXAM 4	150	
WEEKLY PARTICIPATION ASSIGNMENTS/ATTENDANCE	100	
WRITING ASSIGNMENT	100	
END OF SEMESTER PROJECT	200	
TOTAL	1000	

ALL EXAMS WILL BE COMPLETED ONLINE THROUGH BLACKBOARD.

On scheduled exams days, there will be no in-person class held. Students can choose to take the exam from any location where they are able to access a computer. The exams will be available in Blackboard for a specific amount of time, they will be timed, once a student opens the exam they will not be able to close their browser until the exam is complete. The exam questions will be randomized so that no 2 students will take the same exam.

Special Requirements: If you miss an exam, you cannot make it up, but your optional CUMULATIVE final exam can be used to replace either your lowest score or an exam you missed. If you miss more than two exams, you will be asked to drop the class.

Projects/Assignments:

Writing Assignment (100 points): Information will be provided closer to the assignment due date

End of semester project (200 Points): Throughout the semester, I will recommend a full-length movie that is relevant to the topic being discussed. You will select one of the suggested movies at the end of the semester as topic for a 4-6-page paper (double-spaced). You will write a synopsis of the movie, suggest a diagnosis/diagnoses for the main character, outline the DSM V criteria for the diagnosis/diagnoses you have chosen, and compare and contrast the presentation of symptoms/treatment in the movie to that which we discuss in class. A rubric will be provided on Blackboard.

DATE	TOPIC	EXAM/ASSIGNMENT	RECOMMENDED READING
08/24	WELCOME		
08/26	HISTORICAL CONTEXT		MODULE 1
08/31	CLINICAL ASSESSMENT		MODULE 2
09/02	DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT		MODULE 3
09/07		LABOR DAY (NO CLASSES)	
09/09	RESEARCH METHODS		MODULE 3
09/14		EXAM 1	
09/16	MOOD DISORDERS		MODULE 4
09/21	MOOD DISORDERS		MODULE 4
09/23	TRAUMA AND STRESS RELATED DISORDERS		MODULE 5
09/28	TRAUMA AND STRESS RELATED DISORDERS		MODULE 5
09/30	DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS		MODULE 6
10/05	DISSOCIATIVE DISORDERS		MODULE 6
10/07		EXAM 2	
10/12	ANXIETY DISORDERS		MODULE 7
10/14	ANXIETY DISORDERS		MODULE 7
10/19	SOMATIC DISORDERS		MODULE 8
10/21	OBSESSIVE/COMPULSIVE DISORDER		MODULE 9
10/23 (FRI)		WRITING ASSIGNMENT (DUE BY MIDNIGHT)	
10/26	EATING DISORDERS		MODULE 10
10/28	EATING DISORDERS		MODULE 10
11/02		EXAM 3	
11/04	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS		MODULE 11
11/09	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS		MODULE 11
11/11	SCHIZOPHRENIA		MODULE 12
11/16	SCHIZOPHRENIA		MODULE 12
11/18	PERSONALITY DISORDERS		MODULE 12
11/23	PERSONALITY DISORDERS		MODULE 13
11/25-11/27		THANKSGIVING BREAK	
11/30	PERSONALITY DISORDERS		MODULE 13
12/02		EXAM 4	
12/04 (FRI)		END OF SEMESTER PROJECT DUE (BY MIDNIGHT)	
12/07-12/11	FINALS WEEK (FINAL OPTIONAL)		