Advanced Abnormal Psychology  
(PSY 6306)

Fall 2017  
Monday 2pm–5pm  
A 113

Instructor: Dr. Drew Curtis  
Office: A204D  
Phone: 325-486-6932  
Email: drew.curtis@angelo.edu  
Office Hours: M 10:30-12; T: 11-2; W 8:30-12; Th: 8:30-9:30, 11-12 or by appt.

Required Text:  
ISBN: 978-1-5249-3449-1  

Recommended Text:  
Lilienfeld, S.O., & O'Donohue, W. T. (2007). The great ideas of clinical science:  
17 principles that every mental health professional should understand.  

Course Description: An advanced study of normal versus abnormal behavior and examining the principles dysfunction and distress in human behavior. In addition, the course will survey biological, psychological, and sociocultural factors associated with behavioral pathologies across the life-span.

Course Objectives:  
1. Learn fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories  
2. Learn to apply course material (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)  
3. Develop specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in counseling

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, you should:  
1. Have a deeper understanding of the major psychological perspectives on abnormal behavior  
2. Be familiar with the essential diagnostic characteristics of major psychological disorders across the life-span  
3. Be familiar with etiological factors and treatments associated with major psychological disorders  
4. Be able to apply course material to case examples

Course Policies, Procedures and Format

Readings  
It is expected that each student will have the required reading completed before the class during which we will discuss the material (see course schedule). Some material in the text may be challenging upon first read, but lectures and discussions will be easier and more advantageous if you have read the assigned reading.  
***If I feel the class is not keeping up with the reading, I will have the option to start giving quizzes at any time during any class. Just remember that reading prior to class is really to your benefit!

Policies/Expectations  
1. Read the syllabus thoroughly. If anything is unclear, then read the syllabus. If you still have concerns, then contact the professor.
2. Students are expected to take responsibility for their success in class. You are encouraged to be *active participants* in the education process by asking questions and being alert in class.

3. Distracting or disrespectful students will be asked to leave the class (this includes use of cell phones and other electronic devices).

4. If you have any concerns related to this class, you are encouraged to speak with your instructor *in a timely manner*. **As a general rule, you should raise any issues within one week of receiving a grade or completing a given project.**

5. Students will be expected to access their email and Blackboard online classroom on a regular basis for announcements, course materials, assignments, and grades.

6. The instructor reserves the right to use plagiarism prevention software.

**Class Sessions**

- The majority of the class will be lecture and discussion.
- Class attendance is **mandatory**. This is a graduate level class and as such, it is expected that you will attend each class and contribute to class discussions and group activities. In order to have meaningful class discussions you must come to class having read the assigned material.
- You MUST take your own notes in class in order to pass.
- Media presentations and demonstrations may be used to help illustrate the concepts being discussed.
- Classes may include discussions, group projects, films, and activities.
- Questions and comments are always welcome! (Please be respectful.)

*DISCLAIMER: This class examines a variety of cultural and personal issues and may expose students to ideas and material that they may find disagreeable. If students are unable or unwilling to tolerate other perspectives or their own value systems in the context of the class, then they are encouraged to speak with the instructor regarding their concerns and may wish to reconsider their enrollment in the course. Should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions at any time during the semester, please feel free to contact me.*

**Communication**

- Email is the **best** way to contact your instructor.
- All emails should include the course title or number in the subject line.
- All emails should include your first and last name.

**GRADES**

**Reading Reactions/Participation**

Students will prepare, each week, a response of discussion questions/reactions based on their readings. These questions/responses are meant to help you prepare for class discussions and as such you should read assigned readings prior to class. To earn a pass grade, you must be present, make at least one substantial comment or question, complete the reading reaction form, and/or participate in group activities. You will receive a fail if you do not complete the reading reaction form, are not in class, and do not contribute at all to the class activities. Your lowest reading reaction/participation grade will be dropped and you will not be given a grade for the first class.

Equally important to presenting a case is to observe a case, ask questions, and generate useful comments or dialogue. Thus, part of your reading reaction/participation grade will be earned through your participation in others’ case studies. You will need to speak once per presentation day. This may be in the form of questions or providing thoughtful commentary.

**Quizzes**

There will be 10 quizzes given throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth 5 points and you will have no more than 10 minutes at the beginning of class to complete the quiz. **NO MAKE-UP QUIZZES**
**Case Studies**
You will receive 2 case studies. You will be expected to write a case formulation, diagnosis, and treatment for each case. You will be graded on the accuracy of your diagnosis as well as the conceptualization and integration of research and supporting literature you used in deriving your diagnosis. You will also be graded on the research used to support your suggested treatment. Therefore, it is important to discuss how you derived your conclusions. Along with your case study write-up, you will have some discussion questions for each case that you will need to answer. You will additional instructions can be found on Blackboard.

- Check the syllabus schedule for project due dates. You will be assigned cases and respective due dates (on the syllabus schedule). You will know your first case by the end of the second class, at the latest. Failure to complete the project on the assigned due date will result in a zero.
- While consultation is very important in the profession, you must do this assignment alone. The value of this assignment is to see your conceptualization and understanding of the material.
- Writing must be in APA style.

**Where Hollywood Meets Psychology-Psychomythology Paper:** People watch films and movies daily and more and more films are portraying psychopathology. Many of these films contain inaccuracies or paint an unrealistic picture of psychopathology. These influences get absorbed into people’s beliefs about psychopathology. You are to find and watch a movie (which can be referenced in the book but does not need to be) that depicts a form of psychopathology and write a response-research integrated paper. This assignment is designed to demonstrate your ability to apply of the course material through thinking about accuracies and inaccuracies of how film portrays psychopathology (abnormal behavior), how this might influence clients’ beliefs about psychopathology, and how you might exercise your sociopolitical responsibility. You may watch the film alone or with others. However, your write-up must be your own. Any similarities in papers will be considered plagiarism. If you talk about the film with others, then you must state that that explicitly in your paper and write about your contributions. You will be graded on the thought process you used in discussing the disorder(s), the accuracies or inaccuracies portrayed in the film, how you discuss your sociopolitical responsibility, and how you integrate research. Therefore, it is important to discuss how you derived your conclusions.

- You will be expected to write a critical analysis of the film specifically related to abnormal psychology in an 8-10 page paper (text; not including title page and references).
- Within your paper you must include at least 10 references other than your textbook (from scholarly journals or books).

- ASU Library link to search from articles: [http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/](http://www.angelo.edu/services/library/)
- Papers will be due before the date listed on the syllabus schedule and submitted before class time through BlackBoard. Check the syllabus schedule for paper due date.
- Be sure to submit all documents as a word document file, any other files that cannot be opened will not be read and will be assigned a grade of ZERO points.
- APA style
- **No late assignments will be accepted and no make-up assignments will be given. Any form of Plagiarism** (see Academic Dishonesty Policies) **will receive a zero.**

| APA format (grammar, cover page, reference page, structure, formatting) = | 10 pts. |
| 10 references = | 10 pts. |
| Content (addressing the disorder in a coherent manner; not mechanical; evidence of having watched the film; discussion with sociopolitical responsibility) = | 50 pts. |
| Integration and synthesis of articles (well thought out and discussed rather than thrown into the paper) = | 30 pts. |

**Total =** 100pts.
Exam
There will be 1 final, comprehensive exam given at the end of the course. The final exam will consist of true/false and multiple choice questions that will cover material from lectures, readings, activities, and class discussions from the entire semester.

Make up policy for exams: Make up exams will ONLY be allowed for emergency situations (in other words, a doctor’s appointment is not an emergency). It is the student’s responsibility (BY EMAIL WHEN POSSIBLE) to contact the professor within 24 hours to reschedule. Failure to do so will result in a zero on the exam. Make up exams will be scheduled at the convenience of the instructor and will be scheduled as quickly as possible. Make-up exams will cover the same material, but are in a format of the instructor’s choice, such as ORAL or comprehensive fill in the blank/essay exams.

Course Point Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Final Grades:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (10):</td>
<td>50 pts. (5 pts. each)</td>
<td>A = 540-600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Reactions/Participation (10):</td>
<td>50 pts. (5 pts. each)</td>
<td>B = 480-539</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Studies:</td>
<td>200 pts. (100 pts. each)</td>
<td>C = 420-479</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychomythology Paper</td>
<td>100 pts.</td>
<td>F = &lt; 419</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam:</td>
<td>200 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Points Possible =</td>
<td></td>
<td>600 pts.</td>
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</tbody>
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Tentative Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>Introduction/ Understanding Abnormality: A Look at “Crazy”</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>Labor Day-Holiday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/11</td>
<td>Theory Informs Treatment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Q1; RR1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/18</td>
<td>Assessment and Diagnosis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Q2; RR2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Value of Research: A Good Consumer</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>Neurodevelopmental and Elimination Disorders</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Q3; RR3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Schizophrenia Spectrum and Psychotic Disorders</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/2</td>
<td>Depressive and Bipolar Disorders</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Q4; RR4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Case Study 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/16</td>
<td>Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and Related Disorders</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Q5; RR5</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>Trauma and Dissociative Disorders</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Q6; RR6</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/30</td>
<td>Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Q7; RR7</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/6</td>
<td>Eating Disorders</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Q8; RR8</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/13</td>
<td>Sleep Disorders</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Q9; RR9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sexual Dysfunctions, Gender Dysphoria, and Paraphilic Disorders</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>Substance-Related, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Q10; RR10</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>Neurocognitive Disorders</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Case Study 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Personality Disorders</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Myths and Controversies in Practice, Ethics, and Law</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>12/4</td>
<td>Psychomythology and Film</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12/11</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM (Monday, Dec. 11th 3:30p.m.-5:30p.m.)</td>
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* Please note that this syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester.
STUDENT ABSENCE FOR OBSERVANCE OF RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS
“A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence.”

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Academic honesty is expected on all work. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their online experiences. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Social Work adheres to the academic honesty statement as set forth in the Angelo State University Student Handbook (2011-2012) http://www.angelo.edu/content/files/17358-university-honor-code. The University "faculty expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experience both in and out of the classroom setting and may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty, including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials."

PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism at ASU is a serious topic. The Angelo State University’s Honor Code gives specific details on plagiarism and what it encompasses. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word for word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. We use the APA Style Manual of the American Psychological Association as a guide for all writing assignments. Quotes should be used sparingly. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list. Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Bb Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the ASU Writing Center http://www.angelo.edu/dept/writing_center/academic_honesty.php.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
1. “Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.”

2. The Office of Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Office of Student Affairs, University Center, Room 112 at (325) 942-2047 or (325) 942-2211 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at studentservices@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Office of Student Affairs will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students determined to be disabled or who have documented disabilities.

Tutoring:
The ASU Tutor Center is located in the Library C301 (3rd floor). Tutoring is free to all ASU students.

Withdrawals:
Please review withdrawal policies: http://www.angelo.edu/services/registrars_office/withdrawals_refunds.php