Instructor Information

Instructor: James L. Becker Psy.D.
Office: Charts 436
Mailbox: Charts 4th floor
Hours: MW 7-9:25 AM; 10:50-12:01 PM;
Phone: 501-812-2234
Email: JBecker@uaptc.edu

*All emails and telephone calls will receive a response within two business days.

Chair: Michael Loya 501-812-2776 mloy@uaptc.edu
Dean: Christy Oberste 501-812-2869 coberste@uaptc.edu

*If your emails and telephone calls do not receive a response within two business days, the appropriate chain of command is above.

Course Information

This will be an online class. All content and testing will occur on the BlackBoard site. All assignments will be post in the Course Messages folder. The courses opens on Course messages. I recommend you check this at least 3 times a week.

Catalog Description

PSYC 2330. Abnormal Psychology This course is the study of the etiology and treatment of abnormal behavior and the psychological processes involved. This includes a comprehensive analysis of the clinical and developmental aspects in regards to psychological disorders as well as the diagnostic categories, treatment and prevention. 3 Credit Hours (3 hours lecture per week)
Prerequisite: PSYC 2300 with a grade of “C” or better.

Course Materials


or


Mission Statement

University of Arkansas – Pulaski Technical College provides access to high-quality education that promotes student learning and enables individuals to develop to their fullest potential.
Institutional Learning Outcomes and General Education

UA-PTC supports a college-wide institutional learning assessment program which concerns effective instructional methods and promotes student learning achievement by assessing:

1. Communication  
2. Critical Thinking  
3. Cultural Awareness  
4. Information Literacy  
5. Professionalism  
6. Quantitative Literacy  
7. Technology Literacy

For more information, please consult the following website: https://uaptc.edu/sla

Department / Program Learning Outcomes

The Behavioral Science department, consistent with the College’s mission and the Division’s objectives, encourages the success of its students in all technical fields and academic disciplines by promoting:

PLO #1:

Apply foundational knowledge of behavioral sciences’ theories, methods and analytical lenses in a critical examination of institutions, groups and individuals as well as current or past regional, social, civic or institutional issues.

PLO #2:

Using discipline specific conceptual frameworks, analyze individuals, groups or institutions regarding issues involved with difference, diversity, gender, orientation, culture, power, race, ethnicity and social systems.

Apply behavior sciences’ theoretical knowledge, conceptual frameworks, and understandings of context in order to interact with diverse populations.

PLO #3:

Apply behavior sciences’ theoretical knowledge, conceptual frameworks, and understandings of context in order to interact with diverse populations.

PLO #4:

Analyze significant human issues using appropriate methods and resources that apply social and behavioral science concepts, terminology, principles and theories.
Student Learning / Course Outcomes
The student will:
1. Upon completion of this course, students will have an understanding of the difficulties inherent in defining abnormal behavior.
2. Students will be able to describe the major models used to explain abnormal behavior.
3. The student will demonstrate knowledge of the major research methods used in the field of abnormal psychology.
4. The student will be familiar with the current diagnostic system.
5. The student will be able to describe symptoms along with presently known causes and current best treatments for the major psychiatric disorders.
6. The student will exhibit a cogent understanding of the legal and cultural issues related to the field of abnormal psychology.
7. The student will have a basic knowledge of the history of the field of Abnormal Psychology.

Policies

Report a Complaint or Concern

UA-PTC takes very seriously complaints and concerns regarding the institution. Most complaints or concerns of a specific nature should be initiated and resolved at the campus level through normal college processes whenever possible. UA - Pulaski Technical College receives and resolves complaints using a variety of methods. To report a complaint or concern, please follow the link below.

https://www.uaptc.edu/report-a-concern-complaint

UA-PTC Attendance Policy

Education at UA-PTC requires students’ active involvement in the learning process. Thus, students are expected to attend all classes and actively engage in all learning assignments and/or opportunities provided in their classes. Class attendance should be treated as mandatory by all students as attendance will be taken by all instructors during the first two weeks of class. Additionally, a written policy on student attendance that is tied to course objectives and included in a course syllabus will be provided for each course by instructors.

Course Policies

The UA-PTC Catalog rules and regulations will be enforced in this course at all times. Please consult the following website for more information: https://www.uaptc.edu/catalog

Professional behavior is required. Punctual attendance and intelligent participation are expected. Particulars as determined by the instructor are detailed in the paragraph below.

Appropriate behavior is expected for all communications, including any notes, email messages, or telephone conversations. Some guidelines for communication are included in this syllabus to help you.
Grading Policy

Letter grades will be based on the following scale:

- 90 to 100%  A
- 80 to 89%  B
- 70 to 79%  C
- 60 to 69%  D
- 0 to 59%  F

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The Course opens in Course Messages on your BB shell. Everything you are assigned for that unit is there for you to complete including study guides and discussions. This will be demonstrated in class.

Go to your current module where everything you are assigned for that unit is there for you to complete including study guides and discussions. This will be demonstrated in class.

1. EXAMS: There will be a major test after every 3 to 4 modules covered. There will be four major exams. See schedule for further details. Call the instructor immediately if there is a problem on taking the exam. The Exams will be posted in the Module last studied. These Tests will be worth 400 points of your total grade. The exams will be posted online for you to take. This will be demonstrated in class. If you have trouble accessing the exam, call immediately so this can be rectified.

Time Limits for Exams

The time allotted for each exam is one hour. The exam must be completed in one sitting once begun. The exams will be posted on Friday and will close Sunday at midnight. I encourage you to complete the assignments early rather than wait until the last minute to complete them. Make sure that you have a stable internet connection. If you have trouble, call me immediately.

2. STUDY GUIDES (no grade assigned to these). There will be a Study Guide for each Module. These will not be counted in your grade, but will help you do well on the Exams. These will be posted in the module being studied. These must be completed by Sunday midnight. You may take the studyguide only one time. There are no time limits to take the studyguides, but they must be completed by midnight Sunday. Many of these same questions will be seen in the Exams for that unit. Copy the test questions before you begin so you can have them to study for the Exams. Read the chapter first. Complete the module Study Guide to see how well you are learning the material. You may make copies of these study guides, but I will not reopen them for you to do so. Once you hit submit, you will not be able to access them again.
3. **BLOG (discussion) question:** You are to **post twice** for each discussion. There are 9 of these total, and they are posted in the appropriate Learning Modules. This assignment will be worth 85 points of your total grade. The **first response** will be directed to the question the instructor has posed to the class. The **second response** will be made to another student’s posting. Respond in your own words. Be sure to make complete responses. When you respond to someone else, do not simply say, “I agree with you.” Explain why you agree or disagree. It will be okay to disagree, but each of us will be expected to be respectful to each other. Most students forget to respond to another student’s posting, and this adversely affects their grade. These are to be completed by **Sunday midnight.** These responses will be graded on a 5 point scale based on Bloom’s taxonomy. The criterion for grading the responses will be as follows;

The discussions are designed to help you think critically about a particular topic that is important in Abnormal Psychology. It is also designed to help students to interact with each other and share their insights. I will provide feedback at the completion of the discussions in class.

**Late responses will not be accepted, but points will be deducted accordingly.** Late responses to others will not be graded. You will be graded on your discussion original response to my query as well as your response to someone else’s post. You will be graded according to the following criteria;

**5 points:** The student has thoroughly summarized the question in the student’s own words. The student has made several statements indicating an understanding of the question, and the issues stated therein. The student has exhibited a cogent analysis and has included the student’s own thoughts about the question or has synthesized information from diverse areas or made a distinction in concepts and component facts.

**4 points:** The student has thoroughly summarized the article in the student’s own words. The student has made several statements indicating an understanding of the article and the issues raised by the article.

**3 points:** The student has thoroughly summarized the article in the student’s own words, and conveys an understanding of those facts, but not the important issues.

**2 points:** The student has given a sketchy summary of the information.

**1 point:** student responded, but the response was not related to the question asked.

**FLOW OF ASSIGNMENTS AND LOCATIONS:**

**This is what you should do every chapter:**

1. **READ CHAPTER-** look at slides and notes
2. **RESPOND TO MY BLOG QUESTION AND RESPOND TO SOMEONE ELSE’S RESPONSE** (located in the module) These discussions are completed after module 8.
3. **COMPLETE Module STUDY GUIDE** (located in Course Contents button under that module number).
4. Major Exams are given every 3-4 chapters, and these will on your BB course site in the appropriate learning module.
5. Work on assignments related to writing your paper.
4. PAPER

The paper will count for 100 points of your total grade.

The completion of a research paper as follows;

You are to select a psychiatric disorder that interests you that you want to explore. Review the relevant descriptive material such as associated features, age of onset, course of illness, level of impairment, complications, predisposing factors, prevalence, familial patterns, sex ratio, differential diagnosis, etc. as indicated in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: (DSM-V). Consult various sources to determine recommended treatment options (I have listed several of this that are required at the end of the syllabus). I will give you information on Course Messages as to how to access these. This paper should be 7-10 pages in length (including title and reference pages) following APA style format. The APA format will be demonstrated in files placed in the Learning Modules (in the Paper folder). Slide down to the bottom of the page and open the folder to access the information.

The grade on the paper may be exchange for 1 of your exams in addition to counting as your paper grade if that score is better than one of your exams. This replacement can only occur if you have taken all the exams. You may not substitute the paper grade for a 0 grade on an exam you have never taken.

Sources: You must use at least 7 sources for your paper.

1. You must get notes from your textbook and submit them to the instructor according to the due dates at the bottom of the syllabus under Important Dates.
2. You must use The Diagnostic & Statistical Manual –V (DSM-V, 2013) of the American Psychiatric Association. This source is available on our library website. Go to the library site, select databases by subject, select Psychology and then click on Psychiatry online. The DSM-V is located at the top of this page. Take notes and submit these to the instructor according to the due date at the bottom of the syllabus. I will send instructions as to how to access this source on Course Messages.
3. You must use Gabbard’s Treatments of Psychiatric Disorders. It is located on the Psychiatry online link as well. Submit these notes to the instructor by the due date. I will send instructions as to how to access this source on Course Messages.
4. You must submit notes from Kaplan & Sadock’s Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry. Go to the library site, click on databases, then find Kaplan & Sadock and select this to go to the work. I will send instructions as how to access this source on Course Messages.
5. 5&6. You should use at least two journal articles. You do not have to submit these to the instructor. Professional journals are the norm. If you need help to identify peer reviewed journals, talk to the instructor. You can go to the databases on our library site, then slide down to Psych Articles. I will send more thorough instructions on how to find appropriate journal articles on course messages.

You may also go to Google Scholar to find some articles. Professional journal articles are used later in your research for finding information about specific topics that you want to explore as a result of finding the basic information for your paper.
Select a seventh reference of your choice making sure it is a professional source not a news article or a .com website.

I have a copy of the score sheet on BB for you to review. 10% of your grade on the paper is based on sending me notes on schedule from the sources I have requested as well as putting your First Draft and Final Draft into Safe Assign (instructions will be given in a timely fashion in class. You will also be graded (20%) on plagiarism and using citations properly.

If you go to the library, they are willing to help you navigate the databases as well as other useful information to facilitate your writing the paper.

**SAFE ASSIGN:** The First Draft of your paper should be submit your First Draft to Safe Assign. This will give you a report concerning potential plagiarism of anything in your paper. I will have this on the Contents Page (SafeAssign First Draft). Click on it, attach your paper to the SafeAssignOption1FirstDraft). Cut and paste only the body of the paper to SafeAssign as that will reduce your plagiarism grade. In a day or two go back to Safe Assign, and click View/Complete and your report will be generated. If your plagiarism rate is more than 25%, you will need to put more of your paper in your own words. Even if you cite properly (which you should do), over 25% is too much.

You will submit your final paper to SafeAssign as well. The instructor will use this submission to assure that no plagiarism has occurred. Your plagiarism rate should be no more than 25% for the final draft. Also, you need to cite every paragraph properly to avoid plagiarism. Examples of this will be found on the course contents page.

How to format the paper and find the above references are located in the Paper folder at the bottom of the Course Contents page. Good student examples are also located there as well for your perusal.

**Grade Replacement:** Your grade on the paper may be exchanged for the lowest exam score in addition to counting as your paper grade as well, so the paper can really help your grade.

**Consultation:** I am happy to consult with you on your paper. I would prefer to do this either in office or via telephone as email takes too long sometimes to clarify some aspects, and it is difficult to have a substantial interaction of thought processes.

**SAFE ASSIGN:** For the paper, you will be submit your First Draft to Safe Assign. This will give you a report concerning potential plagiarism of anything in your paper. I will have this on the Contents Page (First Draft SafeAssign ). Click on it, cut and paste the body of your paper (not title page or reference page) to SafeAssign. In a day or two go back to Safe Assign, and click View/Complete and your report will be generated. If you have over 25% plagiarism rate, you will need to put more of it in your own words even if you cite it properly. You will submit your final paper to Safe Assign as well (SafeAssignFinalDraft). The instructor will use this submission to assure that no plagiarism has occurred. If you have more than 25% plagiarism rate or you do not cite your paper properly, points will be deducted appropriately up to 20 points.
Writing is an integral component of doing college level work. The instructor, and the librarian will do everything we can to help you to enhance your writing capabilities. Do not hesitate to ask questions or seek consultation early.

SYNOPSIS OF REQUIREMENTS:

- 4 exams 400
- Research paper 100
- Discussion questions 85

Total 485 points

* Instructors have one week to provide feedback and post grades for all assignments unless otherwise noted by a departmental policy that has been approved by the Dean of the School.

In an online class, eligibility for Financial Aid is based on student participation. Logging into the course does not constitute participation. For purposes of roster certification, students must complete a gradable attendance artifact.

Academic Integrity

It is expected that all students who attend UA-PTC conduct themselves in a manner appropriate for the college experience. Academic integrity is a vital component of collegiate behavior. The UA-PTC catalog states, “The gaining of knowledge and the practice of honesty go hand-in-hand.”

The catalog also states, “The responsibility and authority of initiating discipline arising from violations of the rules against dishonesty during the process of the course are vested in the instructor of that course.”

The complete Academic Integrity Policy is in the UA-PTC code of conduct.

Accommodation Policy

Services for Students with Disabilities: UA-PTC is committed to fulfilling all federal requirements as stated in the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the American with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Accommodations are available to students who have documented disabilities. Students who request accommodations must register with the Disability Services Office (Main Campus: 501-812-2738 or South Campus: 501-812-2862) and must provide current and relevant documentation.

Students requesting accommodations should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course or as soon as accommodations are approved. It is the student's responsibility to provide their
Accommodation Letter to the instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive and will only be provided once your instructor receives the Accommodation Letter.

**Student Code of Conduct**

All students are expected to abide by the UA-PTC Student Code of Conduct. For the full Student Code of Conduct, access the most current version of the UA-PTC Academic Catalog. [http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2](http://uaptc.azurewebsites.net/docs/default-source/course-catalog/2017-18-academic-catalog.pdf?sfvrsn=a08a3038_2)

**Sexual Misconduct**

No person at Pulaski Technical College will, on the basis of gender, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to sex discrimination, sexual harassment or sexual misconduct under any education program or activity. All college administrative policies and procedures regarding sex discrimination, sexual harassment, and sexual misconduct are in compliance with Title IX. Students who feel they are victims of sexual misconduct should contact the UA-PTC Title IX Deputy Coordinator for Students:

Michelle Anderson, Director of Student Life and Leadership  
Campus Center Building Room 216  
501-812-2756  
manderson@uaptc.edu

**Course Evaluations**

Students may be asked to evaluate their instructor and course near the end of the semester. These student evaluations are very important to the improvement in the quality of instruction and course materials. All results are anonymous and shared with the faculty only after the semester is over and grades have been posted.

**Information Literacy**

UA-PTC is committed to the Information Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education as established by the Association of College and Research Libraries and endorsed by the National Forum on Information Literacy. Therefore, all courses will incorporate an information literacy component so that, by graduation, all students will be able to recognize the need for information, then locate, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information in an ethical manner. Information literacy encompasses critical thinking, research, media, technology, health, business, and visual literacy skills to produce lifelong learners who can make informed decisions in the workplace and in their personal lives.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

Module 1- Introduction to Abnormal Psychology: Complete the study guide for Module 1 and complete the Introduction blog and the blog concerning what is abnormal behavior. Be sure to respond to someone else’s post as well. These two assignments are due by Sunday midnight.
Module 2- An Integrative Approach; Complete module 2 discussion as well as the study guide for module 2. It is due on Sunday midnight at the latest.

Module 3- Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis; Complete module 3 discussion question, respond to someone else’s post, and complete the study guide for module 3. Due date again, is Sunday midnight.

Module 4 -Research; Complete the discussion question for module 4 regarding research question, and respond to someone else’s post. Complete module 4 study guide. The due date is Sunday midnight.

**Exam 1 will cover modules 1-4.**

Module 5 - Anxiety Disorders; complete the discussion question regarding anxiety disorders in women, respond to someone else’s post. Complete the study guide for this module as well.

Module 6 - Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders; Complete your response to the discussion question regarding Dissociate Identity Disorder. Complete the discussion as to DID diagnosis and its validity. Be sure to respond to someone else’s post as well. Complete the study guide for Module 6. These are assignments are due Sunday midnight.

Module 7- Mood disorders; Complete the study guide for module 7 by Sunday midnight. Additionally, the discussion regarding Learned Helplessness and its role depression is due as well.

**Exam 2: Exam 2 over modules 5-7.**

Module 8- Eating & Sleep Disorders; Respond to the discussion question regarding the high rate of eating disorders in women. Be sure to respond to someone else’s post. Complete Module 8 study guide as well. Both assignments are due Sunday midnight.

Module 9- Physical Disorders- Complete the study guide for module 9 by Sunday midnight. Remember, no more discussion questions are posted.

Module 10- Sexual and Gender Disorders. Complete the study guide for Module 10. No discussion questions.

**Exam 3: Exam 3 is over modules 8-10**

Module 11- Substance Related Disorder. Complete this study guide by Sunday midnight. No discussion question.

Module 12- Personality Disorders: Complete the study guide for module 12 by Sunday midnight. No discussion question.

Module 13 Schizophrenia & Other Psychotic Disorders: Complete the study guide for Module 13 by Sunday midnight. No discussion question.

**Final Exam** will cover 11-13
Final Exam Schedule: Tuesday, May 5. The exam will close at midnight.

Paper deadlines
January 21 Monday Textbook notes due
February 4 Monday DSM-V notes due
February 18 Monday Gabbard’s Treatment of Psychiatric Disorders notes due
March 4 Monday Kaplan & Sadock’s Comprehensive Textbook of Psychiatry notes due
April 1 Monday First Draft due in Safe Assign
April 15 Monday Final draft due in Safe Assign, send Word copy to instructor on Course Messages

Disclaimer: This schedule is a guide for the semester. The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule as necessary.

Important Dates
January 9 First Day of Class
January 21 MLK Day- no school
March 12 Midterm
March 17-24 Spring Break- no school
April 17 Last Day to withdraw
Course Agreement Form

Read, complete, and return to instructor:

I have read the course syllabus for James Becker’s Abnormal Psychology class at UAPTC, and I understand its content. I also understand the rules for the class, and I will follow and abide by these rules, including those relating to attendance, assignments, grading criteria, plagiarism, and behavior.

________________________
Semester

________________________
Date

________________________
Print name

________________________
Signature

________________________
UAPTC Email address

________________________
Telephone