

*The University of Texas at Dallas*  
*Course Syllabus*

---

**Course Information**

Course Number/Section	PSY4343.501.16F
Course Title	<b>ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY</b>
Term	Fall 2016
Days & Times	<b>Tuesdays, 7 pm – 9:45 pm</b>
Location	Cecil H. Green Hall (GR) 4.301

---

**Professor Contact Information**

Professor	Dr. Gretchen Ladd
Office Phone	(214) 987-9099
Email Address	<a href="mailto:Gretchen.Ladd@utdallas.edu">Gretchen.Ladd@utdallas.edu</a>
Office Hours	Before and after class
Other Information	<u>Email is the fastest and best way to reach me.</u> Please put the course name in your subject line [PSY Abnormal] and <u>use your UTD email account.</u>

---

**Course Prerequisite:** None

---

**Course Description:** This course, worth three credit hours, considers patterns of abnormal human behavior, approaches to psychotherapy, and related research.

---

**Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

- 1) Describe and explain the nature of psychology as a scientific discipline.
  - 2) Demonstrate how psychological principles can explain and inform clinical issues, social issues, organizational issues, and public policy.
  - 3) Use critical thinking to evaluate popular media, scholarly literature and empirical research.
- 

**Required Textbooks**

- 1) American Psychiatric Association (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, Fifth Edition*. Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Association.
  - 2) Kring, A.M., Johnson, S.L. (2016). *Abnormal Psychology*, 13<sup>th</sup> edition. Wiley. ISBN:9781118-85909-4
- 

**Assignments and Academic Calendar**

**Exams:** We will have three non-cumulative exams based on the readings, class lectures, class discussions and handouts given during class. Exams will consist of multiple choice questions. There is no final (cumulative) exam.

**In-Class Assignments:** Students will complete four assignments during class throughout the semester. Assignments are each worth five points. Assignments must be turned in at the end of class. Students not in attendance cannot make up the in-class assignment.

DATE	TOPIC	READING
August 23	Introduction and Historical Overview; Classification and Diagnosis	Chapters 1 and 3
August 30	Mood Disorders	Chapter 5
September 6	Mood Disorders	Chapter 5
September 13	Anxiety Disorders; Review for Exam; <b>In-Class Assignment</b>	Chapter 6
September 20	<b>Exam #1</b> (Chapters 1,3,5,6)	
September 27	Obsessive-Compulsive Related and Trauma-Related Disorders	Chapter 7
October 4	Dissociative Disorders and Somatic Symptom-Related Disorders	Chapter 8
October 11	Schizophrenia; Review for Exam; <b>In-Class Assignment</b>	Chapter 9
October 18	<b>Exam #2</b> (Chapters 7,8,9)	
October 25	Substance Use Disorders	Chapter 10
November 1	Eating Disorders	Chapter 11
November 8	Disorders of Childhood	Chapter 13
November 15	Personality Disorders; <b>In-Class Assignment</b>	Chapter 15
November 22	No Class (Winter break)	
November 29	Review for Exam; <b>In-Class Assignment</b>	
December 6	<b>Exam #3</b> (Chapters 10,11,13,15)	

---

**Grading Policy:** Grades are comprised of the following:

Exam 1: 24% of final grade

Exam 2: 24% of final grade

Exam 3: 32% of final grade

In-Class Assignments: 20% of final grade

Extra credit: 6% added to final grade

Grades are as follows:

A: 90% to 100%

B: 80% to 89%

C: 70% to 79%

D: 60% to 69%

F: grades below 60%

**Research Exposure Credit Requirement (REC):**

One requirement of all students enrolled in this class is completion of two research exposure credits. This requirement provides students practical and direct experiences with research and is an important means to understanding behavioral research. Details about this requirement appear on the separate Research Exposure Credit Requirement handout distributed on the first day of class. A link to “Research Exposure Credit (REC) Requirement” is also posted on the BBS Information Center in eLearning (link on the left side).

Failure to complete the research exposure requirement will result in lowering your total grade in this class. For each Research Exposure Credit you fail to complete, your course grade will be reduced by 1/3 letter grade. For example, if you only complete one of the two required credits and your grade for all other course requirements is an A+, then your grade would be lowered from an A+ to an A. If you do not complete both credits, your grade would be lowered from an A+ to A-. The deadline for completion of these credits is found on the REC instruction sheet.

---

### **Course & Instructor Policies**

#### **Make Up Exams are at the Testing Center:**

All students are required to be present at exams. Make-up exams will be given only if you were seriously ill (documentation from a physician is required) or you made arrangements prior to the exam to attend an urgent family affair (e.g., funeral) or religious holy day. You must notify me in advance of the exam or else you receive a failing grade on the exam. It is your responsibility to make up the exam within one week of the scheduled exam time. Make up exams are held at the testing center. Appointments are required at the testing center. See testing center guidelines on the elearning page for this course. You must notify this instructor that you will be making up the exam.

**Class Attendance:** Attendance will not be monitored. It is highly recommended that students attend all classes.

#### **Extra Credit – Current Event Presentation:**

Students have the opportunity once during the term to present to the class a recent (within the last two weeks) news article detailing some form of DSM-5 psychopathology. Students must sign up at least one week prior to the date to be presented on. No more than three students can present on a given date. Presentations begin September 6 through November 29.

Acceptable media sources include online and print media. Student must bring an article to class with appropriate references (date, source, author, etc.). In a three to five minute presentation, students will address the following points:

1. Brief description of the article including who/what/when/where/why. Be sure to include a description of the symptoms of psychopathology notated in the article. (2 points)
2. What diagnosis or diagnoses should be considered? Include in the conversation what symptoms are not included that are expected and/or what symptoms are described that do not fit the psychopathology. (2 points)
3. What information would you like to know in order to make a better informed diagnostic decision? (2 points)

Total possible points: 6. See Scoring Rubric at end of syllabus for more details about grading.

Students can include multi-media at their discretion. However, multi-media cannot make up more than one minute of the presentation, and students are responsible for the set up and delivery.

---

### **Comet Creed**

*This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:*

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

---

### **UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures**

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University’s policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

*The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Dr. Ladd.*

Scoring Rubric for Extra Credit Presentation on a Current Event

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Scoring Criteria	Total Points	Score
Brief description of the article including discussion of abnormal symptoms of mental health and who/when/where/why/what	2	
What diagnosis or diagnoses should be considered? Include in the conversation what symptoms are not included that are expected and/or what symptoms are described that do not fit the psychopathology	2	
What information would you like to know in order to make a better informed diagnostic decision?	2	
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>6</b>	