

**Abnormal Psychology  
Psychology 4313, Section 04R  
Spring 2023  
Friday 11:00 - 1:00, ELABN 105**



**Contact Information**

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Office Location: EACSB 1.124D  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Course Modality: Hybrid

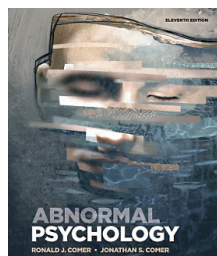
*Please note that we will not be using the “message” system in Blackboard. Please use my UTRGV email for course communication.*

**Course Information**

This course will be taught as a hybrid course. Although the course material will be delivered online in an asynchronous manner, I will hold optional virtual review sessions a week before each exam in which I will interact with the class in discussing course material. These sessions will be conducted through Zoom and will be held 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on the Friday before each exam. I will provide the Zoom link for each review session several days in advance. Finally, the required exams will be given in-person in ELABN 105 during the scheduled time for the course. The only online exams will be the two optional extra credit exams, as noted later in the syllabus.

**Prerequisites**

To have the background knowledge necessary for the course, students should have taken General Psychology or Introductory Psychology.



**Required Textbook and Browser**

Ronald J. Comer & Jonathan S. Comer (2021), *Abnormal Psychology* (11<sup>th</sup> edition), Macmillan. ISBN-13: 9781319370602.

Please note that you can purchase an e-book version of the textbook, or rent the textbook, for a lower cost than the print version. To do so, please go to

[https://www.amazon.com/Abnormal-Psychology-Ronald-J-Comer-ebook-dp-B08W2S438C/dp/B08W2S438C/ref=mt\\_other?\\_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=1641318357](https://www.amazon.com/Abnormal-Psychology-Ronald-J-Comer-ebook-dp-B08W2S438C/dp/B08W2S438C/ref=mt_other?_encoding=UTF8&me=&qid=1641318357)

As detailed at this link, the lowest priced rental version is \$71.28.

**Please note that this textbook is not an open education resource. Also, please note that the textbook is absolutely essential for the course. You will not be able to pass the course without reading and fully comprehending the textbook material. Because all exam items**

**are based on the text, a thorough understanding of the text will be necessary to pass the course. It is highly recommended that you read each chapter more than once.**

You are required to use the Respondus Lockdown Browser with Monitor for the extra credit exams. This is a custom browser that locks down the testing environment with Blackboard and replaces regular browsers such as Chrome, Firefox, and Safari. The reason for this is to help ensure the academic integrity of online exams. In other words, I want to make sure that all students are taking the exams on a fair playing field and using this browser and monitor will help allow for this. You will thus need to download the Respondus Lockdown Browser to take exams. You will need to have a **webcam** for the computer you use when taking exams because a video (webcam) recording will be made **for each exam you take. The recordings serve as a proctor and will be reviewed and used in an effort to maintain academic integrity.** You will need to have a reliable internet connection when taking tests or you can take exams on campus. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the UTRGV Edinburg library has desktop computers with webcams and the Respondus Lockdown browser installed. If you choose not to use the Respondus software and use a webcam, then you will be unable to take the extra credit exams.

Due to numerous past incidents of students cheating on online exams, I have very strict test-taking policies. **If a student does not thoroughly show her or his testing environment during the environmental check, the student will receive an exam score of 0, at the minimum. Moreover, if a student is “out of the picture frame,” the student will receive an exam score of 0, at the minimum. Please note that the Respondus software will alert the student when the student is out of the frame—thus, the excuse of “I wasn’t aware that I was out of the frame” is not valid. Further, please note that students who become aware of other students cheating and do not report it to me will be held responsible. For example, cheating often occurs within WhatsApp “study” groups. If I become aware of cheating within one of these groups, then all students who belong to the group will be held responsible.**

**All incidents of cheating or suspicious test-taking behavior will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities who will determine whether the student will be expelled from the university.**

To make sure that the Respondus Browser and monitor work properly during the exam, I strongly suggest that you watch this video: <http://www.respondus.com/products/monitor/movie-monitor.shtml>. Please note that **you must show your UTRGV Picture ID (or drivers license or other photo ID) to the webcam at the beginning of the exam.** Failure to do so will result in an exam score of 0. The Respondus Lockdown Browser software is available for download at <http://www.respondus.com/lockdown/download.php?id=721834533>

### **Learning Objectives for the Course**

1. Students should gain an understanding of the wide breadth of behavior that is considered abnormal in our society.
2. Students should be familiar with the phenomenology of the common psychological disorders.

3. Students should understand what the most popular theories of psychopathology say about the causes and treatments of psychological disorders.
4. Students should understand the unique aspects of diagnosing and treating psychological disorders and should be able to differentiate between disorders.
5. Students should become familiar with the ways in which psychologists discover information about psychopathology.
6. Students should develop critical thinking skills about the subject matter so that they, for example, are able to apply material they learn in class to everyday situations outside the classroom.

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## UTRGV Resources & Policy Statements

### COVID-19 RESOURCES:

Please visit the UTRGV COVID-19 Website via the following link for the most up-to-date information and resources (<https://www.utrgv.edu/coronavirus/index.htm>). This includes information on self-screening questions, links to forms for travel and contact, etc.

### UTRGV VACCINE PORTAL

UTRGV Students are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 Vaccine. Students may access and complete their vaccine profile via the [UTRGV Vaccine Portal](#). For additional information on the COVID-19 Vaccine, please visit the [UTRGV COVID-19 Website](#).

### Scholastic Integrity

As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

### Rules regarding collaboration specific to this course:

You are expected to use the course textbook and other course material (as well as any additional readings you seek out) to complete all assignments. However, you may NOT consult with any other students (in the class or not) or faculty when completing exams or responding to any other assignments (e.g., extra credit assignments). You may not use your text or any other resources (including the internet) when completing exams. Failure to follow these instructions will result in a 0 for the affected assignment and may result in an F for the course. Academic Dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students.

### **Sexual Misconduct and Mandatory Reporting**

In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report to the Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity (oie@utrgv.edu) any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at [www.utrgv.edu/equity](http://www.utrgv.edu/equity), including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students, faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at (956) 665-8287, (956) 882-8282, or [OVAVP@utrgv.edu](mailto:OVAVP@utrgv.edu).

### **Course Drops**

According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

### **Online Evaluations**

Students are required to complete an online evaluation of this course, accessed through one’s UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) for additional information. In order for accommodation requests to be considered for approval, the student must apply using the mySAS portal ([www.utrgv.edu/mysas](http://www.utrgv.edu/mysas)) and is responsible for providing sufficient documentation of the disability to SAS. Students are required to participate in an interactive discussion, or an intake appointment, with SAS staff. Accommodations may be requested at any time but are not retroactive, meaning they are valid once approved by SAS. Please contact SAS early in the semester/module for guidance. Students who experience a broken bone, severe injury, or undergo surgery may also be eligible for temporary accommodations.

### **Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably

immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services for additional information and to request accommodations.

### **Students Accessibility Services:**

Brownsville Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 1.107 in the Music and Learning Center Building (BMSLC) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 or via email at [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@utrgv.edu).

Edinburg Campus: Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center (EUCTR) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 or via email at [ability@utrgv.edu](mailto:ability@utrgv.edu).

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:** Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (<http://my.utrgv.edu>); you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available during the latter part of the semester.

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### **Attendance and Class Preparation Policy**

Although the course material is fully online, this is not a self-paced course. Students are expected to complete all assignments by the due dates and to actively participate by **regularly checking the course website**.

### **Computer Skill Requirements**

You will achieve the best results in this online learning class by having a computer with a lot of random-access memory (RAM) and a fast connection to the Internet. All students should have the ability to navigate online. Please do not take this course if you do not have strong computer skills. Computer skills will not be taught in this course. If you have never taken an online course, please visit <https://www.utrgv.edu/online/getting-support/student-support/index.htm> to learn how to work with the online course system.

- For this course you will need to be competent in the following skills:
  - Sending and receiving email messages
  - Opening and viewing video files and listening to audio files
  - Creating file folders on your computer and saving files to these folders
  - Saving files to portable storage media such as USB keys or in the Cloud (e.g., Dropbox)
  - Attaching files to email messages
  - Opening files attached to email messages
  - Store documents into a documents folder on your hard drive or in the Cloud

## Tour of Our Class Home Page

These are the areas on our home page that you need to visit and learn to use:

- **Course News** – This is the “homepage” for our course. It provides a calendar of events, announcements, etc. I may sometimes post links and stories about childhood pathology in the current news and media. The calendar lists upcoming assignments and exams.
- **Course Syllabus & Other Information** – This is where the syllabus is located as well as information about the Respondus Browser and Monitor (e.g., Test of Respondus System) and other institutional and online learning information.
- **Chapter Material** – Here you can find Chapter Learning Outcomes, Chapter Outlines, PowerPoint slides, and video descriptions. You can use the outlines and slides to help guide your reading of each chapter. The videos highlight course material and will help you to come to a better understanding of abstract concepts. The learning outcomes can be used to gauge the thoroughness of your knowledge of each chapter's material.
- **Video Center** – This is where you will view videos for the course. The videos are organized according to chapters. Each video description places the video into the context of its chapter.
- **Study Aides** – Here you can download material that will help you prepare for each exam. These include sample exam questions and a description of the SQ3R study method.
- **Exam Room** – This is where you will go to take your online exams. The dates for the exams are given below in the timeline for the course. Please note that this is also the location where you can take the optional extra credit exams. Details are provided later in the syllabus.
- **My Grades** – This is where you go to see your grades and points for the exams and for other assignments.

## Correspondence Policies & Procedures

**Responding to your email:** Please note that I have set aside specific times in my weekly schedule when I will respond to student messages from this class. I will typically respond to student messages within 24 hours after the student sends a message.

**What to include when sending a message:** When sending an email to me, please fully identify yourself in the text of your message. Use the subject header to indicate the topic of your email. If you are responding to one of my emails, please reply directly to that email rather than sending a new email on the topic.

### Course Expectations

Here are some of my expectations for you:

- I expect that you will read the textbook and go over all of the chapter materials in a timely manner throughout the entire course.

- I expect that you will plan appropriately so as to have your assignments completed by the designated deadlines. Meeting the designated deadlines is entirely your responsibility. **Please note: There is a 24-hour period in which you can take an extra credit exam. If you wait until the last minute and have problems, you will not be able to retake the exam. I strongly suggest that you take all exams early during this period.**

**Absenteeism:** This is NOT a self-paced, self-timed course. This course is designed to be a successive progression from one chapter to the next. If you have a work or family emergency that interferes with your ability to participate or meet deadlines in this class, you need to notify me by email ASAP. Such events may necessitate dropping the course.

**Time Commitment:** Although this is primarily a web-based course, this does not mean that this course is easier or less of a time commitment than a classroom-based course. You will still need to thoroughly review and read the course material to receive a passing grade in the course.

**Academic Honesty and Integrity:** As noted above, you are expected to display academic honesty. Any instances of cheating will result in an automatic “F” for the assignment or the course. You will also be referred to the office of Student Rights and Responsibilities with the possible sanction of expulsion from the University.

**Professional Courtesy:** It is my expectation that you will act, perform, and conduct yourself in a professional manner. This includes the content and style of your online communication and the nature of communication with me and the other students in the course. Profanity, vulgar or offensive words or phrases are unacceptable. I will be the judge of what is offensive as well as the penalty for such offenses. Please click on the following link for resources on Netiquette: <http://www.albion.com/netiquette/>

## **Additional Course Support**

**Technical Assistance:** If you are having technical problems, please contact the Center for Online Learning and Teaching Technology (COLTT) office by calling (956) 882-6792 (Brownsville) or (956) 665-5237 (Edinburg), by sending an email to [colthelp@utrgv.edu](mailto:colthelp@utrgv.edu), or by going to <http://www.utrgv.edu/online/>. Their hours are 7:30 am-6:00 pm Monday through Friday.

**Notification of Technical Problems:** Technical problems with your computer are not a legitimate reason for failing to complete assignments or exams by posted deadlines. There are many computer options available to you, such as the many UTRGV computer labs. Students are responsible for finding their own alternative methods or locations to complete exams and assignments by the given deadlines. **If you have a technical problem during an exam that results in you being unable to complete the exam, please call the number for technical assistance right away and complete the exam as soon as the problem is addressed. If someone does not immediately answer your call, leave a message to verify that you attempted to get help in order to complete the exam immediately.** If you do not follow these steps you will not be able to complete the exam and your score will be equal to the number of completed correct items divided by the total number of items on the exam.

## Grading

There will be a total of 510 points available for the class. Four required exams will be given in the course. One exam will cover 5 chapters each and each of the other three exams will cover 4 chapters. For each exam, 15 questions will be devoted to each chapter. Thus, three exams will consist of 60 items, each worth two points. The other exam will consist of 75 items each worth 2 points. You will have 90 minutes to complete each exam. You are not allowed to use your book or notes (i.e., the exams are “closed book” exams). **Please be sure to bring a Scantron and number 2 pencil to each exam.** Please note that I reserve the right to adjust the grading distribution based on the class’ scores. However, you will not receive a lower grade than that indicated in the table below.

**Extra Credit Exams:** Please note that I will offer two optional extra credit exams. These will be offered online. The first will be held during the first three days of the course and the last will be offered during a two-day period after your last required exam. Each of these extra credit exams will consist of 34 multiple-choice questions evenly drawn from the chapters in the text. Each question on the extra credit exams will be worth 1/2 point. I am offering the first extra credit exam to gauge your baseline of knowledge in Abnormal Psychology and am offering the second extra credit exam to measure your knowledge in Abnormal Psychology after having taken the course. *Please note that although these exams are optional, they might be the only extra credit opportunities I will offer in the course and thus I highly suggest that you take them.*

Grading:	Points
Exam 1	120
Exam 2	120
Exam 3	150
Exam 4	120
<b>Total Points:</b>	<b>510</b>

Letter Grade	Percentage	Points
A	90-100%	459 to 510
B	80-89%	408 to 458
C	70-79%	357 to 407
D	60-69%	306 to 356
F	Below 60%	Below 306

**Location of Extra Credit Exams:** The 2 extra credit exams will take place in the **Exam Room**. PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT YOUR EXAM FOR GRADING WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED WITH YOUR EXAM. THIS ENSURES THAT YOUR GRADE IS ENTERED



INTO MY GRADE BOOK. Also, **please remember to show your UTRGV ID (or other photo ID) to the monitor at the beginning of each exam as well as complete the environmental check.** Failure to do these will result in an F on your exam and the course.

Sample exam questions are located in the Study Aides area. I highly recommend that in preparing for the exams, you go over the sample questions because they are similar to the real exam questions and will give you an idea about the type of questions to expect on the exams. Please note that these sample exam questions are not meant to be a "study guide"; rather, they are meant to let you know what the exam questions will be like.

# Course Calendar

## **EXTRA CREDIT EXAM 1 (online)**

Can be taken anytime from Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup> (from 12:00 a.m. Tuesday to 11:59 p.m. Thursday).

## **SESSION 1 – CHAPTERS 1-4**

**Chapter 1: Abnormal Psychology: Past & Present**

**Chapter 2: Research in Abnormal Psychology**

**Chapter 3: Models of Abnormality**

**Chapter 4: Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, & Treatment**

**Review** – Will be held via Zoom at 11:00 am on 2/10.

**Exam 1** – Will be held at 11:00 am on 2/17 in ELABN 105.

## **SESSION 2 – CHAPTERS 5-8**

**Chapter 5: Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Related Disorders**

**Chapter 6: Disorders of Trauma & Stress**

**Chapter 7: Depressive & Bipolar Disorders**

**Chapter 8: Suicide**

**Review** – Will be held via Zoom at 11:00 am on 3/3.

**Exam 2** – Will be held at 11:00 am on 3/10 in ELABN 105.

## **SESSION 3 – CHAPTERS 9-11, 13-14**

**Chapter 9: Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms**

**Chapter 10: Eating Disorders**

**Chapter 11: Substance Use & Addictive Disorders**

**Chapter 13: Schizophrenia & Related Disorders**

**Chapter 14: Treatments for Schizophrenia & Other Severe Mental Disorders**

**Review** – Will be held via Zoom at 11:00 am on 4/7.

**Exam 3** – Will be held at 11:00 am on 4/14 in ELABN 105.

## **SESSION 4 – CHAPTERS 15-18**

**Chapter 15: Personality Disorders**

**Chapter 16: Disorders Common among Children & Adolescents**

**Chapter 17: Disorders of Aging & Cognition**

**Chapter 18: Law, Society, & the Mental Health Profession**

**Review** – Will be held via Zoom at 11:00 am on 4/28.

**Exam 4** – Will be held at 11:00 am on 5/5 in ELABN 105.

## **EXTRA CREDIT EXAM 2 (online)**

Can be taken anytime from Monday, May 8<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> (from 12:00 a.m. Monday to 11:59 p.m. Tuesday).