

Valley City State University
Psychology 370: Abnormal Psychology
Fall 2020 Online

Contact Information:

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Office hours: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10-12noon; Tuesday/Thursday 1-2PM or by appointment. I am in my office most of each day so please feel free to stop in or e-mail to schedule another time that works better for you.

Required Text:

Essentials of Understanding Abnormal Behavior, Sue, Sue, Sue, & Sue, 3rd edition by Cengage

Access to MindTap via Cengage Unlimited or individual access code for this text

A note about Cengage Unlimited: For \$119.99, you receive a code that allows you to access over 22,000 Cengage products online, including a full electronic version of our textbook. Should you wish to purchase a physical copy of the text, you can do so for only \$7.99 by renting it for the semester from Cengage. Our MindTap course, where you will complete weekly assignments, is linked through Blackboard, so you will be logging into the site via Blackboard once you have set up your account.

Catalog Description: (3 credits) A survey of the classification, symptoms, etiology, and treatment of psychological disorders.

Course Requirements

- Students are required to complete assigned readings.
- Students are required to complete weekly Mastery Training assignments in MindTap.
- Students are required to participate in weekly Discussion Boards by posting a response to the prompt and replying to their classmates.
- Students are required to create and deliver an “expert” presentation on a topic related to the course via VoiceThread.
- Students are required to develop and submit a research paper on a selected disorder.
- Students are required to complete a cumulative final exam.

Course Goals

The goals for this course reflect the five goals the American Psychological Association has set forth for a comprehensive undergraduate experience in psychology.

Goal 1: Knowledge Base in Psychology

You will increase your knowledge of topics in abnormal psychology.

Goal 2: Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking.

You will learn about the science that frames our understanding of mental disorders, be exposed to the critiques of how we conceptualize abnormal psychology, and offer your own critical analysis of a particular disorder that you research in-depth.

Goal 3: Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World

You will learn about the systematic treatment of individuals with mental disorders and multicultural viewpoints on abnormal psychology.

Goal 4: Communication

You will communicate with your instructor and peers in the weekly discussion forums as well as your expert presentation, research paper, and your final exam.

Goal 5: Professional Development

You will learn about current, ongoing scientific trends that impact clinical psychology and related disciplines, will practice your scientific writing skills, and will practice public speaking via your presentation.

Course Philosophy and Policies:

Course Philosophy: Psyc 370 is taught at an in-depth level that builds upon a student's limited prior exposure to psychological disorders.

Learner-Centered: In this online course, the student is expected to take primary responsibility for his/her learning. This includes completing assignments in a thorough and timely manner, participating in discussion boards and class activities fully and thoughtfully, seeking out answers to questions, and developing the art of intellectual inquiry. The role of the instructor is to facilitate the learning process by designing appropriate assignments, giving ample constructive feedback, and providing opportunities for students to create and apply new understandings of the course content.

My goal is to provide prompt grading and feedback to benefit your learning and overall understanding of the content of this course. Students can expect that weekly assignments including Discussion Boards will be graded within 2 weeks of the deadline. Please refer to the "Feedback" section of the grade for detailed information about what you've done well for that particular assignment as well as any tips or guidance for future assignments. If for any reason a specific item will not be graded within this timeframe, I will let you know through a Blackboard announcement when you can expect to have that feedback.

ADA Statement: If you need course adaptations, adjustments, or accommodations because of documented disability, or have emergency medical information to share, please make an appointment to talk with me during the first week or class, or when the medical situation arises. Also, contact Jackie Owen in Student Academic Services located in the Learning Commons and she will work with you and your instructors to make the necessary arrangements.

Title IX Reporting

As a member of the Department of Social Science, I recognize that some of the topics covered in this course might spark strong emotional responses due to personal circumstances. I encourage you to reach out to me as a resource. I also want to make you aware that Title IX standards encourage you to report to the campus Title IX Coordinator any occurrence of gender discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual violence, relationship (dating or domestic) violence, or stalking. Should you desire to discuss any of these situations in a confidential manner, VCSU does have free confidential [Counseling & Health Services](#) available to students.

Student Support Services: A variety of services are available to assist you in your academic endeavors at VCSU, including the Learning Center, Disability Support Services, and Allen Memorial Library. For more information, check the link in Blackboard titled Student Support/Policies.

Plagiarism Statement: Academic integrity is the foundation of intellectual pursuit and participation in a scholarly community. The student handbook describes the expectations for academic honesty

and indicates the possible consequences of academic dishonesty. When an act of academic dishonesty is discovered, faculty are required to complete an Academic Integrity Report to document the incident and sanction to the Vice President of Academic Affairs (VPAA) as well as the division chair.

I have a zero tolerance policy regarding plagiarism and cheating. Incidents of confirmed plagiarism and/or cheating will be immediately reported to both the VPAA and the Social Science Department Chair. First offenses will receive a reduced grade or 0 (zero). Second and subsequent offenses (as documented in the VPAA office) over the student's entire academic career at VCSU will result in additional sanctions, which may range from academic probation to expulsion.

Understanding what constitutes plagiarism and what is proper use of another's work can be difficult to determine so I expect that you will have questions as you complete your work. It is your responsibility to ask those questions and seek help BEFORE submitting your work. If you ask first, you avoid any issues of academic dishonesty and you learn how to continue doing this properly in the future. If you just try something without asking and the result constitutes plagiarism, you will be held responsible for that and the sanctions outlined above will apply. When in doubt, please ask me for clarification to avoid academic repercussions.

See the [VCSU Student Handbook](#) for more details on this policy.

Make-up Work: Late assignments are not generally accepted. You have a course schedule at the end of this syllabus that contains all deadlines for the duration of this course – be sure to make any necessary arrangements to meet those deadlines. If you know you will be unavailable on the day an assignment is due (e.g., you will be traveling without internet access) you need to submit it early in order to earn the points. I will make exceptions to this rule only in extreme circumstances (e.g., hospitalization, funeral attendance). In the event that you need to request an extension, please let me know of your situation as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements. Documentation of your circumstance may be requested before late assignments will be accepted.

Blackboard:

I will use Blackboard as the primary form of communication with you to post grades, assignments, announcements and all other information pertaining to class. Please check Blackboard often to ensure your assignments are completed in a timely fashion, participate in the online discussions with your peers, and that you are staying caught up on class announcements and updates.

Final Exam: University policy states that each class must meet and complete a meaningful academic activity during the scheduled final exam time. This course will include a final exam to be completed during the last week of the semester via Blackboard. This final exam will be cumulative, holding students accountable for all of the content covered in the class.

Grading: There will be a total of 800 points possible in this course, earned through Mastery Training, Discussion Boards, a research paper, a presentation, and final exam. The grading scale in this course is as follows:

716-800 points	A
636-715 points	B
556-635 points	C

476-555 points	D
475 or fewer points	F

Discussion Boards (300 pts):

How to write a great post: In the online classroom, discussion forums are a critical way of interacting with each other. I have carefully constructed each prompt to allow you the opportunity to apply the information you've learned about psychological topics. The discussion boards will consist of one initial post thread created by each student, and two substantial comments on other students' posts. Other students' posts will become visible once your own initial post is submitted. Each initial post must consist of a minimum of 300 words. Responses to peers are to be at least 100 words. Discussion posts are worth 20 points each; 15 for the initial post and 5 for your peer responses.

Your initial post should be written as an essay with attention to grammar, punctuation, and writing style. Use 3rd person in your writing. Be sure to answer all parts of the question. Your responses must reflect some significant reflection and include more than a sentence such as "I agree with your thoughts on this" or "I like your post." Some posts will require the use of citations and references (every time you discuss something you have read or learned elsewhere, you need to give that person credit). You are to use APA (7th ed.) formatting for all writings in Psychology. There is a link under Content for you to use to help with learning this format. The reference can just be added to the bottom of your discussion.

All DB posts will be due by **Friday night at 10PM** in the week they are scheduled (end of the week).

MindTap Mastery Training (300 pts): There will be a total of 15 MindTap assignments during the semester, each worth 20 points. Each assignment is designed to assess and apply your understanding of concepts covered in that chapter. This assignment requires you to log in multiple times throughout the week in order to give you adequate time to space out your work and is due by **10PM Friday** each week.

Presentation (50 pts): Students will choose a topic they are passionate about and apply multiple concepts from the field of Abnormal Psychology to their topic in a TED-style presentation. Presentations will be recorded, uploaded, and discussed via VoiceThread in Blackboard. More details will be available on a separate assignment sheet in Blackboard.

Research Paper (50 pts): Students will choose a psychological disorder and conduct an in-depth research project on the topic. A rubric will be provided via Blackboard with specific guidelines about how to write an effective research paper in APA Style along with guidance about conducting the literature review process throughout the semester prior to the deadline of the last week of the course.

Final Exam (100 pts): During the final week of the class, you will take a Final Exam assessing your understanding of the concepts covered throughout the entire semester. You will have the whole last week of classes to complete the Final Exam, but it will be due no later than **10PM Friday**. This cumulative exam will be available in Blackboard and will consist of multiple-choice questions requiring you to apply concepts we've discussed all semester to real-life scenarios.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Dates	Topic	Deadlines Friday by 10PM	MindTap Mastery Trainings due Friday at 10PM
M Aug 24- F Aug 28	Ch. 1: Abnormal Behavior	Welcome Discussion by Friday	MindTap Chapter 1 by Friday
M Aug 31- F Sept 4	Ch. 2: Understanding and Treating Mental Disorders	DB 1 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 2 by Friday
M Sept 7- F Sept 11	Ch. 3: Clinical Research, Assessment, & Classification	DB 2 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 3 by Friday
M Sept 14- F Sept 18	Ch. 4: Anxiety & Obsessive-Compulsive & Related Behaviors	DB 3 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 4 by Friday
M Sept 21- F Sept 25	Ch. 5: Trauma- and Stressor-Related Disorders	DB 4 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 5 by Friday
M Sept 28- F Oct 2	Ch. 6: Somatic Symptom and Dissociative Disorders	DB 5 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 6 by Friday
M Oct 5- F Oct 9	Ch. 7: Depressive and Bipolar Disorders	DB 6 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 7 by Friday
M Oct 12- F Oct 16	Ch. 8: Suicide	DB 7 by Friday	
M Oct 19- F Oct 23	Ch. 9: Eating Disorders	DB 8 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 9 by Friday
M Oct 26- F Oct 30	Ch. 10: Substance-Related & Other Addictive Disorders	DB 9 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 10 by Friday
M Nov 2- F Nov 6	Ch. 11: Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders	DB 10 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 11 by Friday
M Nov 9- F Nov 13	Ch. 12: Neurocognitive Disorders	DB 11 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 12 by Friday
M Nov 16- F Nov 20	Ch. 13: Sexual Dysfunctions, Gender Dysphoria, & Paraphilic Disorders	DB 12 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 13 by Friday
M Nov 23- F Nov 27	Ch. 14: Personality Psychopathology	DB 13 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 14 by Friday
M Nov 30- F Dec 4	Ch. 15: Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence	DB 14 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 15 by Friday
M Dec 7- F Dec 11	Ch. 16: Law and Ethics in Abnormal Psychology	DB 15 by Friday	MindTap Chapter 16 by Friday
M Dec 14- F Dec 18	Review and Work on Projects		Research Paper by Monday Presentation by Wednesday Final Exam by Friday