

PSYC 4610.001 Psychopathology

Department of Psychology, University of North Texas

Fall 2026, TR 3:55 – 5:15 pm, Wooten 122

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Office Hours: Before and after class, or Zoom, by appointment; email or call.
Teaching Assistants: Jasmine Seegmiller (she/her) jasmineseegmiller@my.unt.edu
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Office Hours: Jasmine Wednesdays 7 am-10 am
In office (Terrill 215) or Zoom; email for appointment.

**If your last name begins with A-L, your TA is Jasmine; if M-Z, Jessica
TAs keep the gradebook; direct grade questions to them first.**

Supplemental Instructor: Seryna Ortiz (she/her) serynaortiz@my.unt.edu
Watch Canvas announcements for her scheduled review sessions.

Required Text: Hooley, J.M., & Nock, M.K. (2025). *Psychopathology, 19th Edition*. Pearson.
(Or Hooley, Nock & Butcher (2020). *Abnormal Psychology, 18th Edition*. Pearson. (Same book; older edition is acceptable, and cheaper) See your TA if you have problems getting a book. You will not need any online supplemental materials that may be sold with the book.

If you are considering graduate school in mental health, I recommend you *buy the hard-copy text, even an older edition*. It's a good reference book. Many so-called "lifetime access" e-books are for the life of the *edition*, not yourself. When the next edition comes out, your access goes.

I strongly recommend you rely on the textbook and lecture information for this course and *avoid* internet sources (unless assigned), which may be misleading, outdated, or simply wrong.

Course Description:

This course covers the ways that European-heritage cultures define and classify psychopathology, theories of how mental disorders develop, the major types of disorders, and how they are treated. The first third of the course covers the basic concepts and language that will be fundamental to the rest of the course. The second third details the most common diagnoses and those that best illustrate the basic concepts, such as the biopsychosocial model and comorbidities. The third third addresses the most often misunderstood diagnoses, ending the course with psychological treatments.

Course Objectives: By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the role of cultures and their institutions in defining, classifying, and managing behavior and experiences that are defined as 'abnormal' or 'psychopathology'.
2. Know the history and controversies surrounding the development of diagnostic classifications.
3. Apply knowledge of psychological science and its methods to understand the diagnosis process.
4. Understand the role of developmental context, cultural beliefs and values, and immediate social situations in creating mental disorders in some individuals and shaping how they are treated.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

1. **Personal Learning Goals** (5% of grade). Due in Canvas by **9/3**. Graded A if completed, F if not.
2. **In-Class Quizzes** (total 20% of grade). Charge your device before class! These exam-like questions are given on Canvas and must be answered in class. Their value as teaching tools is lost if you are absent, so if missed, they cannot be made up. Come prepared! You will be answering most of these in your groups.
3. **Group Contribution Evaluation** (10% of grade). You will be placed into groups during the second class for the purpose of discussing questions posed in class, including but not limited to quiz questions. At the end of the semester, groupmates will evaluate each other's contributions to these discussions. Your grade will be the average of the grades given by your groupmates.
4. **Essay Activities** (total 20% of grade). These essays will be posted on Canvas and due 48 hours after they are assigned. You will need Word or a generic text processor such as Notepad or Wordpad to upload your answer. Essay activities are connected to the reading and lecture for the week, so their value as study tools is lost if they are not completed on time. If missed, they cannot be made up without documentation (signed medical or UNT excuse sent to your TA) or intervention by the Dean of Students.
5. **Three exams** (each 15% of grade). Done in hard copy in class. Bring a scantron and #2 pencils.
6. **Extra credit opportunities**. You may participate in research on SONA and other opportunities that I may announce for up to 10 credits. See instructions posted on Canvas. Your credit will be documented by SONA and sent to me during exam week, so just follow the SONA directions.
7. See the Grade Calculator in the Syllabus and Basics module to track your grade as you go. Canvas assumes that all students complete all assignments, that assignments are equally weighted, etc., and does not calculate extra credit properly, so it lacks the flexibility that my teaching methods require. Therefore, please ignore the grade calculations that Canvas provides.

Grading:

Personal Learning Goals. List three main learning goals to guide your path through this course and say how you expect each to improve your life. These are automatic As if completed by 9/3; otherwise they are automatic Fs unless you added the course late (if so, tell your TA). Because these are meant to be personal, they are not graded, only checked for completion.

In-class Quizzes. There will be at least one, sometimes two, quizzes each week, so I recommend that you finish the reading (using the PQ4R study method) before class and come prepared with good notes. I use the quizzes as teaching tools and problem-solving exercises. You will be answering them after discussion in your group. They are designed to familiarize you with the kinds of exam questions you will be given, and will be graded pass-fail. If you *pass* at least 80% of them over the whole semester, your grade (20% of the total) will be A. Passing 70-80% earns you a B, 60-70% a C, 50-60% a D, and less than 50% earns F. Passing more than 90% earns you 1 extra credit (up to 10 total).

Group Contribution Evaluation. You will be assigned to a small group of collaborating classmates on the second day of class and will work with this group through the semester to discuss questions raised in class and to complete collectively the in-class quizzes. This is an opportunity to polish your

groupwork skills, not only by making your own contribution, but also recognizing and facilitating the contributions of others. To make this contribution, you should come to class having finished the day's reading and applied the PQ4R study method.

Essay Activities. Most weeks will have at least one. These are open-book/notes, but I recommend you use them as self-tests by trying to come up with a good answer first, before turning to your resources. They are not “graded” individually; any coherent effort that addresses the question is welcome and will receive full credit. However, your TA will give feedback on the accuracy and thoroughness of your answer. If you complete at least 80% of them over the whole semester, your grade (20% of the total) will be A. Completing 70-79% earns you a B, 60-70% a C, 50-60% a D, and less than 50% earns F. Completing more than 90% earns you 1 extra credit (up to 10 total).

Exams. Exams will consist of 50 multiple choice questions that focus on the lectures, discussions, and readings not covered on the previous exam. Requests to make up a missed exam must be accompanied by a signed medical or UNT excuse sent to your TA *before the exam*. If you miss an exam due to an emergency, you may appeal to the Dean of Students for a UNT excuse to take a makeup exam. Missed exams not made up by 12/1/26 will be graded F. You may not take an exam early. There are no makeup final exams. Missing the final will result in an automatic grade of I, which must be made up within a year of the end of that semester, or it will automatically become a grade of F.

Advisory Prerequisites:

1. This is an advanced psychology course. You are more likely to do well if you have had PSYC 1630, PSYC 2317, *and* PSYC 3650 along with core and foundational courses such as History and Systems, Developmental Psychology, and/or Social Psychology.
2. You are more likely to do well if you attend every class, take good notes, and read the assigned chapter *before* class using the PQ4R method posted on Canvas in Study Materials.
3. You will need to bring to class a *charged* laptop, tablet, pad, or phone with Word or a generic text processor for Canvas access during in-class quizzes and other activities. For some in-class activities you will need *paper that can be handed in* and pen or pencil, so carry these every day.
4. This course deals with topics that some may find disturbing or highly emotional. Some of the material might remind you of your own stressful life experiences. Ethical guidelines forbid faculty and TAs from providing counseling to students in their courses. If you find your distress is interfering with your ability to perform well in school or your life, UNT provides stress management and mental health resources listed below.

Tips:

You are responsible for all of the assigned reading material, whether or not it is discussed in class, and all of the material from class, whether or not it appears in the readings. Therefore, it is in your best interests both to read and to come to class. **I encourage out-of-class study groups and attendance at the review sessions run by our Supplemental Instructor.**

Read the chapter before class (preferably using the PQ4R method), take good notes, and bring your notes to class. Your notes should distill what you have read so you need not carry your book to class. If you miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining assignment instructions, announced changes,

etc. from Canvas, and information about what happened in class from classmates. **Repeating the lecture material for you is not the TA's responsibility or mine.**

Please note the UNT policy on excused absences that recognizes only Holy Day observances and occasions where the student is officially representing the University. These and medical difficulties must be supported with appropriate documentation emailed to your TA.

It is your responsibility to **raise questions** either in class or with a TA about aspects of the readings that you don't understand. This can lead us to interesting discussions about concepts in the course and how they are applied in research and practice. It is best to do this when the question arises rather than waiting until the day before the exam (see WARNING below).

Classroom Courtesies:

1. **You are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class.** Late arrival or early departure might mean that you miss a quiz or assignment or a change in one.
2. If an emergency might require you to leave class, please let me know at the beginning of class, sit near a door, and leave the room if you are called. I can help you obtain a seat if none is available.
3. **No eating in class;** this is a distraction to your classmates.
4. While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under common courtesy or applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated. Treat your instructors and classmates with respect in any communication. **Acquiring the habit of addressing people with courtesy is part of your education.**
5. I encourage you to take advantage of my time before or after class or by making an appointment. That time is for you! I welcome questions about graduate school, career planning, and opportunities in psychology, as well as questions about this course. Or just hang out after class to chat!

WARNING: Although my TAs and I make every effort to respond promptly to phone messages and emails, my schedule and the volume of messages does not always let me answer as soon as I would like. Please allow at least 48 hours for me to reply, 72 hours before assignment due dates and exams. Sometimes my answer might be important to give in class for everyone else's benefit, too.

Mental Health Resources: UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

Student Health and Wellness Center - Student Health and Wellness Center | University of North Texas

Counseling and Testing Center - Counseling and Testing Services | University of North Texas (unt.edu)

UNT CARE Team - CARE Team | University of North Texas (unt.edu)

UNT Psychiatric Services - | University of North Texas (unt.edu)

Student Support Services: If you would like to improve your writing, you may receive free tutoring by calling The Learning Center at 369-7006. Technical support for Canvas connection problems is available at the UIT Helpdesk, Sage Hall 130, 940-565-2324, helpdesk@unt.edu.

Official Details:

Eagle Connect: Eagle Connect is UNT's official email communication system with its students. Although you may use it for any purpose that is legal and ethical (see the login banner), its main function is for UNT and me to give you information that is in your best interest to know. You should activate your Eagle Connect account and check it daily. I will depend on it for any last-minute notices, for example, if class must be canceled on short notice. Information on how to activate and use Eagle Connect can be found on your my.unt.edu. If you find it cumbersome to use, consider forwarding messages automatically to a personal account that you use more often. **For security reasons, the TAs and I will not respond to emails that come from domains other than my.unt.edu.**

Canvas Online System: Handouts, assignments, and announcements of changes will be posted on the Canvas online system. You can access this system by going to the UNT home page, www.unt.edu, and clicking on the Canvas link at the top of the page. Visit this page regularly to keep up with announcements. As time permits, the TA will post your grades there (but their grading your essays accurately with feedback is a higher priority use of their time). You can also communicate with other students in the class through the Canvas system. **I do not use Canvas's email;** contact me at Sharon.Jenkins@unt.edu.

Academic Dishonesty: According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. I reserve the right to lower grades (including to zero) for the assignment, the exam, or the course as a whole, if I have evidence of academic dishonesty. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (turning in someone else's work as your own; using someone else's ideas, whether published or not, without giving credit by citation), **using AI to complete assignments that don't require it**, and cheating on exams. **Please note:** Sometimes a student approaches me to ask that I raise a grade (because they will not get into graduate school, lose scholarships, fail out of school, etc.). Please do not bother. I have never raised a grade for such a reason; it would not be fair to other students who have worked hard to earn a higher grade. **Grades represent what you have earned**, not something I "give". I can only offer you an education; you must be willing to take it.

End-of-semester Course Evaluation: The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is required for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available to you at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on your experience of this class. I am very interested in the feedback I get from students, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SPOT to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Incomplete Coursework. If you take an "I" (Incomplete) in any course, you must complete the work and have the "I" removed within one year or your I grade becomes an F and you must re-enroll in the course again. **Incompletes will be given for missing the final exam.**

Disability Accommodation. The University of North Texas makes reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities. Students needing a reasonable academic accommodations must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the student will request their letter of accommodation. ODA will provide faculty with a reasonable accommodation letter via email to begin a private discussion regarding a student's specific needs in a course. Students may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with faculty regarding their accommodations during office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the [Office of Disability Access](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access) website (<https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Student Behavior in the Classroom. Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider possible violation of the Code of Student Conduct. UNT's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.

Survivor Advocacy: UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct. Federal laws and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex and sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648.

Sexual Assault Prevention: UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT's Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective orders, completing crime victim's compensation applications, contacting professors for absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of Students Office at 940-565-2648. Also, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565-2759.

Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004): The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial action when appropriate.

Retention of Student Records: Student records pertaining to this course are maintained in a secure location by the instructor of record. All records such as exams, answer sheets (with keys), and written papers submitted during the duration of the course are kept for at least one calendar year after course completion. Course work completed via the Canvas online system, including grading information and comments, is also stored in a safe electronic environment for one year. Students have the right to view their individual record; however, information about student's records will not be divulged to other individuals without proper written consent. Students are encouraged to review the Public Information Policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) laws and the University's policy. See UNT Policy 10.10, Records Management and Retention for additional information.

Eagle Alert: UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials. If Canvas is not accessible during the emergency, contact me via email or phone for more information.

“THOSE WHO HAVE READ OF EVERYTHING ARE THOUGHT TO UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING TOO; BUT IT IS NOT ALWAYS SO. READING FURNISHES THE MIND ONLY WITH MATERIALS OF KNOWLEDGE; IT IS THINKING THAT MAKES WHAT IS READ OURS. WE ARE OF THE RUMINATING KIND, AND IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO CRAM OURSELVES WITH A GREAT LOAD OF COLLECTIONS; UNLESS WE CHEW THEM OVER AGAIN, THEY WILL NOT GIVE US STRENGTH AND NOURISHMENT.” --JOHN LOCKE

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading
8/18	Introduction to the Course	The Syllabus
8/20	Psychopathology: Overview: Concept Formation and Taxonomy	Ch. 1
8/25	Psychopathology: Research Approaches	Ch. 1
8/27	Earliest Views of Abnormal Behavior	Ch. 2
9/1	Causal Factors and Viewpoints: Biological and Psychological	Ch. 3
9/3	Causal Factors and Viewpoints: Social and Cultural	Ch. 3
	Personal Learning Goals due	
9/8	Clinical Assessment: Fundamental Concepts and Methods	Ch. 4
9/10	Clinical Diagnosis and Diagnostic Systems	Ch. 4
9/15	Review and Consolidation	
9/17	First Exam	
9/22	Stress and Physical Health	Ch. 5
9/24	Stress and Mental Health	Ch. 5
9/29	Phobias and Panic Disorders	Ch. 6
10/1	Anxiety and Obsessive Disorders	Ch. 6
10/6	Mood Disorders	Ch. 7
10/8	Bipolar Disorders and Suicide	Ch. 7
10/13	Eating Disorders	Ch. 9
10/15	Obesity	Ch. 9
10/20	Review and Consolidation	
10/22	Second Exam	
10/27	Personality Disorders: Cluster A	Ch. 10
10/29	Personality Disorders: Cluster B	Ch. 10
11/3	Personality Disorders: Cluster C	Ch. 10
11/5	Substance-Related Disorders: Alcohol	Ch. 11
11/10	Substance-Related Disorders: Other Substances	Ch. 11
11/12	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders	Ch. 13
11/17	Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders	Ch. 13
11/19	Psychological Treatment: Overview and Evaluation	Ch. 16
12/1	Psychological Treatment: Psychosocial and Sociocultural Views	Ch. 16
12/3	Review and Consolidation	
12/7	Final Exam 3:30-5:30 Wooten 122. UNT policy forbids offering final exams before this time.	

This schedule should be considered tentative. I reserve the right to alter this schedule as appropriate to the learning needs of the class. You will always be given notice in advance **by your UNT email** if an examination day or format changes.