UCONN
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Syllabus Fall 2024

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT. COURSE SCHEDULE HERE

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: PSYC 2300
Credits: 3
Professor: Jamie Kleinman, PhD
Email: Jamie.kleinman@uconn.edu (preferred contact method)
Telephone: 860-405-9216
Office: ACD 103C
 1. **Office Hours/Availability:** Posted in www.nexus.uconn.edu and hosted both in person and via Webex: https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/meet/jmk01002

Course Materials

Comer, R. J. (2024). *Psychopathology: Science and Practice* (12th edition). New York: Macmillan Publishers.
 (NOTE: 1 copy of the textbook is on reserve)

 This textbook is strongly recommended but not required. You will not need a digital link or access code for the coursework. Older editions (back to the 9th edition) would also work fine, the content has not changed significantly.

Course readings and media are available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or Library Resources

Course Description

Nature of abnormal behavior, theories and data regarding symptoms, etiology, treatment, and prevention of mental disorders.

Course Learning Objectives

By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

1. Explain current theories and empirical research regarding emotional and behavioral disorders across the lifespan including their diagnosis and treatment.
2. Analyze various primary information sources about these disorders and communicate analyses and case conceptualizations in oral, written, and digital format through individual and group work.
3. Demonstrate professional writing skills in the context of discipline specific writing assignments.
4. Generalize the knowledge, skills and approaches you develop in this course to other courses and life experiences outside of the classroom setting.

Course Outline

Module 1: Foundations

Week 1-Introduction and Models of Abnormality
Week 2- Research
Week 3- Models of Abnormality
Week 4- Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment
Module 2: Common Forms of Mental Illness
Week 5-Anxiety Disorders
Week 6-Stress Disorders
Week 7-Mood Disorders
Week 8-Schizophrenia
Module 3: Regulatory Disorders
Week 9-Somatic Disorders and Substance and Addiction Disorders
Disorders of Sex and Eating
Week 10-Disorders of Sex and Eating
Week 11-Personality Disorders
Module 4: Lifespan and Legal Issues
Week 12-Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence
Week 13-Disorders of Aging
Week 14-Suicide, Society, and the Law

Course Requirements and Grading

This course is graded using a model called specifications grading. The point of specifications grading is to have you focus on skill development and mastery as opposed to striving for numerical grades.

- **All work will be judged as "passing" or "does not meet the standard."**
- **To receive credit (pass), submitted work must meet a minimum standard for professionalism and informational accuracy:**
  - **Exams: earning a score of 70 or higher**
  - **Assignments: submitting 'B' level work**
- **To pass the course, you MUST pass a set of requirements.**
- **To earn a specific course grade, you need to satisfactorily master additional bundles of specifications as described below and on HuskyCT.**

To be successful in this class:
- You are expected to attend all class sessions.
- You are expected to read the assigned chapters and readings BEFORE class and come to class with questions and ideas for discussion. You will be responsible for all assigned materials and all materials assigned in class.
- You are expected to review lecture slides that are posted on HuskyCT prior to class. You can print these out before class or bring them on your laptop so that you can follow along in your note taking. Lecture will include posted material and more in-depth coverage through video clips, discussion, and supplementary material.
- This is a 3-credit course. The expectation is that you devote approximately nine hours of work to the course, including time spent in class.

Practical Applications: At the end of each module, students will complete a practical application assessment. Students will be presented with case studies, data from research studies, or current topics related to the topics covered in that module and will answer questions using support from their own

research. These assessments will be completed in class via HuskyCT and will be open note/open source and with a 30-minute time limit except in the case of documented CSD accommodations, in which case the exam parameters will match the student's accommodations. Questions may cover information covered in class during lectures and any videos, handouts, or supplementary materials discussed. Students must answer two questions out of three or four options. **To pass a Practical Application, students must obtain 20/25 points based on the scoring rubric.**

Projects: These are due on the dates specified on the syllabus and will be turned in via HuskyCT. Complete instructions are provided on HuskyCT. You are going to pick one of the disorders we cover during the semester and become an expert on this topic by completing two projects. **Each project must meet qualifications for a rating of "Good" in every category (this would yield a score of 75) to generate a 'P'.** To receive a higher course grade, students can submit higher quality work. Work quality level (A, B, or C) is described in detail in the instructions for each assignment in HuskyCT. Students may use tokens to resubmit work to generate a 'P.'

1. **Project #1:** You will complete a literature review about the diagnosis of your disorder. You will use a minimum of three peer-reviewed research studies or book chapters and write a 3–5-page essay about the diagnosis of your chosen disorder.

2. **Project #2**: You will pick a movie from a list posted to HuskyCT about your selected disorder. You will create a multimedia presentation based on the Pecha Kucha format http://www.pechakucha.org/. In your presentation, you will analyze the way the person or people with this disorder are portrayed in the movie. Complete instructions will be provided on HuskyCT.

3. **Project #3: You** will find a news article that describes a research study about the treatment of your given disorder. You will find the original research article and at least two additional research studies about the topic. You will record a 10-20-minute podcast with your responses to the questions provided in HuskyCT. Students may work individually or in pairs. Complete instructions are provided in HuskyCT.

In-Class Work: Each week, we will engage in participatory exercises during class. These will include one-minute essays, partner work, group work, etc. We will be exploring subjects that are timely, local or both related to the topic we are covering that week. **Active participation with a submitted deliverable will receive a score of "1" for Passing work or a score of "0" for work that does not meet the standard.**

Learning Journal: Every week you will be given a set of key terms and concepts related to the topics being covered. How you plan to engage with the terms to gain a deeper understanding is up to you. Complete instructions will be provided in HuskyCT, you have a set of options for how you choose to complete this work. I intend to avoid having you do busy work while providing a structure and accountability for regular work in the class. **Agreed upon deliverables will receive a score of "1" for Passing work or a score of "0" for work that does not meet the standard.**

If class is canceled, I will post an exercise in HuskyCT for you to complete and submit to me for that week to cover the participation exercises. If you know you are going to be absent from class ahead of time, you may notify me no later than 24 hours before class and I will provide you with the exercise to complete and email me. If you have a legitimate absence, you may also complete the work and submit it to me.

Grading Scale:

Grade	Practical Applications (Check schedule) 4 total	Projects (Check schedule) 3 total	In-Class Work (Weekly) 14 total	Learning Journal (Weekly) 14 total
A	Pass 4 First Time	Pass 3 Scores above 85	12	12
B	Pass 4, One with two attempts	Pass 3 Scores above 75	10	10
C	Pass 3, One with two attempts	Pass 2 Scores above 85	8	8
D	Pass 3, Two with two attempts	Pass 2 Scores above 75	6	6

To obtain a specific grade level, you must complete all requirements as specified in the above table. For example, you will obtain an A-level grade if you pass four practicals the first time, three projects, 12 in-class work deliverables, and 12 learning journals. You may receive a minus grade level if you complete all requirements except one at the next lower level. You *may* receive a plus level grade if you complete some requirements at one level and some requirements at a higher level. Exam requirements *must* be completed to achieve a given grade level. Students will receive a progress report via email after each exam.

Tokens: You will start the course with five tokens. Tokens may be used to resubmit an assignment for regrading, for an extension on an assignment (the token must be used before the due date to qualify), or to retake an exam. **TOKENS MAY ONLY BE USED FOR WORK DUE DURING WEEKS 1-14. THEY MAY NOT BE USED FOR WORK DUE DURING FINALS WHICH INCLUDES EXAMS AND FINAL PROJECTS.**

Due Dates and Late Policy
All course due dates are identified in the syllabus and on HuskyCT. **Late work submitted without having first submitted a token for a one-week extension will be scored for half credit.** Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time. The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated appropriately. If there are extenuating circumstances that will prevent you from completing your assignment on time, please discuss this issue with me well in advance of the due date. If you want to keep this private, please meet with the Director of Avery Point Student Services (860-405-9024).

Feedback and Grades
I will make every effort to provide feedback and grades within one week of the due date. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

Cancelation Policy

If the Avery Point campus closes due to weather or other emergencies, you will hear an announcement on local radio and television stations. Otherwise, you may call the Avery Point campus at 860-405-9020; a recorded message will tell you the status of campus activities. A video monitor on the first floor of the academic building and on the first floor in the Branford House also posts the announcements. Do not call any campus office for cancellation information, since when classes are canceled due to inclement weather, they are likewise closed. If I need to cancel class, I will notify all students via both the SAS and HuskyCT by sending an email to their official uconn.edu email address. I will try to do so no later than 9am of that day.

Student Responsibilities

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. This section provides a brief overview of important standards, policies, and resources.

Student Code-Academic Integrity

You are responsible for acting in accordance with the University of Connecticut's Student Code Review and becoming familiar with these expectations. Make sure you have read the section that applies to you on Academic Integrity:

- Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously at the University of Connecticut. As a student, it is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. If you need more information about the subject of plagiarism, use the following resources:

- Plagiarism: How to Recognize it and How to Avoid It
- University of Connecticut Libraries' Student Instruction (includes research, citing and writing resources)

Copyright: Copyrighted materials within the course are only for the use of students enrolled in the course for purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

Netiquette and Communication: Course communication with fellow students and the instructor is always professional and courteous. It is expected that you proofread all your written communication, including discussion posts, assignment submissions, and mail messages. If you are new to online learning or need a netiquette refresher, please look at this guide titled, The Core Rules of Netiquette.

Adding or Dropping a Course:

If you should decide to add or drop a course, there are official procedures to follow:
- Matriculated students should add or drop a course through the Student Administration System.
- Non-degree students should refer to Non-Degree Add/Drop Information located on the registrar's website.

You must officially drop a course to avoid receiving an "F" on your permanent transcript. Simply discontinuing class or informing the instructor you want to drop does not constitute an official drop of the course. For more information, refer to the:

- Undergraduate Catalog
- Graduate Catalog

Academic Calendar

The University's Academic Calendar contains important semester dates.

Academic Support Resources
Technology and Academic Help provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

Final Exam Rescheduling Policy
Students must be available for their exam and/or complete any assessment during the time stated in the Registrar's Office schedule. If you have a problem with this time, you must visit the Avery Point Student Services Office to discuss the possibility of rescheduling this final.

The Office of Student Services REQUIRES advance notice from students who have prior knowledge of a conflict (i.e., bunched finals, religious obligation, legal/medical appointments, etc.) Students must come to Student Services to seek permission to reschedule their final NO LATER THAN the officially posted date.
Please note that vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, graduations, social events, misreading the assessment schedule and over-sleeping are not viable reasons for rescheduling a final. If you think that your situation warrants permission to reschedule, please contact the Office of Student Services (Branford House 306) to make an appointment with the Director of Student Services (860) 405-9024 or www.nexus.uconn.edu (choose Avery Point from the drop-down menu).

Student Resources

All students can succeed in this course, and we are here to help you along the way. Please do not hesitate to email with questions or set up a meeting. Success in this course, especially in this semester of transitions, depends heavily on your personal health and well-being. Recognize that stress is an expected part of the college experience, and it often can be compounded by unexpected setbacks or life changes outside the classroom. Reflect on your role in taking care of yourself throughout the semester before the demands of exams and projects reach their peak. Please feel free to reach out to me about any difficulty you may be having that may impact your performance in your courses or campus life as soon as it occurs and before it becomes too overwhelming. In addition to your academic advisor, I strongly encourage you to contact the many other support services on campus that stand ready to assist you.

- **Avery Point Student Services**
- **Center for Students with Disabilities**
- **Avery Point Academic Center**
- **Student Health and Wellness**

Accommodations for Illness or Extended Absences

Please stay home if you are feeling ill and please go home if you are in class and start to feel ill. If illness prevents you from attending class, it is your responsibility to notify your instructor as soon as possible. You do not need to disclose the nature of your illness, however, you will need to work with your instructor to determine how you will complete coursework during your absence.

If life circumstances are affecting your ability to focus on courses and your UConn experience, students can email the Director of Student Services noemi.maldonado@uconn.edu to request support.

Students with Disabilities
Students needing special accommodation should work with the University's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.) You may also contact Noemi Maldonado, the Director of Avery Point Student Services (860-405-9024). Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government." (Retrieved March 24,

2013, from Blackboard's website)

Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships

The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate Romantic relationships can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate Romantic relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University.

More information is available at http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=2884.

Sexual Assault Reporting Policy

To protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report assaults they witness or are told about to the Office of Diversity & Equity under the Sexual Assault Response Policy. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared with university officials who can help.

More information is available at http://sexualviolence.uconn.edu/.

Software Requirements

- MS Office Products (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- SPSS
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet access
- Social media accounts (optional)
- **If you do not have access to SPSS or MS Office products you can access them using UConn's SkyBox (virtual computer lab)** http://skybox.uconn.edu/

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, HuskyCT. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, students have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours in the Digital Learning Center. Students also have 24x7 Support with access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics, or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the Computer Technology Competencies page for more information.

Evaluation of the Course Experience

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE).

Week #	Date	Topic(s)	Readings	Assignments
1	8/25-8/31	Why is this class called Abnormal Psychology?	Chapter 1	
	9/02	LABOR DAY-NO CLASS		
2	9/01-9/07	Empirical Research	Chapter 2	
3	9/08-9/14	Approaches to Psychological Disorders	Chapter 3	
4	9/15-9/21	Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Treatment	Chapter 4	**Practical Application #1 9/18 in Class**
5	9/22-9/28	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 5	
6	9/29-10/05	Stress Disorders and PTSD	Chapter 6	**Project #1 Due on 10/5**
7	10/06-10/12	Mood Disorders	Chapter 7	
8	10/13-10/19	Schizophrenia	Chapter 13 Chapter 14	**Practical Application #2 10/17 in Class**
9	10/20-10/26	Eating Disorders Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders	Chapter 10 Chapter 12	
10	10/27-11/02	Somatic Disorders Substance-Related Disorders	Chapter 9 Chapter 11	*****NO CLASS MONDAY 10/28*****
11	11/03-11/09	Personality Disorders	Chapter 15	**Project #2 due on 11/09**
12	11/10-11/16	Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence	Chapter 16	**Practical Application #3 11/13 in Class**
13	11/17-12/23	Disorders of Aging and Cognition	Chapter 17	
	11/24-11/30	THANKSGIVING BREAK-NO CLASS		
14	12/01-12/07	Suicide Mental Health and the Law	Chapter 8 Chapter 18	**Practical Application #4 12/4 in Class**
	12/10-12/16	Project #3 due on 12/11/24 at 11:59PM		