

Psychopathology
(PSY 303, sections 1, 4 & 7)
Fall, 2020
Prof. Brian Lakey

Office hours are by appointment. Email me and we'll talk via phone, Facetime or Skype.

Email: lakeyb@gvsu.edu

Texts:

Nasar, S. (2011). *A Beautiful Mind*. New York. Simon & Schuster. 9781451628425
Jamison, K. R. (1996). *An Unquiet Mind*. New York: Random House.
9780679763307

This course presents an introductory survey of scientific research in adult psychopathology, and will focus on descriptive psychopathology and basic psychological mechanisms. Descriptive psychopathology involves describing important symptoms and organizing them into categories (i.e., syndromes). This reflects an enduring emphasis of psychiatry, in which mental disorders are construed as illnesses. In contrast, the psychological approach focuses on identifying basic psychological processes that apply across a wide range of symptoms and syndromes.

Blackboard: All course material will be posted on Blackboard.

Course goals: *To provide opportunities for an introductory, but detailed study of...*

1. ...the scientific approach to psychopathology.
2. ...key scientific findings in psychopathology.
3. ...core psychopathological symptoms and how symptoms are typically organized into syndromes.
4. ...how quantitative analysis advances our understanding of psychopathology.

Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe the current system of classifying psychological disorders.
2. Decide when you or someone you know may need evaluation by a professional by using the diagnostic criteria of specific psychological disorders.
3. Identify and explain the biological, psychological, social, and cognitive factors underlying etiology and maintenance of selected psychological disorders.
4. Explain major theoretical models and their contribution to the understanding of psychological disorders.
5. Explain how the research process and research findings influence the conceptualization and treatment of psychological disorders.

Mode of Instruction:

A new, 50-minute lecture will be posted at noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, except for official university holidays. Topics covered each week are at the end of the syllabus.

Grading:

Exams: There will be three, multiple choice exams, consisting of approximately 50 questions each. All questions will be from lecture. Exams 2 and 3 are cumulative. These are open note tests. You will have 24 hours to complete Exams 1 and 2. You will have three days to complete the final.

Quizzes on the books: Every Monday, a multiple-choice quiz on the readings will be posted. You will have until Friday at midnight to complete each quiz. Late quizzes will receive a 10% penalty. Quizzes are open book.

Quizzes on lecture: There will be multiple-choice quizzes on each of the eight lectures. Quiz questions are in the same style as exam questions but are not identical. Quizzes will be posted on the day that the lecture is finished. The first lecture will focus on the syllabus and there will be a quiz on that. Quizzes are open note. Late quizzes will receive a 10% penalty. You will have three full days to finish each quiz.

Don't cheat. Your grade in this course should be based on your own work. You are not permitted to discuss with other students the exam or quiz questions, until both of you have completed the quiz or exam. Anyway, there is no need to cheat. Given that all the quizzes and exams are open book or open note, you will be able to do well in this course if you simply do the work. Quiz and exam questions are the property of the Brian Lakey and so it is a violation of copyright law to copy or photograph them.

Curving Exams and Quizzes: Final corrected scores for each exam will be computed by 1) correcting scores for measurement error (i.e., error corrected scores) and then 2) dividing each student's error-corrected score by the highest error-corrected score obtained in the class. This procedure corrects for exam difficulty and measurement error. The same procedure will be used for two separate average quiz scores across 1) book quizzes and 2) lecture quizzes.

Your letter grade in the class will be based on your final corrected score, which will be the average of your three exam scores, and your two final quiz scores. Quizzes on the readings will count for 15% of your grade, quizzes on lecture will count for 35%, and exams will count for 50%. The final proportion scores will be converted to letter grades according to the following schedule:

.90 – 1.00	A
.80 – .89	B
.70 - .79	C
.60 - .69	D
.59 and below	F

The upper two points within the range of a letter grade are assigned “+” and the lower two points within the range of a letter grade are assigned “-“. For example, a .88 would be assigned a B+ and a .81 would be assigned a B-.

Make-up exams: Make-up exams will be given under the following circumstances: official university activities (e.g., participating in sporting events), illnesses, and major life events (e.g., romantic breakup). You should email the professor before the exam to be confident that you will be permitted to sit for a make-up exam.

Extra Credit: Have a 10-minute video conversation with me within the first week of class and ask me three questions. The goal is simply to have a short conversation with each student. The questions can be anything, including things like “What is your favorite color?” I’ll ask you questions. Send me an email and we’ll set up an appointment. If you do this, then I will round your final course grade up a notch (e.g., from a B+ to an A-).

Exam Dates:

- Exam 1: Monday, October 5.
- Exam 2: Monday, November 9
- Exam 3 (Final) Monday, December 14

Lecture Topics and Approximate Schedule

<i>Week</i>	<i>Lecture Topic</i>
Week 1	Course Overview. Lecture 1: What are mental disorders?
Week 2	Lecture 1: What are mental disorders?
Week 3	Lecture 2: How the DSM got its structure.
Week 4	Lecture 3: The structure of mental disorders.
Week 5	Lecture 3: The structure of mental disorders.
Week 6	Exam 1. Lecture 4: Stressful life events and depression.

Week 7	Lecture 4: Stressful life events and depression.
Week 8	Lecture 5: Family criticism and relapse in schizophrenia and other disorders.
Week 9	Lecture 5: Family criticism and relapse in schizophrenia and other disorders.
Week 10	Lecture 6: The thin ideal and risk for eating disorders.
Week 11	Exam 2. Lecture 7: Genetic and environmental influences on mental disorders.
Week 12	Lecture 7: Genetic and environmental influences on mental disorders.
Week 14	Lecture 7: Genetic and environmental influences on mental disorders.
Week 13	Lecture 8: Psychological and biological treatments for mental disorders.
Week 15	Lecture 8: Psychological and biological treatments for mental disorders.

Book Quiz Schedule. (Page number are inclusive)

Week 1	<i>Syllabus Quiz</i> <i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters Prologue - 4</i>
Week 2	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 5-9</i>
Week 3	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 10-14</i>
Week 4	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 15-19</i>
Week 5	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 20-24</i>
Week 6	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 25-29</i>
Week 7	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 30-34</i>
Week 8	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 35-40</i>
Week 9	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 41-46</i>
Week 10	<i>A Beautiful Mind, Chapters 47-Epilogue</i>
Week 11	<i>An Unquiet Mind Prologue – Part 1</i>
Week 12	<i>An Unquiet Mind Part 2</i>
Week 14	<i>An Unquiet Mind Part 3</i>
Week 13	<i>Thanksgiving Week.</i>
Week 15	<i>An Unquiet Mind Part 4 + Epilogue</i>

This course is subject to the GVSU policies listed at
<http://www.gvsu.edu/coursepolicies/>