



WACO, TEXAS

**COURSE SYLLABUS
AND
INSTRUCTOR PLAN**

**ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
PSYC_2320-015**

SHELLY ROGERS-SHARER

NOTE: This is a 16-week.

NOTE: This is a Face-to-Face course.

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Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the psychological, biological, and socio-cultural factors involved in the development, diagnosis, and treatment of psychological disorders. It includes a review of the historical understanding of abnormal behavior and the development of modern diagnostic systems. It includes discussion of psychological research and practice as it relates to mental health and psychological functioning, as well as legal and ethical issues. (PSYC 2320 is included in the Psychology Field of Study.) Hours: 3 (3 lec.)

Prerequisites: PSYC 2301 General Psychology **Corequisites:** None

Course Notes and Instructor Recommendations:

Students will be expected to read all material thoroughly. This includes information in both Brightspace and Connect. Students are also encouraged to download course schedule, Power Points, and study guides provided in Brightspace. Grades are also available on Brightspace, and announcements here should be checked regularly as well.

Instructor Information:

Instructor Name: Shelly Rogers-Sharer

MCC E-mail: srogers-sharer@mclennan.edu

Office Phone Number: 254-299-8965

Office Location: MAC 327

Office Conference Hours: Monday & Wednesday 9:00–9:30am; 12:00-12:30pm; & 2:30-4:00pm

Zoom meetings by appointment ONLY. (*Send me an email to schedule a virtual meeting*)

Other Instruction Information: Cell phone: 254-644-8267 (call or text during business hours)

Required Text & Materials:

Title: Nolen-Hoeksema's Introduction to Psychopathology

Author: Heather Jennings

Edition: 2025 Release

Publisher: McGraw Hill

Connect Access Card w/ E-book: ISBN 9781266568039

Note: The Connect Access Code is INCLUDED with your registration fee and does NOT require an additional purchase. This code contains an online version of the textbook and gives access to class assignments. Instructions for accessing these resources will be given on the first day of class. Please do NOT purchase this code. A hard copy loose leaf version of the textbook is available if you are a student who prefers a tangible textbook, but it is not required for the course.

MCC Bookstore Website: <http://www.mclennan.edu/bookstore/>

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Methods of Teaching and Learning:

Lecture and/or videos, along with the following:

Assignments/Activities

- Various assignments, activities, and discussion boards will be completed during class modules that are intended to expand and enhance the student's understanding about important topics.

Objective Quizzes/Exams

- These assessments will include objective questions in various formats over the primary characteristics (e.g. definitions, parts/features, relationships, etc.) of course topics from each chapter.

Connect Practice Sets

- Connect Practice Sets are 25 concept assessments over the student's reading of the textbook chapters. These are conducted online through the McGraw Hill Connect portal.

Course Objectives and/or Competencies:

Courses in this category focus on the application of empirical and scientific methods that contribute to the understanding of what makes us human. Courses involve the exploration of behaviors and interactions among individuals, groups, institutions, and events, examining their impact on the individual, society, and culture.

- **Critical Thinking (CT)** -- to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information.
- **Communications Skill (COM)** -- to include effective written, oral, and visual communication.
- **Empirical & Quantitative Skills (EQS)** -- to include applications of scientific and mathematical concepts.
- **Social Responsibility (SR)** -- to include intercultural competency, civic knowledge, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Discuss the historical antecedents to modern understandings of abnormal behavior.
2. Identify and describe the major classes and characteristics of psychological disorders as presented in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM).
3. Describe the factors and theoretical perspectives related to the development and maintenance of different types of abnormal behavior.
4. List the primary treatments for psychological disorders and discuss their effectiveness.
5. Discuss the current research and methodological issues in the study of abnormal behavior.
6. Discuss the legal and ethical issues associated with the treatment of and research related to abnormal behavior.
7. Develop an understanding of how social and cultural factors impact the expression of psychological disorders.
8. Examine the impact of biological factors on the development of psychological disorders.

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Course Attendance/Participation Guidelines:

If a student is not in attendance in accordance with the policies/guidelines of the class as outlined in the course syllabus as of the course census date, faculty are required to drop students from their class roster prior to certifying the respective class roster. A student's financial aid will be re-evaluated accordingly and the student will only receive funding for those courses attended as of the course census date.

Before the 60% point of the semester, a student who is absent for 25% or more of a face-to-face or blended course or who miss 25% or more of assigned work for an online course will be withdrawn from the course with a grade of W. A student may also request to be withdrawn with a grade of W before the 60% point of the semester. After the 60% point of the semester, the student may request to be withdrawn if the student is passing, or be assigned the final grade earned at the end of the semester after grades have been updated to reflect missing work.

Additional Attendance Info:

Regular and punctual attendance is expected of all students. The instructor will maintain a complete record of attendance for the entire length of each course. Students will be counted absent from class meetings missed, beginning with the first official day of classes. Students, whether present or absent, are responsible for all material presented or assigned for a course and will be held accountable for such materials in the determination of course grades. Instructor will follow the MCC attendance policy strictly. For this semester, if a student has not attended any classes by January 28, they will be automatically withdrawn from the course due to non-participation/attendance. Also, the 60% course date for this semester is March 26, 2026. A student who has missed 8 class periods by this date will be automatically withdrawn with a W. Students who miss more than 25% of course work after this date will receive the grade earned in the class once all completed work is graded and all missed assignments have been graded as 0. A student may only be withdrawn from this class after the 60% date by student request, and at the discretion of the instructor.

* [Click Here for the MCC Attendance/Absences Policy](#)

(<https://www.mclennan.edu/highlander-guide/policies.html>)

Click on the link above for the college policies on attendance and absences. Your instructor may have additional guidelines specific to this course.

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Course Outline or Schedule:

DATE	REQUIRED READING	ASSIGNMENTS / TASKS
01-12-26	Print off Syllabus	Syllabus
	<u>Unit 1 – Defining, Assessing, and Researching Abnormality (Chapters 1, 3 & 4)</u>	
01-14-26	Chapter 1 – pgs 2-21	Begin Chapter 1 – Looking at Abnormality
01-19-26	<i>NO CLASS!!!</i>	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day!!!</i>
01-21-26	Chapter 1 – pgs 2-21	Finish Chapter 1 – Looking at Abnormality
01-26-26	Chapter 3 – pgs 58-79	Chapter 3 – Assessing and Diagnosing Abnormality
01-28-26	Chapter 4 – pgs 80-101	Chapter 4 – The Research Endeavor
02-02-26	Brightspace Test	Take Test #1 on Brightspace (Due Friday 02-06)
02-06-26	Friday Due Date!	Test #1 (Chapters 1, 3 & 4) is due! Connect Practice Sets 1, 3, & 4 are due!
	<u>Unit 2 – Anxiety, Somatic, Dissociative, and Mood Disorders (Chapters 5-7)</u>	
02-04-26	Chapter 5 – pgs 102-145	Begin Chapter 5 – Trauma, Anxiety, OCD, and Related Disorders
02-09-26	Chapter 5 – pgs 102-145	Finish Chapter 5 – Trauma, Anxiety, OCD, and Related Disorders
02-11-26	Chapter 6 – pgs 146-167	Chapter 6 – Somatic and Dissociative Disorders
02-16-26	Chapter 7 – pgs 168-209	Begin Chapter 7 – Mood Disorders and Suicide
02-18-26	Chapter 7 – pgs 168-209	Finish Chapter 7 – Mood Disorders and Suicide
02-23-26	Brightspace Test	Take Test #2 on Brightspace (Due Friday 02-27)
02-27-26	Friday Due Date!	Test #2 (Chapters 5-7) is due! Connect Practice Sets 5-7 are due!
	<u>Unit 3 – Schizophrenia, Personality, and Neurological Disorders (Chapters 8-10)</u>	
02-25-26	Chapter 8 – pgs 210-241	Chapter 8 – Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders
03-02-26	Chapter 9 – pgs 242-272	Begin Chapter 9 – Personality Disorders
03-04-26	Chapter 9 – pgs 242-272	Finish Chapter 9 – Personality Disorders
03-09-26 to 03-15-26	<i>NO CLASS!!!</i>	<i>SPRING BREAK!!!</i>
03-16-26	Chapter 10 – pgs 274-309	Begin Chapter 10 – Neurodevelopmental / Neurocognitive Disorders
03-18-26	Chapter 10 – pgs 274-309	Finish Chapter 10 – Neurodevelopmental / Neurocognitive Disorders
03-23-26	Brightspace Test	Take Test #3 on Brightspace (Due Friday 03-27)
03-27-26	Friday Due Date!	Test #3 (Chapters 8-10) is due! Connect Practice Sets 8-10 are due!
	<u>Unit 4 – Disruptive, Eating, Sexual, and Substance Abuse Disorders (Chapters 11-14)</u>	
03-25-26	Chapter 11 – pgs 310-327	Chapter 11 – Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders
03-30-26	Chapter 12 – pgs 328-353	Chapter 12 – Eating Disorders
04-01-26	Chapter 13 – pgs 354-383	Begin Chapter 13 – Sexual Disorders and Gender Diversity
04-06-26	Chapter 13 – pgs 354-383	Finish Chapter 13 – Sexual Disorders and Gender Diversity
04-08-26	Chapter 14 – pgs 384-419	Chapter 14 – Substance Use and Gambling Disorders PAPERS ARE DUE!
04-15-26	Brightspace Test	Take Test #4 on Brightspace (Due Friday 04-17)
04-17-26	Friday Due Date!	Test #4 (Chapters 11-14) is due! Connect Practice Sets 11-14 are due!

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Unit 5 – Treatment, Health Psychology, and Legality (Chapters 2 & 15-16)		
04-13-26	Chapter 2 – pgs 22-56	Begin Chapter 2 – Theories and Treatment of Abnormality
04-20-26	Chapter 2 – pgs 22-56	Finish Chapter 2 – Theories and Treatment of Abnormality
04-22-26	Chapter 15 – pgs 420-451	Begin Chapter 15 – Health Psychology
04-27-26	Chapter 15 – pgs 420-451	Finish Chapter 15 – Health Psychology
04-29-26	Chapter 16 – pgs 452-470	Chapter 16 – Mental Health and the Law
05-01-26	<i>Friday Due Date!</i>	Connect Practice Sets 2, 15-16 are due! Study for the Final!!!
05-06-26	Study for the Final Exam	Final Exam (Cumulative, emphasis on Chapters 2, 15 & 16) Bring Scantron 882-E!!!

Course Grading Information:

The final grade will be based on the student's average of 4 test scores, a final exam, 16 Connect Practice Sets, a paper/presentation, and class participation and attendance.

Tests: The 4 unit tests will be conducted on Brightspace. **COMPLETION OF TESTS BY DUE DATES IS MANDATORY!!** If a student is unable to complete a test, the student must inform the instructor prior to the due date. **ONLY 1 TEST MAY BE MADE-UP! If a second test is missed, it will be considered an automatic 0 for the grade.** No project can replace a(n) test/exam score. If these guidelines are not followed, the instructor has the right to reduce possible grades and/or fail the student for lack of compliance with course requirements. The instructor also holds the right for alternatives at her discretion. Each test will be weighted at 10% of the final grade.

Final Exam: The final exam will be held on Wednesday, May 6. This exam will be given **IN CLASS**. Attendance is mandatory and final exams will **NOT** be given early. Students must bring a **scantron 882-E** with them for this exam. The final exam is comprehensive with emphasis on chapters 2, 15 & 16. The final exam will be weighted at 20% of the final grade.

Connect Practice Sets: The average of 16 chapter quizzes will make up another 20% of the final grade. The quizzes are conducted online through Connect. It is the student's responsibility to obtain a Connect registration code with their book. **Quizzes have strict due dates and therefore CANNOT be made up!!!** Due dates for these can be found on the course calendar.

Paper/Presentation: Students will choose to write a paper or complete a presentation as a requirement for this course, which will comprise 10% of their total grade. The student will choose a disorder from the DSM-5. The student will then research this topic, answering 5 questions: 1) What criteria must be met to diagnosis this disorder? 2) What are 4-5 struggles a person given this diagnosis might experience in every day life? 3) What is the explanation of this diagnosis from a Psychoanalytic perspective? From a Cognitive/Behavioral perspective? And from an Humanistic perspective? 4) What exaplantion best fits your personal view of the disorder? 5) What treatments might be effective for this disorder based on the perspective of your choosing?

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If the student chooses to write a paper, it must be formatted APA style, with a cover page and works cited page. It must be 3-5 typed pages in length (in addition to the cover and works cited page) and answer all the questions, **due April 8**. If the student chooses to complete a presentation, the date of the presentation will be scheduled the 3rd week of class for a future date during the semester. The presentation must be 5-10 minutes in length, answer all the questions, and have some form of visual aide to accompany it.

Paper/ Presentation Grade based on the following rubric:

20% on accurate description of criteria and explanation of the struggles of the selected disorder, **20%** for the 3 explanations from different perspectives, **10%** on the personal perspective from the student's viewpoint, **10%** on possible treatment options, **10%** on timely completion according to due dates, **15%** on appropriate length (whether paper or presentation), and **15%** on either correct APA formatting for papers or visual aide for presentations.

Attendance and Participation: The last 10% of the final grade will be determined by the student's attendance and participation. This **includes** timeliness of coming to class, staying until class is dismissed, and coming prepared for learning and discussing the material of each class period.

Grading Summary:

Test 1 (Chapters 1, 3 & 4) =	10%
Test 2 (Chapters 5-7) =	10%
Test 3 (Chapters 8-10) =	10%
Test 4 (Chapters 11-14) =	10%
Final Exam (Cumulative, emphasis on Chapters 2, 15&16)	20%
16 Connect Chapter Quizzes Average =	20%
Paper/Presentation =	10%
<u>Attendance and Participation =</u>	<u>10%</u>
FINAL GRADE =	100%

The traditional score equivalency will be used in this class:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = BELOW 60%

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Late Work, Attendance, and Make Up Work Policies:

No assignment, DB, or practice set is allowed to be made up after its due date and only 1 test may be made up with instructor permission. The final exam MUST be attended as scheduled.

Incomplete Grade:

Only students who have completed and passed 80% of the course requirements will be eligible for an incomplete. Illness, death in the family, or other extenuating circumstances needs to be present; and consultation with the instructor is mandatory.

Student Behavioral Expectations or Conduct Policy:

Each student is strongly recommended to participate in class. Due to the diversity of the students, many different viewpoints will be held. Students may not only disagree with each other at times, but the students and instructor may also find that they have different views on sensitive and volatile topics. It is my hope that these differences will enhance the class and create an atmosphere where students and instructor alike will be more encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that your grade will not be adversely affected by any beliefs and/or ideas expressed in class or assignments. Respect will be given for the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions. The instructor expects students to also treat each other with respect and manifest appropriate classroom behavior.

If the instructor becomes aware of cheating or plagiarism, an automatic 0 will be given for that task. These behaviors will be reported as per MCC policy. See MCC's policy on Academic Integrity for more information.

06/24/2025



ACADEMIC RESOURCES/POLICIES

Accommodations/ADA Statement:

Any student who is a qualified individual with a disability may request reasonable accommodations to assist with providing equal access to educational opportunities. Students should contact Accommodations (Disability Services) as soon as possible to begin the steps for requesting accommodations. Once that process is completed, appropriate verification will be provided to the student and instructor. Please note that instructors are not required to provide classroom accommodations to students until appropriate verification has been provided by Accommodations (Disability Services). For additional information, please visit www.mclennan.edu/disability

Students with questions or who require assistance with disabilities involving physical, classroom, or testing accommodations should contact:

disabilities@mclennan.edu (254)299-8122
Room 319, Student Services

Title IX:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a Federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs and activities that receive Federal funds. We care about your safety and value an environment where students and instructors can successfully teach and learn together. If you or someone you know experiences unwelcomed behavior, we are here to help. Individuals who would like to report a Title IX incident are encouraged to immediately contact the Title IX Coordinator at titleix@mclennan.edu or by calling, Dr. Claudette Jackson, (Accommodations/Title IX) at (254) 299-8465.

Additionally, Title IX provides rights and protections for pregnant and newly parenting students which can include educational accommodations such as excused absences

and the opportunity to make up assignments and tests. Lactation spaces are also available on campus. Please email titleix@mclennan.edu for more information.

MCC employees are mandatory reporters and must report incidents immediately to the Title IX Coordinator. Faculty and Staff may email titleix@mclennan.edu to submit a report.

Individuals may also contact the MCC Police Department at (254) 299-8911 or the MCC Student Counseling Center at (254) 299-8210. The MCC Student Counseling Center is a confidential resource for students. Any student may report sexual harassment anonymously by visiting <https://www.lighthouse-services.com>

Visit McLennan's Title IX webpage at <https://www.mclennan.edu/titleix/> to learn more about Title IX protections, reporting, and resources.

Student Support/Resources:

MCC provides a variety of services to support student success in the classroom and in your academic pursuits to include counseling, tutors, technology help desk, advising, financial aid, etc. A listing of these and the many other services available to our students is available at <http://www.mclennan.edu/campus-resource-guide/>

Paulanne's Pantry (MCC's food pantry) provides free food by appointment to students, faculty and staff. To schedule an appointment, go to <https://calendly.com/paulannespantry-mcc/15min>.

Academic Support and Tutoring is here to help students with all their course-related needs. Specializing in one-on-one tutoring, developing study skills, and effectively writing essays. Academic Support and Tutoring can be found in the Library and main floor of the Learning Commons. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom. You can contact the Academic Support and Tutoring team via Zoom or email (ast@mclennan.edu) by going to our website (<https://www.mclennan.edu/academic-support-and-tutoring/>)

Success Coaching Services is here for you.

We know life can be overwhelming sometimes—and that challenges outside the classroom can impact your success inside it. That's why our Success Coaches provide personalized support to help you navigate it all.

Success Coaching is available to every MCC student, no matter where you're starting from. Whether you're looking for direction, need quick advice, or just want someone to talk to, our coaches are here to listen, celebrate your strengths, and help you move forward with confidence. At Success Coaching Services, your voice is heard, your goals matter, and your future is our focus.

To learn more or schedule an appointment, visit www.mclennan.edu/successcoaching, call 254-299-8226, or email success@mclennan.edu.

College personnel also recognize that food, housing, and transportation are essential for student success. If you are having trouble securing these resources and other essential resources, we encourage you to contact the CREW - Campus Resources Education Web by calling 254-299-8561 or emailing crew@mclennan.edu.

Success Coaching Services, the CREW, and Paulanne's Pantry are located on the second floor of the Student Services building in Success Coaching Services, suite 249.

The Student Counseling Center offers confidential mental health counseling to currently enrolled students at no charge. Counselors are trained to help students with problems related to personal, social, and emotional concerns. Sessions focus on short-term goals in order to facilitate students college success and adjustment. This service is available to students in person or through Zoom.

Make an appointment to meet with a counselor by visiting the center in the Wellness & Fitness building, room 101, calling 254-299-8210, or emailing counseling@mclennan.edu.

MCC Foundation Emergency Grant Fund:

Unanticipated expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, housing, or job loss can affect us all. Should an unexpected expense arise, the MCC Foundation has an emergency grant fund that may be able to assist you. Please go to <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html> to find out more about the emergency grant. The application can be found at <https://www.mclennan.edu/foundation/scholarships-and-resources/emergencygrant.html>

MCC Academic Integrity Statement:

Please view our [Academic Integrity statement](#) for more information about academic integrity, dishonesty, and cheating. The unauthorized use of artificial intelligence (AI) for classwork can be a violation of the College's General Conduct Policy. Whether AI is authorized in a course and the parameters in which AI can be used in a course will be outlined by each instructor.

Minimum System Requirements to Utilize MCC's D2L|Brightspace:

For online and blended/hybrid courses, students must have access to a reliable computer and internet. For more information on the minimum system requirements needed to reliably access your courses in MCC's D2L|Brightspace learning management system go to: <https://www.mclennan.edu/center-for-teaching-and-learning/Faculty-and-StaffCommons/requirements.html>

Minimum Technical Skills:

Students should have basic computer skills, knowledge of word processing software, and a basic understanding of how to use search engines and common web browsers.

Backup Plan for Technology:

In the event MCC's technology systems are down, you will be notified via your MCC student email address. Please note that all assignments and activities will be due on the date specified in the Instructor Plan, unless otherwise noted by the instructor.

Email Policy:

McLennan Community College would like to remind you of the policy (<http://www.mclennan.edu/employees/policy-manual/docs/E-XXXI-B.pdf>) regarding college email. All students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to use their McLennan email addresses when conducting college business.

A student's McLennan email address is the preferred email address that college employees should use for official college information or business. Students are expected to read and, if needed, respond in a timely manner to college emails. For more information about your student email account, go to www.mclennan.edu/studentemail.

Instructional Uses of Email:

Faculty members can determine classroom use of email or electronic communications. Faculty should expect and encourage students to check the college email on a regular basis. Faculty should inform students in the course syllabus if another communication

method is to be used and of any special or unusual expectations for electronic communications.

If a faculty member prefers not to communicate by email with their students, it should be reflected in the course syllabus and information should be provided for the preferred form of communication.

Email on Mobile Devices:

The College recommends that you set up your mobile device to receive McLennan emails. If you need assistance with set-up, you may email Helpdesk@mclennan.edu for help.

You can find help on the McLennan website about connecting your McLennan email account to your mobile device:

- [Email Setup for iPhones and iPads](#)
- [Email Setup for Androids](#)

Forwarding Emails:

You may forward emails that come to your McLennan address to alternate email addresses; however, the College will not be held responsible for emails forwarded to an alternate address that may be lost or placed in junk or spam filters.

For more helpful information about technology at MCC, go to [MCC's Tech Support](#) or email helpdesk@mclennan.edu.

Disclaimer:

The resources and policies listed above are merely for informational purposes and are subject to change without notice or obligation. The College reserves the right to change policies and other requirements in compliance with State and Federal laws. The provisions of this document do not constitute a contract.