

CPSY 570, Psychopathology, 3KU (6 AKTS)
Khazar University
Autumn 2025-2026

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: By appointment

Class Session

Thursday 15:20-17:20 Changes will be announced

Textbooks

Essentials of Abnormal Psychology (8th ed.) Barlow, David H., and Vincent Mark Durand
Boston: Cengage Learning, 2019.

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (5th ed.). American Psychiatric
Association. (2013). Arlington, VA: Author.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to mental disorders in adult humans. We will discuss diagnostic issues and methods used to study psychopathology. We will also examine a variety of mental disorders from several different theoretical and treatment perspectives. Focus will be on diagnosis, epidemiology, course of the disorder, etiology, and treatment issues. We will also briefly examine ethical and legal issues pertaining to psychopathology. A major goal of the course is to promote greater awareness and knowledge of psychopathology in hopes that we can reduce the suffering and stigma associated with mental disorders.

Course Objectives

- a) to provide students with an integrative overview of the field of psychopathology, major psychological problems and disorders.
- (b) to familiarize students with the multiple causes of psychopathology as viewed from a number of different theoretical perspectives.
- (c) to illustrate principles of the psychotherapy for different problems and to teach students about the existence of different psychotherapy methods.
- (d) to provide an integrative view of research in the area of psychopathology.

(e) to promote critical thinking skills in the area of psychopathology.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Just a friendly reminder about cheating and plagiarism—don't do it. Any student who is caught cheating on an exam, writing another student's project, or copying from another source (e.g., a website, a magazine, a published research article) without proper citations will be disciplined under the University's regulations for academic honesty. Students who violate the academic principles of this University may receive a failing grade on the assignment, receive a failing grade in the course, or be suspended from the University.

Grading Guidelines

	% of grade
Attendance/Participation	5
Midterm	30
Movie Review/Presentation	15
Response Paper/Presentation	15
Final Exam	35
	100

Movie Review Assignment

Films often contain characters that exhibit psychological disorders and/or altered mental states. Your assignment is to:

- Watch a popular film that depicts a character with some form of psychological disorder covered in this course.
- Analyze how the content of the movie relates to course material on psychological disorders (see specific questions below).
- Present your video and diagnosis to the class in a 5- to 10-minute presentation. You must show one scene (example) from your movie during your presentation.

Your report must be:

- 12-point font. Maximum 2-3 pages, single-spaced

After watching your movie, answer the following questions:

1. What mental/psychological disorder is portrayed in the movie?
2. How does the movie relate to the course material covered in class or in your textbook? Please discuss at least four specific scenes and clarify how the movie and course material are related. This should be the main part of your report. You may point out how the movie illustrated course material and/or how it was not in accordance with what you have learned in this class.

3. Provide the full details of your diagnosis of the character, including the signs and symptoms apparent in the film, and relate them to the criteria for the disorder in the DSM-V.
4. Discuss the best forms of treatment for this person and the prognosis.
5. How has watching the movie contributed to your understanding of psychological disorders and their treatment? I don't have to agree with your opinions, but you will be graded on showing an understanding of course material and the issues involved.

Response Paper/Presentation

Find a new research work from Google Scholar regarding some kind of psychological disorder. Write down a summary on the highlights of the research work you read.

1. What is the research question?
2. What is the hypothesis?
3. What kind of methodology did they use?
4. What are the main results?
5. Conclusions, implications, and future directions

Your report must be:

- 12-point font. Maximum 2-3 pages, single-spaced

Present the research work in a 5–10-minute presentation to the class.

Proposed Course Schedule

Week 1	Introduction to Psychopathology: Overview and History
Week 2	Models of Psychopathology, Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis and Research
Week 3	Anxiety, Trauma- and Stressor-Related, and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders: Part 1
Week 4	Anxiety, Trauma- and Stressor-Related, and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders: Part 1
Week 5	Depressive and Bipolar Disorders. Suicide
Week 6	Personality Disorders
Week 7	Substance-related, Addictive, and Impulse-Control Disorders
Week 8	Midterm exam
Week 9	Eating and Sleep-Wake Disorders
Week 10	Sexual Dysfunctions, Paraphilic Disorders, and Gender Dysphoria

Week 11	Neurodevelopmental and Neurocognitive Disorders (Childhood and Adolescence)
Week 12	Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders / Physical Disorders and Health Psychology
Week 13	Schizophrenia Spectrum and other Psychotic Disorders
Week 14	DSM 5 and Rare Psychological Disorders
Week 15	Final Presentations and Exam Review
Week 16	Final exam