

MASTER COURSE SYLLABUS-TEMPLATE

THE PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT VALUES ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND THUS OFFERS THIS MASTER SYLLABUS ONLY AS A GUIDE. THE INSTRUCTORS ARE FREE TO ADAPT THEIR SYLLABI TO THEIR OWN STYLE AND NEEDS.

SAMPLE SYLLABI FROM A FEW PROFESSORS AND A SYLLABUS TEMPLATE ARE ALSO FILED WITH THIS MASTER SYLLABUS TO SERVE AS ADDITIONAL GUIDES. THERE ARE ALSO OTHER SAMPLE SYLLABI ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB.

PSYCHOLOGY 2320

Abnormal Psychology

Revised: October, 2024

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| Instructor: | |
| Course Title: | |
| Course Abbreviation Number: | |
| Course Section & Synonym Numbers: | |
| Time & Location of class | |

| | |
|--|--|
| Instructor's Office Hours | |
| Instructor's Telephone Number & Email: | |
| Instructor's Office location & number | |
| Conferences /contact outside of office hours (Optional) | |

COURSE INFORMATION

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.)

If there is a required field activity, service-learning, or other activity outside of class, that should be mentioned, as well other general information that seems appropriate.

- **Credit Hours: 3**
- **Classroom Contact Hours per week: 3**

COURSE RATIONALE

This is a statement on the purpose of class and its broad educational goals. One can describe relationships to subsequent courses, general education, service-learning, appreciation of the arts, civic engagement, or whatever seems appropriate. Departments may wish to develop a statement for all instructors to use for each course offered.

PREREQUISITE: PSYC 2301 with a grade of C or better

STUDENT 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.

FOR SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES, PLEASE REFER TO SAMPLE SYLLABI GUIDES (PRINT and on the WEB) FOR SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

Program Level Student Learning Outcomes:

- Understand psychological concepts and be able to recognize them in real-world contexts.
- Acquire a basic understanding of major perspectives in the field.
- Gain an awareness of the breadth of the academic discipline of psychology.
- Understand the various research methods psychologists use and critically evaluate evidence.

REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS/SOFTWARE

Any required textbooks, readings, laboratory manual, or software should be listed here. One may also list optional texts, such as study guides.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

This statement identifies the format in which the instruction occurs:

- lecture
- lecture/lab
- laboratory
- clinical
- co-op based
- internship
- practicum
- online
- hybrid
- competency-based

Field activities, co-curricular, and service-learning activities may be mentioned here as well.

DISTANCE EDUCATION (for online or hybrid courses only)

Advise students, many of whom may be new to online learning, about the differences between online and traditional face-to-face learning. In particular, advise students of the time management and study skills required to be a successful online student. Encourage students new to distance education to review the ACC Distance Education General Information available at <https://online.austincc.edu/faq/>. Likewise, use of the college approved learning management system should be clearly stated for hybrid and online courses. Some suggested wording might be:

[“Students will use the Blackboard learning management system for assignment instructions, submitting assignments, and collaboration.”](#)

GRADING SYSTEM

Grading criteria should be clearly explained in the syllabus. The criteria should specify the number of exams and other graded material (exercises, term papers, homework, assignments, projects, etc.), and the weight assigned to them. Instructors should discuss the format of exams (multiple choice, short answer, essay, matching, combination, etc). Guidelines for other graded materials, such as homework or projects, should also be included in the syllabus. Having explicit detail in this section helps to more easily resolve issues with student grades should they arise. Links to grading and evaluation rubrics could also be included here.

PLEASE REFER TO SAMPLE SYLLABI GUIDES (PRINT and on the WEB) FOR SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

Attendance/Class Participation

Each instructor should clearly express their attendance and class participation policies. If there are specific policies for field or laboratory activities, they could be included here. Some suggested wording is:

“Regular and punctual class and laboratory attendance is expected of all students. If attendance or compliance with other course policies is unsatisfactory, the instructor may withdraw students from the class.”

Or for online courses:

“Regular and timely class participation in discussions and completion of work is expected of all students. If attendance or compliance with other course policies is unsatisfactory, the instructor may withdraw students from the class.”

And to cover situations where classes are cancelled because of weather or other emergencies:

“In the event the college or campus closes due to unforeseen circumstances (for example, severe weather or other emergency), the student is responsible for communicating with their professor during the closure and completing any assignments or other activities designated by their professor as a result of class sessions being missed.”

Withdrawal Policy

This should be clearly stated. The College defines withdrawals as occurring after the official reporting date of the semester, typically the 12th class day. In addition, the Legislature has mandated the Rule of Six (see below). There may also be financial aid issues.

Some possible wording might be:

“It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that his or her name is removed from the rolls should they decide to withdraw from the class. The instructor does, however, reserve the right to drop a student should he or she feel it is necessary. If a student decides to withdraw, he or she should also verify that the withdrawal is recorded before the Final Withdrawal Date. **The Final Withdrawal Date for this semester is [insert date here].** The student is also strongly encouraged to keep any paperwork in case a problem arises.

Students are responsible for understanding the impact that withdrawal from a course may have on their financial aid, veterans’ benefits, and international student status. Per state

law, students enrolling for the first time in Fall 2007 or later at any public Texas college or university may not withdraw (receive a W) from more than six courses during their undergraduate college education. Some exemptions for good cause could allow a student to withdraw from a course without having it count toward this limit. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with an advisor when making decisions about course selection, course loads, and course withdrawals."

Missed Exam and Late Work Policies

Each instructor should clearly express their policies with regard to missed exams, late homework or laboratory exercises, etc. Again, this helps immensely when dealing with student grade disputes.

Incompletes

This policy should also be clearly stated. Note that the completion date for unfinished work cannot be later than the withdrawal deadline for the following semester.

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

The syllabus should contain a course outline for the lecture (and laboratory), outlining what students will be doing on what days, identifying test dates and other due dates. Instructors are encouraged to add a statement of variance, such as:

"Please note that schedule changes may occur during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class and posted as a Blackboard Announcement (or other resource faculty is using to communicate)."

COLLEGE POLICIES

These are statements of which all students should be aware and which are consistent across the institution. The wording of these statements should not be changed by instructors.

COLLEGE POLICIES

Health & Safety Protocols

Operational areas of ACC campuses and centers are fully open and accessible through all public entrances. The college encourages its staff, faculty, and students to be mindful of the well-being of all individuals on campus. If you feel sick, feverish, or unwell, please do not come to campus.

Some important things to remember:

- If you have not done so, ACC encourages all students, faculty, and staff to get vaccinated. COVID-19 vaccines are now widely available throughout the community. Visit [Vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find a vaccine location near you.
- Campuses are open to faculty, staff, and students. The college and its departments and offices may invite internal *and* external guests to their events and activities, though access is still restricted for external parties seeking to host activities at ACC. The college's [Appian Health Screening App](#) remains available to everyone who visits campus. This continues to be a good way to check your own health before coming to class or work.
- If you are experiencing COVID-19-related symptoms, please get a COVID-19 test as soon as possible before returning to an ACC facility. Testing is now widely available. To find [testing locations near you, click this link](#).
- If you test positive, please report it on the [ACC self-reporting tool located here](#).
- ACC continues to welcome face masks on campus. Per CDC guidelines, face masks remain a good way to protect yourself from COVID-19.
- The college asks that we all continue to respect the personal space of others. We are encouraging 3 feet of social distancing.
- Please be sure to carry your student, faculty, or staff ID badge at all times while on campus.

Because of the ever changing situation, please go to [ACC's Covid website](#) at for the latest updates and guidance.

Statement on Academic Integrity

Austin Community College values academic integrity in the educational process. Acts of academic dishonesty/misconduct undermine the learning process, present a disadvantage to students who earn credit honestly, and subvert the academic mission of the institution. The potential consequences of fraudulent credentials raise additional concerns for individuals and communities beyond campus who rely on institutions of higher learning to certify students' academic achievements and expect to benefit from

the claimed knowledge and skills of their graduates. Students must follow all instructions given by faculty or designated college representatives when taking examinations, placement assessments, tests, quizzes, and evaluations. Actions constituting scholastic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, collusion, falsifying documents, or the inappropriate use of the college's information technology resources. Further information is available at the [Academic Integrity website](#).

Any course specific policies, expectations, or procedures could be included here.

Student Rights & Responsibilities

Students at ACC have the same rights and protections under the Constitution of the United States. These rights include freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, petition and association. As members of the community, students have the right to express their own views, but must also take responsibility for according the same rights to others and not interfere or disrupt the learning environment. Students are entitled to fair treatment, are expected to act consistently with the values of the college, and obey local, state, and federal laws. [Student Rights & Responsibilities](#)

As a student of Austin Community College you are expected to abide by the [Student Standards of Conduct](#).

Senate Bill 212 and Title IX Reporting Requirements

Under Senate Bill 212 (SB 212), the faculty and all College employees are required to report any information concerning incidents of **sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking** committed by or against an ACC student or employee. Federal Title IX law and College policy also require reporting incidents of **sex- and gender-based discrimination and sexual misconduct**. **This means faculty and non-clinical counseling staff cannot keep confidential information about any such incidents that you share with them.**

If you would like to talk with someone confidentiality, please contact the District Clinical Counseling Team who can connect you with a clinical counselor on any ACC campus: (512) 223-2616, or to schedule online, go to the [Counseling website](#).

While students are not required to report, they are encouraged to contact the Compliance Office for resources and options: Charlene Buckley, District Title IX Officer, (512) 223-7964; compliance@austincc.edu.

If a student makes a report to a faculty member, the faculty member will contact the District Title IX Officer for follow-up.

Student Complaints

A defined process applies to complaints about an instructor or other college employee. You are encouraged to discuss concerns and complaints with college personnel and should expect a timely and appropriate response. When possible, students should first address their concerns through informal conferences with those immediately involved; formal due process is available when informal resolution cannot be achieved.

Student complaints may include (but are not limited to) issues regarding classroom instruction, college services and offices on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, political affiliation, or disability.

Further information about the complaints process, including the form used to submit complaints, is available at the [Student Complaint Procedures website](#).

Statement on Privacy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) protects confidentiality of students' educational records. Grades cannot be provided by faculty over the phone, by e-mail, or to a fellow student.

Class grades should be posted in Blackboard, and this could be mentioned here.

Recording Policy

To ensure compliance with the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student recording of class lectures or other activities is generally prohibited without the explicit written permission of the instructor and notification of other students enrolled in the class section. Exceptions are made for approved accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Recording of lectures and other class activities may be made by faculty to facilitate instruction, especially for classes taught remotely through BlackBoard or another platform. Participation in such activities implies consent for the student to be recorded during the instructional activity. Such recordings are intended for educational and academic purposes only.

Safety Statement

Health and safety are of paramount importance in classrooms, laboratories, and field activities. Students are expected to learn and comply with ACC environmental, health and safety procedures and agree to follow ACC safety policies. Emergency Procedures posters and Campus Safety Plans are posted in each classroom and should be reviewed at the beginning of each semester. All incidents (injuries/illness/fire/property damage/near miss) should be immediately reported to the course instructor. Additional information about safety procedures and how to sign up to be notified in case of an emergency can be found at the [Emergency Management website](#).

Everyone is expected to conduct themselves professionally with respect and courtesy to all. Anyone who thoughtlessly or intentionally jeopardizes the health or safety of another individual may be immediately dismissed from the day's activity and will be referred to the Dean of Student Services for disciplinary action.

In the event of disruption of normal classroom activities due to an emergency situation or an outbreak of illness, the format for this course may be modified to enable completion of the course. In that event, students will be provided an addendum to the class syllabus that will supersede the original version.

Smoke, Vaping, & Tobacco-Free Environment

ACC provides a smoke/vape- and tobacco-free environment for all College vehicles, facilities and all campuses. The College prohibits the use, distribution, and/or sale of tobacco, smoke, and nicotine vapor products and devices by any person on all premises owned, rented, leased or supervised by the College, including all College facilities, buildings, grounds, and vehicles. This prohibition applies to property owned by others that the College uses by agreement, and further applies to all College and personal vehicles on ACC District property. Campus Managers and Campus Coordinators are required to inform anyone on their campus or in their center who are violating this rule that they are doing so and, if the violator is a student, the Dean of Student Affairs must initiate disciplinary procedures.

Campus Carry

The Austin Community College District concealed handgun policy ensures compliance with Section 411.2031 of the Texas Government Code (also known as the Campus Carry Law), while maintaining ACC's commitment to provide a safe environment for its students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Beginning August 1, 2017, individuals who are licensed to carry (LTC) may do so on campus premises except in locations and at activities prohibited by state or federal law, or the college's concealed handgun policy.

It is the responsibility of license holders to conceal their handguns at all times. Persons who see a handgun on campus are asked to contact the ACC Police Department by dialing 512-223-1231. Please refer to the concealed handgun policy online at the [Campus Carry website](#).

Discrimination Prohibited

The College seeks to maintain an educational environment free from any form of discrimination or harassment including but not limited to discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

Faculty at the College are required to report concerns regarding sexual misconduct (including all forms of sexual harassment and sex and gender-based discrimination) to

the Manager of Title IX/Title VI/ADA Compliance. Licensed clinical counselors are available across the District and serve as confidential resources for students. Additional information about Title VI, Title IX, and ADA compliance can be found in the [ACC Compliance Resource Guide](#).

Use of ACC email

All College e-mail communication to students will be sent solely to the student's ACCmail account, with the expectation that such communications will be read in a timely fashion. ACC will send important information and will notify students of any college-related emergencies using this account. Students should only expect to receive email communication from their instructor using this account. Likewise, students should use their ACCmail account when communicating with instructors and staff. Information about ACC email accounts, including instructions for accessing it, are available at the [ACC Email Q&A website](#).

Use of the Testing Center

The Testing Centers will allow only limited in person testing and testing time will be limited to the standard class time, typically one and one-half hours. Specifically, only the following will be allowed in the Testing Centers:

- Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Testing: All approved SAS testing
- Assessments Tests: Institutionally approved assessment tests (e.g., TSIA or TABE)
- Placement Tests: Placement tests (e.g., ALEKS)
- Make-Up Exams (for students who missed the original test): Make-up testing is available for all lecture courses but will be limited to no more than 25% of students enrolled in each section for each of four tests
- Programs incorporating industry certification exams: Such programs (e.g., Microsoft, Adobe, etc.) may utilize the ACC Business Assessment Center for the industry certification exams (BACT) at HLC or RRC

The instructor should provide additional information about how they will conduct examinations and other assessments here.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The success of our students is paramount, and ACC offers a variety of support services to help, as well as providing numerous opportunities for community engagement and personal growth.

Student Support

ACC strives to provide exemplary support to its students and offers a broad variety of opportunities and services. Information on these campus services and resources is

available at the [Student Resources website](#). A comprehensive array of student support services is available online at the [Student Support website](#).

Student Accessibility Services

Austin Community College (ACC) is committed to providing a supportive, accessible, and inclusive learning environment for all students. Each campus offers support services for students with documented disabilities. Students with disabilities who need classroom, academic or other accommodations must request them through Student Accessibility Services (SAS).

Students are encouraged to request accommodations prior to the beginning of the semester, otherwise the provision of accommodations may be delayed. Students who have received accommodations from SAS for this course will provide the instructor with the legal document titled "Faculty Notification Letter" (FNL) through the Accessible Information Management (AIM) portal.

Until the instructor receives the FNL, accommodations should not be provided. Once the FNL is received, accommodations must be provided. Accommodations are not retroactive, so it is in the student's best interest to request their accommodations as soon as possible prior to the beginning of the semester.

Please contact SAS@austincc.edu for more information.

Academic Support

ACC offers academic support services on all of its campuses. These services, which include online tutoring, academic coaching, and supplemental instruction, are free to enrolled ACC students. Tutors are available in a variety of subjects ranging from accounting to pharmacology. Students may receive these services on both a drop-in and referral basis.

An online tutor request can be made here: [Online Tutoring Request](#)

Additional tutoring information can be found here: [Online Tutoring](#)

Library Services

ACC Library Services offers both in-person and extensive online services, with research and assignment assistance available in-person during limited hours of service. Although all college services are subject to change, plans include ACC students signing up for study space and use of computers at open libraries, extensive online instruction in classes, online reference assistance 24/7 and reference with ACC faculty librarians. In addition, currently enrolled students, faculty and staff can access Library Services online (also 24/7) via the ACC Library website and by using their ACCeID to access all online materials (ebooks, articles from library databases, and streaming videos). ACC

Libraries offer these services in numerous ways such as: "Get Help from a Faculty Librarian: the 24/7 Ask a Librarian chat service," an online form for in-depth research Q and A sessions, one-on-one video appointments, email, and phone (voicemail is monitored regularly).

- [Library Website](#)
- [Library Information & Services during COVID-19](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#) 24/7 chat and form
- [Library Hours of Operation by Location](#)
- Email: library@austincc.edu

Parent and Family Engagement Services

ACC understands how important parent and family support is to every student's college journey. From parents and siblings to stepparents, grandparents, partners, and loved ones, the Parent and Family Engagement Office at ACC is committed to empowering families to support student success. The office provides a family orientation to ACC, free [workshops](#) explaining the world of higher education (financial aid, student resources, career and transfer services, etc.), a monthly [newsletter](#) full of student success tips, and a website designed to answer family members' frequently asked questions. All students, especially first-generation students, are encouraged to share these resources with their families and invite them to be part of the Riverbat experience. Contact familyengagement@austincc.edu or visit the [Parent & Family Engagement website](#) for more information.

Student Organizations

ACC has over seventy student organizations, offering a variety of cultural, academic, vocational, and social opportunities. They provide a chance to meet with other students who have the same interests, engage in service-learning, participate in intramural sports, gain valuable field experience related to career goals, and much else. Student Life coordinates many of these activities, and additional information is available at the [Student Life website](#).

Personal Support

Resources to support students are available at every campus. To learn more, ask your professor or visit the campus Support Center. All resources and services are free and confidential. Some examples include, among others:

- Food resources including community pantries and bank drives can be found here at the [Central Texas Food Bank website](#).
- Assistance with childcare or utility bills is available at any campus [Support Center](#)
- The [Student Emergency Fund](#) can help with unexpected expenses that may cause you to withdraw from one or more classes

- Help with budgeting for college and family life is available through the [Student Money Management Office](#).
- A full listing of services for student parents is available at the [Child Care website](#).

Mental health counseling services are available throughout the ACC Student Services District to address personal and or mental health concerns at the [Counseling website](#).

If you are struggling with a mental health or personal crisis, call one of the following numbers to connect with resources for help. However, if you are afraid that you might hurt yourself or someone else, call 911 immediately.

Free Crisis Hotline Numbers:

- Austin / Travis County 24-hour Crisis & Suicide hotline: **512-472-HELP (4357)**
- The Williamson County 24-hour Crisis hotline: **1-800-841-1255**
- Bastrop County Family Crisis Center hotline: **1-888-311-7755**
- Hays County 24 Hour Crisis Hotline: **1-877-466-0660**
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **988** or **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**
- Crisis Text Line: **Text “home” to 741741**
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
National Helpline: **1-800-662-HELP (4357)**
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Helpline: **1-800-950-NAMI (6264)**

Some faculty may consider adding a student sign-off page at the end of the syllabus to be removed and handed back to the instructor providing evidence that the student received a copy of the syllabus and had an opportunity to ask questions, but such a page is optional.