PSYX 536.01: Advanced Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

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Advanced Child and Adolescent Psychopathology

Course Information
Location: Skaggs 303
Time: Tuesday: 9:30-10:50
      Thursday: 9:30-10:50

Instructor Information
Instructor: Greg Machek, Ph.D.
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Office: Skaggs Building, Room 240
Office hours: T/TR 2:00-3:00

Course Description
Psyx 536 is a graduate-level overview of common child and adolescent psychopathologies, such as autism, ADHD, anxiety and depression, and eating disorders.

Course Objectives
Major learning components include the understanding of epidemiology, etiology, accompanying characteristics, and relevant diagnostic criteria for the various disorders. Thus, a primary goal of this course is to supply you with the necessary knowledge to distinguish among the major mental disorders commonly seen in children and adolescents. Additionally, we will survey some treatment components and assessment techniques, as these are intricately tied to our knowledge about the nature of any given disorder (however, this course does not presume to be a “treatment” or “assessment” course). In addition, for each disorder, we will discuss the relevant educational (IDEA) categories under which children with each disorder might be served in the school system.

APA Core Content Areas Covered
This course covers the following APA core content areas (APA accreditation domain B3):
- Biological aspects of behavior; Cognitive aspects of behavior; Affective aspects of behavior; Social aspects of behavior; Individual differences in behavior; Human Development; Dysfunctional behavior or psychopathology; Theories and methods of assessment and diagnosis; Theories and methods of effective intervention.

NASP Training Domains Covered
This course covers the following NASP training domains (objectives):
- Domain 1: Data-Based Decision Making and Accountability (provides knowledge on appropriate models and methods of assessment for certain disorders/symptoms); Domain 4: Interventions and Mental Health Services to Develop Social and Life Skills (Provides information on the biological, cultural, developmental, and social influences on behavior and mental health, behavioral and emotional impacts on learning and life skills, and evidence-based strategies to promote social–emotional functioning and mental health); Domain 6: Preventive and
Responsive Services (provides information on the principles and research related to resilience and risk factors in learning and mental health); Domain 8: Diversity in Development and Learning (provides knowledge regarding individual differences, abilities, disabilities, and other diverse child characteristics, including factors related to culture, context, and individual and role difference).

**Course Format**
As a survey course, lecture presentations will be a component. However, since your text and other assigned readings cover a vast amount of content, I obviously cannot (and do not intend to) repeat much of the material in the assigned readings. However, I would like informed discussions regarding the reading material to be a major component of the class. One of your jobs, then, is to read carefully and critically, identifying main points and bringing questions and/or comments about the readings to class **(Note: for each reading, identify 3 points of interest to you that could be discussed. We will not cover ALL of these for EVERY class, but it helps keep everyone engaged in the readings and cuts down on awkward silences. I “may” ask you to send in these questions and comments prior to each class if it appears that participants are not coming prepared).** I would also like to encourage as much discussion as possible. Finally, there will be times for in-class group work and subsequent discussion, mainly revolving around case studies.

**Required Texts**
*Note: in this syllabus, when I simply say, “text,” I am referring to this book.


*Note that this text is available online. Specifically, from the “Research Tools” section of the Mansfield Library website, go the “Databases” link. From there, find your way to the database titled, “Psychiatryonline,” which can easily be found under the ‘P’ section.

**Additional Readings**
Readings from relevant journals or other books are listed at the end of the syllabus and are available on the Moodle system. All readings will be posted in advance. I have posted not only your “required” readings, but most of the “recommended readings” are there as well.

**Grading/Evaluation**
Multiple processes of evaluation will occur for this course. I assume that adequate engagement in the text and DSM-V will lead to an in depth and lasting (long-term memory) understanding of basic diagnostic criteria and characteristics. Additionally I assume that another essential measure of your having met the objectives of this course is your ability to synthesize the material you have learned and to present your ideas to others (orally and in writing). With this in mind, evaluation of your progress will be through the following components:

40% Quizzes
There will be 3 “quizzes” during the course of the semester. They will likely be short answer and will assess your knowledge of diagnostic criteria, as well as other characteristics associated with the disorders we cover. Quiz dates are in large, **bold** print in the “course schedule,” below.
25% Final Paper
You will be asked to write a research paper. The goal of this paper is to present a thorough review of one of the major topics in the field of psychopathology. Page length is largely up to you, though it should be AT LEAST 12 pages (not including title page & references). Feel free to make it longer.

Papers need to be in APA style. If you do not have the latest manual (currently, the 6th Edition), you can get it from the library, and there is also one available in the CPC, as well as the School Psychology common room (rm. 365). I will note that this text should be part of your graduate school collection, particularly for doctoral students, so please consider purchasing it if you have not already. In addition to the “real” APA manual, brief overviews of APA style exist on the web, and some may be helpful in covering the basics; here is a popular online writing lab that covers a lot of what you will need when writing your paper.

Again, however, this is likely not a reasonable substitute for actually possessing the actual manual.

I would like to meet with everyone, individually, by March 10th (a Friday), to go over your topics. When we meet, please provide a written overview of your topic that does not exceed 2 pages in length. This could be a detailed outline (with some citations that show you have started the research process, or it could be an annotated bibliography, or it could be a thorough overview that you will expand upon as you continue researching and writing). You may schedule this meeting with me at any time before the 10th (see office hours). The Final Paper is due Friday, May 5th, by midnight. All late assignments will be docked 10% for each day late, and this does include weekend days.

There are literally hundreds and hundreds of viable possibilities. I would be happy to discuss any with you, or help you gain some specificity on your topic if you talk to me about some of your general interests. Remember, research papers are pretty limited in scope and should be based almost exclusively on peer-reviewed articles in searchable databases, such as PsychInfo (i.e. do not rely on book chapters and internet only sources- certainly not things like Wikipedia, as good as it may be for general information). If you are not familiar with how to access the library databases, let me know! We can go over it as a class, or individually. Also, an excellent resource for looking at topics and pertinent references is your textbook. It is one of the most comprehensive and well-respected on the market: use it as a resource to track down articles related to your topic and to get a better understanding about how to organize your paper.

20% Presentation of Final Paper
In the final weeks of class, you will make a 20-25 minute presentation on the topical area of your paper. A major consideration for your presentation will be to keep within the time limit; please prepare with the time constraint in mind. You are expected to use PowerPoint for this presentation or another type of visual scaffolding for your peers. I would also encourage you to bring handouts to your audience.

15% Course Participation
Thoughtful questions and relevant comments on the topics at hand will be important for establishing that you have an understanding of the material in class and are being an active participant in the learning process (as stated before, for each reading, identify three [3] points of interest to you).
Of course, participation during in-class activities is also expected. These will vary, but could consist of activities such as informal case consultations in which you will receive a clinical case description and you will develop diagnostic hypotheses, or include in-class construction of basic treatment approaches.

**Course Guidelines**

**Disability modifications**
The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students. If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

**Academic Misconduct**
You are expected to adhere to the university’s Student Conduct Code with regard to academic integrity. Academic misconduct in this course will result in an academic penalty commensurate with the offense as well as possible disciplinary action by the university. You will certainly want to be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism so that you do not inadvertently (or otherwise!) make that violation.

**Incompletes**
Departmental and university policies regarding incompletes do not allow changing “incomplete” grades after one year has passed since the “I” was granted.

**Credit/No Credit**
This course is not available to take as Credit/No Credit.

**Drops**
Instructor permission is required to drop this course once the 15th day of instruction has passed.

**Course Schedule**

**Week 1 (1/24 & 1/26)**

**Tuesday:** Introduction/Syllabus  
**Thursday:** What is disorder/abnormal? What affects rates of Psychopathology? Resilience and Risk.

- **Readings**
  Chapter 1 of text


• **Recommended**


**Week 2 (1/31 & 3/2)**

Etiological Factors in Childhood Psychopathology and the Developmental Psychopathology Perspective

**Tuesday:** Etiological Factors in Childhood Psychopathology and the Developmental Psychopathology Perspective

• **Readings**
  
  Ch 1 of text, continued


**Thursday:** Diagnosis and Classification Issues, DSM-V, Educational (IDEA) Classification

• **Readings**
  
  DSM V – Introduction & Use of the Manual, etc.: pp. 5-25

  Ch 1 of text, continued


• **Please skim over this**


Familiarize yourself with the disability categories that can be used in education. [Here is a reader-friendly link on general IDEA categories](#)

• **Recommended**


**Week 3 (2/7 & 2/9)**

**ADHD**

**Tuesday: ADHD**

• **Readings**

Ch. 2 of text
• **Recommended**


**Thursday:** ADHD, cont.

• **Readings**


**Week 4 (2/14 & 2/16)**

Conduct and Oppositional Problems

**Tuesday:**
• **Readings**
  
  Ch. 3 of text

  DSM-V, pp. 461-475


• **Recommended**


**Thursday:** Text and articles, Continued

**Week 5 (2/21 & 2/23) NOTE that I am at NASP conference this week**

Anxiety;
Tuesday: Reminder: If you have not yet talked to me about your paper topic, please do so by 3/10/17 (next Thursday):

- **Readings**


- **Recommended**


Thursday: **QUIZ #1**

- **Readings**
  read Ch. 10 on PTSD

**Week 6 (2/28 & 3/2)**

Anxiety Disorders & Mood Disorders

**Tuesday:** Anxiety, Cont., Treatment Approaches for Anxiety (or, anxiety basics, cont.), PTSD basics

- **Readings**
  Friedberg, R. D. & McClure, J. M. Text, Ch. 12: Working With Anxious Children and Adolescents


**Thursday:** Mood Disorders

- **Readings**
  Ch. 5

  DSM-V, pp. 155-171


**Week 7 (3/7 & 3/9)**
Mood Disorders, cont.

**Tuesday:**
*Readings*

**Thursday:**
- *Readings*
  
  Ch. 6 of your text (Pediatric Bipolar)


- *Recommended*
  


**Week 8 (3/14 & 3/16)**
Intellectual Disability

**Tuesday**
- *Readings*

  Ch. 13 of text

  DSM-V, pp. 33-41

**Thursday: **QUIZ #2

**Week 9 (3/21 & 3/23)**
SPRING BREAK!
**Week 10 (3/28 & 3/30)**

Substance Use Disorders:

**Tuesday:**

**Readings**

Ch. 4 of text

DSM-V, pp. 483-589, but mainly read 483-497.


**Thursday:** Health Related Disorders

- **Readings**
  
  Ch. 19 of your text (main focus on Elimination Disorders, but read entire chapter)

  DSM-V, pp. 355-360


**Week 11 (4/4 & 4/6)**

Autism Spectrum Disorder

**Tuesday:**

- **Readings**

  DSM-V, pp. 50-59

  Ch. 11 of text


**Thursday:**

- **Readings**
  - Ch. 11, cont.


**Week 12 (4/11 & 4/13)**

**Tuesday:** Eating Disorders

- **Readings**
  - Ch. 17 of text
  - DSM-V 329-354


**Thursday: QUIZ #3**

**Week 13 (4/18 & 4/20)**

**Tuesday:** Child Maltreatment

- **Readings**
  - Ch. 16 (Child Maltreatment)

**Thursday:** Learning Disabilities

- **Readings**
  - Ch. 14 of text


**Week 14 (4/25 & 4/27)**

**Tuesday:** Presentations:

**Thursday:** Presentations:

**Paper Due 5/5 (Friday)**
Week 15 (5/2 & 5/4)

Tue: Presentations:

Thurs. Presentations:

****Please note that this syllabus is a guideline, and it is possible that scheduling and/or reading changes could occur