

**Texas A&M University Central Texas**  
**PSYC 3310-110 (Abnormal Psychology)--Fall 2020**  
**Mondays/Wednesdays (9:30 a.m.—10:45 a.m.) (WH-304/305)**

**INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Brian L. Nowell, M.S., Ph.D. (Positive/Developmental Psychologist)

**Office:** TAMUCT Campus--Warrior Hall—Counseling & Psychology Department—318D

**Email:** Use the Canvas Message ***Inbox* icon (left menu)** within the course to send messages within our online Canvas course classroom (Canvas Messages). To reach me outside of our online course classroom, please use our TAMUCT e-mail system ([blnowell@tamuct.edu](mailto:blnowell@tamuct.edu)). I am currently text disabled (so e-mail instead).

**Virtual Office Hours:** Available by appointment, most days and times through Canvas WebEx (left menu link).

**TAMUCT Campus Office Hours:**

- Mondays & Wednesdays (2:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.) (If needed, early evening time, by appointment only)
- Tuesdays & Thursdays (2:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.) (If needed, early evening time, by appointment only)

**Mode of instruction and course access:** *This course is a face-2-face course, and it uses the TAMUCT Canvas LMS (<https://tamuct.instructure.com/login/ldap>) for assignments, grades, and supplemental course materials. You will use your username and password communicated to you separately to logon to this system.*

**Student-instructor interaction:** I check e-mail correspondence several times each day and usually reply within a short time. If you send a message using ***Inbox*** within our Canvas online course classroom (a Canvas Message) and do not hear back from me soon, then please e-mail me ([blnowell@tamuct.edu](mailto:blnowell@tamuct.edu)). I have family and other important community responsibilities every Saturday and Sunday, and so I am most likely to be unavailable to answer e-mails on those days.

## **Required Course Progress Meeting**

Around mid-semester, please arrange to meet with me in person (meeting times starting week 6 and ending at the end of week 8).

I am available to meet with you in my office (WH 318D) afternoons (my office hours), any day of the week except Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. If necessary, I can also arrange to meet with you at various times of the early evening Monday-Thursday.

Refer to my office hours schedule to know exactly when meetings in my office most often can and cannot be scheduled.

The purpose of the meeting is for us to discuss your progress in this course and for me to learn how I can further help you do well in this course. There are 20 course points associated with this meeting.

## Warrior Shield App (911 Cellular)

**911 Cellular:** This is our new Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University – Central Texas. 911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911 Cellular through their myCT email account.

- **Warrior Shield AP (for iPhone and iPad at Apple App Store):** The Warrior Shield safety application, developed by 911 Cellular, not only connects the user to the proper 9-1-1 center, but also provides the user's location through an internal positioning system or geographic locator. Once the application is opened, the user hits the "911" button and if they take no further action within three seconds the application summons help. The dispatcher can then forward the information including the user's location to first responders. In addition to connecting the user to 911, the app has several other features: iReports Safe Walk Friend Watch Personal Profile <https://apps.apple.com/us/developer/texas-a-m-university-central-texas-police-department/id1465791523>
- Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

## COVID-19 Safety Measures

To promote public safety and protect students, faculty, and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, Texas A&M University-Central Texas has adopted policies and practices to minimize virus transmission. All members of the university community are expected to adhere to these measures to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. Students must observe the following practices while participating in face-to-face courses, course-related activities (office hours, help sessions, transitioning to and between classes, study spaces, academic services, etc.) and co-curricular programs:

- **Self-monitoring**—Students should follow CDC recommendations for self-monitoring. Students who have a fever or exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should participate in class remotely and should not participate in face-to-face instruction. Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and must not attend face-to-face course activities. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities.
- **Face Coverings**—Face coverings must be worn inside of buildings and within 50 feet of building entrances on the A&M-Central Texas Campus. This includes lobbies, restrooms, hallways, elevators, classrooms, laboratories, conference rooms, break rooms, non-private office spaces, and other shared spaces. Face coverings are also required in outdoor spaces where physical distancing is not maintained. The university will evaluate exceptions to this requirement on a case by case basis. Students can request an exception through the Office of Access and Inclusion in Student Affairs.
  - If a student refuses to wear a face covering, the instructor should ask the student to leave and join the class remotely. If the student does not leave the class, the faculty member should report that student to the Office of Student Conduct. Additionally, the faculty member may choose to teach that day's class remotely for all students.
- **Physical Distancing**—Physical distancing must be maintained between students, instructors, and others in the course and course-related activities.
- **Classroom Ingress/Egress**—Students must follow marked pathways for entering and exiting classrooms and other teaching spaces. Leave classrooms promptly after course activities have concluded. Do not

congregate in hallways and maintain 6-foot physical distancing when waiting to enter classrooms and other instructional spaces.

- The university will notify students in the event that the COVID-19 situation necessitates changes to the course schedule or modality.

## COURSE INFORMATION

### **Course Overview and Description:** PSYC 3310-110 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

Study an overview of the history, causes, and treatments of deviant behavior. Learn psychological, social, and physiological factors as they relate to the development of abnormal behavior and its subsequent treatment.

Prerequisite(s): [PSYC 2301](#) and [PSYC 3309](#) or permission of Departmental Chair.

**Course Objective:** This course is designed to broaden class members' understanding of human abnormal psychology through the learning processes of careful reading for understanding, critical thinking information research, and critical thinking asynchronous and class meeting discussions. Examination of human abnormal psychology will be from psychological, psychosocial, behavioral, historical, and cultural perspectives,

**Student Learning Outcomes** By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- **Apply course content to real life, so as to help improve whole-person oriented thinking, problem solving, and decisions**
- **Analyze and critically evaluate ideas, persuasion arguments, and opposing points of view that relate to whole-person psychological disorders therapeutic treatments**
- **Learn more effectively, by asking questions, seeking answers, and critical thinking discussion**
- **Provide factual knowledge about whole-person Abnormal Psychology (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)**
- **Understand and discuss fundamental principles, generalizations, and theories about whole-person Abnormal Psychology**
- **Skillfully and effectively express core principles, effective treatments, and accurate examples of psychological disorders, orally and in writing**

### **Required Textbook** (bought, rented, e-book, binder/loose leaf, soft-cover, hard-cover):

**Textbook Readings:** Kring, A.M., & Johnson, S.L., (2016, 2018). Abnormal Psychology (14th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. ISBN: 978-1-119-39523-2 (E-Book, Rent or Buy) ISBN: 978-1-119-53905-6 (Print, Rent or Buy)

Please purchase or rent our course textbook as soon as possible. **You cannot pass this course without this textbook.** Also, please do not use a previous or later edition of this textbook, because the textbook content changes with each edition. Our course exams are composed from the content in the 14th edition only.

### **Optional Textbook** (bought, rented, soft-cover):

Brown, T.A. & Barlow, D.H. (2016). Casebook in Abnormal Psychology (5th ed.). Canada: Wadsworth/Cengage

For this course writing will be an integral part of my instruction and our interactions. Writing will also be a fundamental way that I measure student mastery of course content. This means that you will have many opportunities to work on improving your writing skills.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Course Learning and Evaluation Requirements:

**8 Information Research/Critical Thinking Discussions** (25 points each; All discussions combined are worth 20% of final course grade) [Total 200 possible points]

**16 Chapter Quizzes** (5 points each; Combined Quizzes are Worth 8% of final course grade) [Total 80 possible points]

**4 Major Exams** (100 points each; Combined Exams are Worth 40% of final course grade) [Total 400 possible points]

**Exam 1. (100 points)**

This multiple choice exam will cover chapters 1 through 4 of the course textbook.

**Exam 2. (100 points)**

This multiple choice exam will cover chapters 5 through 8 of the course textbook.

**Exam 3. (100 points)**

This multiple choice exam will cover chapters 9 through 12 of the course textbook.

**Exam 4. (100 points)**

This multiple choice exam will cover chapters 13 through 16 of the course textbook.

**4 Psychological Disorder Film Clips or Case Study Analysis Papers** (50 points each; All of these analysis papers combined are worth 20% of final course grade) [Total 200 possible points]

**Active Participation (Not Attendance/Presence in Class Meetings Only) in Class Critical Thinking Discussions** (100 point; All active participation in class critical thinking discussions combined are worth 10% of final course grade) [Total 100 possible points]

**Course Progress Meeting** (Worth 2% of final course grade) [Total 20 possible points]

*Total Possible Points for Entire Course: 1000 points*

### Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion

**Individual Quizzes and Exams, Analysis Papers, Critical Thinking Discussion Assignments, and Active Participation in Critical Thinking Class Discussion Grades = Final Course Grade**

A = 90-100% (900-1000 points) (Outstanding Course Scholarship)

B = 80-89.99% (800-899.99 points) (Good Course Scholarship)

C = 70-79.99% (700-799.99 points) (Satisfactory Course Scholarship)

D = 60-69.99% (600-699.99 points) (Marginal Course Scholarship)

F = below 60% (0-599.99 points) (Course Failure)

(In rare/valid instances an Incomplete (I) will be given if the appropriate conditions are met. The missing work must be completed in 30 days or the (I) will automatically become an F).

**Dr. Nowell will accept late assignments. After an assignment deadline has passed, there is a 10% earned-grade reduction per day that an assignment is late. Missed assignments can be submitted after being 5 days late (until midnight of the last day of this course), for 50% of the grade points that would have been earned if the assignment were submitted before its deadline.**

*I do not round grades up to the next grade at the end of the semester. Any requests for “bumping up” grades will not be given a reply.*

### **Posting of Grades:**

*Exam Grades will usually post immediately upon submission on the Canvas Grade Book. You should monitor your grading status frequently through this tool.*

*Discussion Board Grades will post 72 hours after the due date has passed, or before that time when possible.*

*Final Course Grades will be submitted to the registrar usually within 48 hours after the course end date.*

## **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT**

### **Technology Requirements**

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [ <https://tamuct.instructure.com> ].

**Username:** Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

**Password:** Your MyCT password

**We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.**

### **Technology Support.**

**For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.**

- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu)
- Phone: (254) 519-5466
- [Web Chat](http://hdc.tamu.edu): [http://hdc.tamu.edu]

***Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.***

For issues with **Canvas**, select “chat with Canvas support,” submit a support request to Canvas Tier 1, or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953, links to all are found inside of Canvas using the “Help” link.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor (Dr. Nowell).

*Technology issues are not an excuse for missing a course requirement – make sure your computer is configured correctly and address issues well in advance of assignment and evaluation deadlines.*

### **Instructor's Personal Statement**

*It is important for any of us to understand to some degree various perspectives on abnormal psychology. Psychological Disorders are a very complex part of human life that are affected by many facets of our individual lives including our environment, physiology, behaviors, beliefs and thoughts, emotions/motivations/attitudes, relationships, unconscious programming/memory/habits, spirituality, moral standards, and learning preferences/styles.*

*Class Members taking this course will be provided with an engaging, personally relevant, and academically sound introduction to abnormal psychology/psychological disorders. This course will provide students with at least a basic understanding of environmental, physiological, behavioral, belief and thought, emotion/motivation/attitude, relationship, unconscious programming/memory/habit, spirituality, moral standards, and learning preference/style factors that affect psychological disorders and their personal, educational, and therapeutic treatments.*

***Note:** During this course, class members may find their own ideas and beliefs about psychological disorders being challenged, or perhaps reinforced. It is pertinent that every class member remember that what is understandable and acceptable to one person, may be confusing or deplorable to another. Therefore, class members are expected to express their opinions and beliefs in a respectable and mature manner when participating in the in-class critical thinking discussions, and the course online critical thinking discussion forums.*

*As your instructor, I will provide information and feedback in a sensitive, nonsexist, nonjudgmental manner, and I will assume that every individual class member is best qualified to determine what aspects of our course content is most valid and applicable in his or her own life. I expect every class member to be respectful of others, regardless of varying opinions. We can all agree to disagree, to not be disagreeable/uncivil/disrespectful, and to learn to appreciate positive diversity as an opportunity that allows us to gain a better understanding of the realities of the world around us, especially about each other.*

*So please start and continue talking about our course topics, but always be kind and sensitive while presenting your observations, any personal experiences, your researched (SME) information, and your opinions on the discussion board assignments. Remember that when you communicate about real observations and experiences relative to yourself and others, to keep fully confidential (do not communicate) any identifying information about any individual, such that he or she cannot be identified by what you communicate.*

### **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES AND POLICIES**

#### **Drop Policy**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the [Drop Request](#) Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty (Dr. Nowell) cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed. Once you submit the completed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

## **Academic Integrity**

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=0].

## **Academic Accommodations**

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717]

## **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking

accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf) online, please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

## **Tutoring**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors will return at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111 in the Fall 2020. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing [studentsuccess@tamuct.edu](mailto:studentsuccess@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

## **University Writing Center**

The University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free service open to all TAMUCT students. For the Fall 2020 semester, all services will be online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours online Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The UWC is also offering hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via [WConline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

## University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

**For Fall 2020, all reference service will be conducted virtually. Please go to our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index] to access our virtual reference help and our current hours.**

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## OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

### A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

### Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

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## The Course Operation and Being a Disciplined Learner

Effective course learning requires class members to be very self-disciplined; be sure you understand and are prepared to comply with all required class assignments and deadlines. For this course, the Weekly Assignments will be posted on the Course Schedule with corresponding due dates listed within the Course Schedule. All graded weekly assignments are due by Sunday, 11:59 p.m. of the associated week, except for Week 16 which ends for our course on Thursday of that week.

If a class member experiences a technical problem that prevents submitting an assignment by the due date, the student should contact the instructor (Dr. Nowell) immediately. All assignments in this course are due by the listed due dates (Tuesdays and Thursdays before class time) found on the Course Schedule and at our course Canvas pages for each specific assignment. All weekly graded quizzes are due by Sunday, 11:59 p.m. of the associated week, except for Week 16 which ends for our course on Thursday of that week.

It is the class member's responsibility to read any announcements posted by the instructor (Dr. Nowell) under the Announcements section of our Canvas homepage or in e-mail. Students are expected to follow all instructions provided by the instructor (Dr. Nowell) for each specific assignment, precisely.

## Class Discussion Participation and Class Attendance

Regular classroom attendance, active small-group and class discussion participation (asking questions and providing answers), in-class-writing and reading assignment quizzes, and peer-writing-feedback are required. A class member may receive a significant grade reduction in the course when his/her lack of attendance/active discussion participation prohibits him/her from meeting the course objectives, or when a class member accumulates excessive absences that prevent his or her active discussion participation, as well as completing and submitting assignments by the listed due dates. For every 100 points that a student misses in this course, the student's final grade will drop one letter. In addition to active classroom activity and discussion, **class members should not go more than 2-3 days without logging on to our course at Canvas to check for new announcements, reminders, and/or assignments.**

**The following schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion, to facilitate class members' learning needs/pace. You will be notified of any major grade affecting changes prior to the changes.**

### COURSE SCHEDULE

DATES	ASSIGNED READINGS	GRADED ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1 24 August-30 August	Textbook Chapters 1 and 2 Critical Thinking Discussion Postings	1. Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 Quizzes 30 August  3. Complete Chapters 1-2 Discussions

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 2</b> <b>31 August-6 September</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 3-4</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chapter 3 Quiz Due 2 September—Before Class</li> <li>2. Begin Chapters 3-4 Discussions Due by 6 September—11:59 p.m.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 3</b> <b>7-13 September</b> <b>7 September-Labor Day</b> <b>Campus Closed</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 3-4</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chapter 4 Quiz Due 9 September—Before Class</li> <li>2. Complete Chapters 3-4 Discussions Due by 13 September—11:59 p.m.</li> <li>3. Complete <b>Exam 1</b> Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 Due by 13 September—11:59 p.m.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 4</b> <b>14-20 September</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 5-6</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chapter 5 Quiz Due 16 September—Before Class</li> <li>2. Begin Chapters 5-6 Discussions Due by 20 September—11:59 p.m.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 5</b> <b>21-27 September</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 5-6</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chapter 6 Quiz Due 23 September—Before Class</li> <li>2. Complete Chapter 5-6 Discussions Due by 27 September—11:59 p.m.</li> <li>3. <b>F-Clips or Case Studies Analysis Paper #1</b> Due by 27 September—11:59 p.m.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 6</b> <b>28 September-4 October</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 7-8</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chapter 7 Quiz Due 30 September—Before Class</li> <li>2. Begin Chapters 7-8 Discussions Due 4 October—11:59 p.m.</li> </ol>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 7</b> <b>5-11 October</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 7-8</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chapter 8 Quiz Due 7 October—Before Class</li> <li>2. Complete Chapter 7-8 Discussions Due 11 October—11:59 p.m.</li> <li>3. <b>F-Clips or Case Studies Analysis Paper #2</b> Due 11 October—11:59 p.m.</li> <li>4. Complete <b>Exam 2</b> Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8 Due 11 October—11:59 p.m.</li> </ol>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 8</b> <b>12-18 October</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 9-10</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<p>1. <b>Chapter 9 Quiz</b> Due 14 October—Before Class</p> <p>2. <b>Begin Chapters 9-10 Discussions</b> Due 18 October—11:59 p.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 9</b> <b>19-25 October</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 9-10</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<p>1. <b>Chapter 10 Quiz</b> Due 21 October—Before Class</p> <p>2. <b>Complete Chapter 9-10 Discussions</b> Due 25 October—11:59 p.m.</p> <p>2. <b>F-Clips or Case Studies Analysis Paper #3</b> Due 25 October—11:59 p.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 10</b> <b>26 October-1 November</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 11-12</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<p>1. <b>Chapter 11 Quiz</b> Due 28 October—Before Class</p> <p>2. <b>Begin Chapters 11-12 Discussions</b> Due 1 November—11:59 p.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 11</b> <b>2-8 November</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 11-12</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<p>1. <b>Chapter 12 Quiz</b> Due 4 November—Before Class</p> <p>2. <b>Complete Chapter 11-12 Discussions</b> Due 8 November—11:59 p.m.</p> <p>3. <b>Complete Exam 3 Chapters 9, 10, 11, 12</b> Due 8 November—11:59 p.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 12</b> <b>9-15 November</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 13-14</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<p>1. <b>Chapter 13 Quiz</b> Due 11 November—Before Class</p> <p>2. <b>Begin Chapters 13-14 Discussions</b> Due 15 November—11:59 p.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 13</b> <b>16-22 November</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 13-14</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<p>1. <b>Chapter 14 Quiz</b> Due 18 November—Before Class</p> <p>2. <b>Complete Chapter 13-14 Discussions</b> Due 22 November—11:59 p.m.</p> <p>3. <b>F-Clips or Case Studies Analysis Paper #4</b> Due 22 November—11:59 p.m.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 14</b> <b>23-29 November</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textbook Chapters 15-16</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b></p>	<p>1. <b>Chapter 15 Quiz</b> Due 25 November—Before Class</p> <p>2. <b>Begin Chapters 15-16 Discussions</b> Due 29 November—11:59 p.m.</p>

<b>THANKSGIVING</b> <b>26-27 November</b> <b>Campus Closed</b>		
<b>Week 15</b> <b>30 November-6 December</b>	<b>Textbook Chapters 15-16</b> <b>Critical Thinking Discussion</b> <b>Postings</b>	<b>1. Chapter 16 Quiz</b> <b>Due 2 December—Before Class</b> <b>2. Complete Chapter 15-16 Discussions</b> <b>Due 6 December—11:59 p.m.</b>
<b>Week 16</b> <b>7-11 December</b> <b>(Course Ends</b> <b>Friday)</b>		<b>1. Complete Exam 4 Chaps. 13, 14, 15, 16</b> <b>Due By 11 December (Friday)</b>

Dr. Nowell will accept late assignments. After an assignment deadline has passed, there is a 10% earned-grade reduction per day that an assignment is late. Missed assignments can be submitted after being 5 days late (until midnight of the last day of this course), for 50% of the grade points that would have been earned if the assignment were submitted before its deadline.

### **Important Fall Semester 2020 Dates & Deadlines**

**August 24, First day of classes**

**August 26, Deadline for Add, Drop, and Late Registration for 16- and First 8-Week Classes**

**September 7, Labor Day, CAMPUS CLOSED**

**September 9, Last day to drop 16-week classes with no record**

**October 2, Last day to drop a 1st 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W**

**October 7, Last day to register to vote this year**

**October 16, Last day to withdraw from the University (1st 8-week classes WF)**

**October 16, End of 1st 8-week classes**

**October 19, First day of 2nd 8-week classes**

**October 19, Add/Drop/Late Registration begins, 2nd 8-week classes**

**October 21, Add/Drop/Late Registration ends, 2nd 8-week classes**

**October 26, Last day to drop 2nd 8-week classes with no record**

**November 6, Last day to drop with a Q or withdraw with a W (16-week classes)**

**November 26-27, Thanksgiving, CAMPUS CLOSED**

**November 27, Last day to drop a 2nd 8-week class with a Q or withdraw with a W**

**December 11, Last day to withdraw from the University (16-week and 2nd 8-week classes)**

**December 11, Last day to file for Degree Conferral (Registrar's Office)**

**December 7-11 Finals Week**

**December 11, Commencement (End of Fall Term)**

**December 24-January 1, WINTER BREAK, CAMPUS CLOSED**

# Critical Thinking Discussion Forum Instructions

To potentially earn full points for these graded critical thinking discussion assignments, class members must submit **(1)** at least a 450 word original critical thinking discussion posting that answers one of the critical thinking topics (menus of topics are provided at the assignments) **from each** of the assigned 2 chapters—first in the ungraded, **(2)** should include specific supporting Psychological Subject Matter Expert (SME) information, and **(3)** must submit two substantive replies (minimum 100 words) to other class members (1 each to 2 different class members). The two replies to other class members' original postings should be lengthy enough to show ample time in considering the other class members' work. Your substantive replies can be posted at any time during the first or second week (posting your replies sooner rather than later is the better teamwork and learning practice).

All questions/parts of your chosen posted original critical thinking 2 topics (1 from each assigned chapter) should be addressed in your writing.

Class members are to utilize TAMUCT Library and other online resources to include peer reviewed reference support in weekly chapter focused critical thinking discussions. Class members must include a reference to one peer-reviewed journal article use for their original discussion posting in order to have potential to earn full points on their weekly original critical thinking 2 topics posting.

As appropriate for your chosen topics, your original critical thinking discussion posting should also contain ample textbook information to fully support any of your assertions. Web information support from scholarly web sites is also encouraged. APA formatting should be used in the **required** in-text citations and in the reference list. The content should demonstrate full and thorough mastery of your chosen topics and have less than three writing/spelling/typo/grammar or APA formatting errors.

**For any information and/or ideas (quoted, paraphrased, discussed) that are not your personal ideas, your personal observations of (other people, situations, things), and/or your personal experiences, you are required to include proper APA citations in your writing and proper APA full references at the end of your writing. This also applies to including in-text citations and full references for the textbook information that you include in your writing. To do otherwise is plagiarism.**

**When appropriate you can include your personal observations and opinions, supported by data, in your original posting and responses to class members' original 2 topic postings. Remember to fully respect follow ethical confidentiality guidelines when including experiences and observations that involve other people.**

Please **include the complete text of your selected critical thinking topic at the top of your 2 topic posting, and please include a word count at the bottom** of the discussion (do not include the wording of the 2 critical thinking topics which you have selected or the reference list in that word count.) Random checks of word counts will be made, especially if the instructor is uncertain of the word count. The student will receive a zero if the word count is incorrect. Most word processing programs have a tool that automatically tallies the word count.

## **Finding Quality SME Sources of Information for a Topic or Person**

There are several good avenues to find high quality Psychological and other SME information.

Talk with a Reference Librarian at our TAMUCT library (in person if possible or virtually). Reference Librarians are specially trained and have good professional experience in finding all sorts of SME and other information

Use Wikipedia to learn more about your chosen topic or person and to see the many excellent SME primary sources of information at the end of the article about your topic or person. Try several well-thought search terms to find information about your chosen topic or person, because there are most likely various articles in Wikipedia about the topic or person.

A primary source of information is the original source, not information from someone who has read the original source. As best as possible, find and use primary sources of SME information to support your thinking and writing about your chosen topic or person.

Textbooks, Magazines, Newspapers, Wikipedia, Dictionaries, Encyclopedias, Most Internet Articles, etc. are not primary sources, but can have quality references that are primary sources. They can also have useful information to help you understand and write better about your topic or person. So, do read these secondary sources to learn about your topic or person and to find the referenced quality primary sources of SME information.

If your chosen topic or person is mentioned in our textbook, there will also most likely be associated SME primary references at the end of the textbook.

## How to find Peer Reviewed Articles

For class members that are seeking an "A" each week on the discussion board assignment, *it is a requirement* to include at least one peer-reviewed professional journal article as reference support for their original posting about the posted topic each week, as well as ample textbook reference material. Be sure to use the most pertinent information from the peer reviewed article, if you choose to do this. If you choose to include peer-reviewed material, you can use the following guideline to retrieve peer-reviewed articles from the online library at TAMU-CT.

1. **University Library Online:** Click or use this URL in your browser <http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>
2. Click: A-Z Databases (left side of page, "Contact" box/widget)
3. Choose your database. For example, scroll way down to "P" and choose Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection
4. The next step may ask you to login using normal log in credentials, if you are off campus.
5. Type in search topic in top box just under the name of the data base. For example for Module 1, you may type in: Premarital Sex
6. It is VERY IMPORTANT that before you hit search that you check the box that says: **Peer Reviewed** AND the box that says: **Full Text** under the section called Limit Results
7. Click Search. This should bring up various peer-reviewed articles for your review.
8. If you don't find any relevant articles, try a different search word.
9. Please keep a copy of the article on your desktop or at least know how to retrieve it again should I ask you to provide the article to me through e-mail when I begin grading.
10. Cite the article in your reference list as you compose your discussion using APA formatting. If you don't already know APA formatting, view the information found to the left in this link about **in-text citations** (within

the body of your discussion) and **Reference List: Articles in Periodicals:**  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

# Film Clips or Case Studies Analysis Instructions

For each of these assignments you are to:

1. Select a minimum of 2-3 psychological disorder film clips for your selected psychological disorder (In Canvas: Select “Assignments Link”, Select the appropriate week’s Film Clips or Case Study Analysis link, go to the appropriate website (URL provided) and then select, watch, and think carefully about at least 2-3 related film clips).

**or**

Select 2 psychological disorder case studies for the same psychological disorder (In Canvas: Select the appropriate week’s Film Clips or Case Study Analysis link, go to one of the two appropriate websites (URL provided) and then select, read, and think carefully about your 2 psychological disorder case studies.

Be correctly guided in your viewing or reading, your information research, your thinking about, and your analytic writing by the following Handouts (Canvas: “Files” link, Handouts folder)

- a. NEO Sub-Scales
  - b. Whole-Person Diagram
  - c. Seven Whole-Person Attributes
  - d. The Five Bullet Points
  - e. Psychological Paradigms
2. In your writing, be carefully guided by the Rubric in this syllabus which follows these instructions
  3. In your own or a TAMUCT word processing program, write your thorough analysis of your chosen film clips or case studies
  4. Save your document on your computer or a flash drive/memory stick an appropriate format (.doc, .docx, .txt, .rtf)
  5. Post your assignment in its appropriate course drop-box before its deadline

## **Rubric for your Critical Thinking Original Discussion Posting Assignments and for your Psychological Disorder Film Clips or Case Studies Analysis Papers**

The following criteria will be considered in evaluating your **Critical Thinking Original Posting Assignments and Psychological Disorder Film Clips or Case Studies Analysis Papers.**

1. Accuracy: Are your statements, facts, or ideas correct?
2. Clarity: Is your writing clear and easy to follow? It helps to read your written assignment out loud to yourself.

Using this method, you can catch incomplete sentences, grammar errors, typos, and/or lapses in your thought.

3. Depth: Are **each** of the issues and implications of your topic thought out and explored in your writing?

4. Originality: What is your thesis (the main point or points of your writing)? Are your own views present and well articulated? Use your own words. Do not copy material directly from any readings or other sources without giving the author(s) proper credit by citation in the paragraph and full reference at the end of the paper. If you want to use any author's/persons exact words, put them in quotations and cite the page number or paragraph number from your source material. Remember that you need to express your own opinion(s). **Quoted material must not exceed 10% of the written assignment.**

5. Supporting Evidence: Support your ideas/opinions/observations with empirical evidence if at all possible. This is a crucial part of any well written APA writing assignment. You may support your ideas with theories, previously conducted research, or other information that you encounter from books, and other sources (journal articles, online psychological SME articles, interviews with someone you know or meet, etc.). You may also use your personal experiences and observations as supporting evidence when appropriate.

6. References: Did you use appropriate Psychological Subject Matter Expert (SME) references to support the main points of your writing? You may look in the course readings or a textbook and find references listed in the bibliography that might support your writing, then find and read those referenced journal or book articles. **Be sure that you have these referenced articles if you use them.** That means that you have the articles on hand and that you read them if you use them. Make sure that your references strongly relate to the point that you are making, or support your inferences.

7. Form, composition, spelling, etc: Try to make your writing neat and error free. It helps to run your spell checker and grammar checker before submitting your work and/or have a grammar/spelling competent peer or friend read over your work before submitting it.

8. When you paraphrase, use proper paraphrasing (*see the handout on Proper Paraphrasing that I have provided*). Please be sure that any paraphrased material that you include in your writing is also cited and referenced correctly.

9. APA Style (7<sup>th</sup> edition): Follow the formatting rules of the American Psychological Association for your writing, citations, and full references. Use your APA publication manual. You may also want to visit the APA or any other appropriate website for additional formatting information.

10. I have also posted three additional potentially useful handouts in our course Handouts folder. (Whole Person Diagram, Seven Whole-Person Attributes, 5 Bullet Points) These are optional but very good to use for thinking about and guidance for your writing.

**This document is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. Students will be notified of any grade affecting, critical changes prior to implementation of the changes.**