Part 1: Course Information

Instructor Information

Instructor: Gary Leka, Ph.D.
Office: SBS 367
Office Hours: TR – 09:30-10:30, 3:30-4:40, or by appointment
Office Telephone: (956) 665-2162
E-mail: gary.leka@utrgv.edu (preferred contact)

Course Description

This course is designed to instruct graduate students admitted to the UTRGV Masters’ in Clinical Psychology program in the basic diagnostic systems, research and explanations of psychopathology. Causes, course, outcomes and treatment of abnormal and maladaptive behavior will be discussed. Students will gain an understanding of the major features of psychological disorders as defined by the DSM-5 and/or ICD-10, and difficulties with these diagnostic system. Students will be expected to develop skills reflecting proficiency in assessment and diagnosis of psychological disorders for those practicing at a Masters’ Degree level.

Prerequisite

- Admission into the Graduate Clinical Psychology program or permission from the instructor.

Textbook & Course Materials

Required Text

• The ICD-10 Classification of Mental and Behavioural Disorders. World Health Organization. Download for free at: http://www.who.int/classifications/icd/en/bluebook.pdf

• Other readings – articles, websites, videos – as indicated for assigned topics in class.

Other Materials

• Two general purpose NCS answer sheet (green, No. 882-E). [Required]

Part 2: Course Requirements

1. Attendance is required. You and your peers will benefit from regular attendance and cooperation. According to APA policy, your behavior as graduate psychology students studying towards work in the field requires ethical behavior as set forth in the APA standards. This includes your classroom behavior.

2. Keep up with assigned readings. Classroom discussion will depend on it. Your learning will be enriched by it. You are expected to read articles prior to class and be prepared to discuss the material in class. I will randomly call on students to speak to the readings in each class session, to summarize the reading and engage in dialogue about it. Your activity in this regard will in part meet your requirement for class participation (see grading below).

3. You will be present for class examinations. Your performance on the examinations will constitute a large portion of your final grade.

4. You will write a term paper on a specific psychological disorder assigned by the instructor, or on topic of professional interest to you that is relevant to the course material and one that is not covered in depth in the class (as reflected in the class topics below). I want everyone to have a different topic that is clearly identified with the psychopathology literature. I have posted deadlines below for you to present a topic to me and to provide an outline (with preliminary references). The paper must follow APA guidelines -- if not, they will NOT be graded. All papers are to be submitted through the course Bb webpage in MS Word, RTF, or PDF format.

6. You will present a 15 minute powerpoint presentation to the class on your term paper topic. You should anticipate an additional 5 minutes of questions and discussion. Presentations will occur later in the semester and dates of assigned presentations will be provided by the instructor to each individual student.

7. You will prepare a written case study based upon a hypothetical client/patient supplied by the instructor. The case study will follow a template/format supplied by the instructor and should include the following: presenting complaints; psychosocial history; behavioral observations; diagnostic impressions including at least one differential diagnosis (indicated
by a Rule Out); a diagnostic summary justifying your diagnostic decision-making; and recommendations for interventions.

**Course Structure**

This course will primarily focus on lecture for the first half of the class, followed by class discussion over the assigned readings, and eventual presentations of research topics. Powerpoints used in class will be made available online, as well as links to various documents, articles, videos, and/or websites. You will use your UTRGV account to login to the course from the Blackboard login page (https://my.utrgv.edu/web/myutrgv/home). You will use this platform to submit your written assignments.

**Technical Assistance**

If you need technical assistance at any time during the course or to report a problem with Blackboard you can click on the UTRGV Resources tab on the Bb home page or contact the IT department directly.

**Important Note:** This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student’s responsibility to check Blackboard for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in course announcement or through Blackboard email.

**Part 3: Topic Outline/Schedule**

**Important Note:** Refer to the course calendar for specific meeting dates and times. Activity and assignment details will be explained in detail within each week's corresponding learning module. If you have any questions, please contact your instructor.

**Section I: Introduction & Physical Aspects of Aging**

- Prior to first class, please introduce yourself to the class in the Discussion Post provided on Blackboard.

- **Week 01: Intro/Research/History**
  - Thur. Aug. 29th Course meets in LABN 106, Intro to the course, familiarization with each student. Intro to psychopathology, research methods, & a brief review of the historical and contemporary view of psychopathology (Be sure to view the syllabus in detail prior to the course start date). Begin reading Chp. 1 and 2 in the text).
• **Week 02: Etiological Theories**
  - Sept. 5th Lecture on Etiology (begin reading Chp 3 from the text)

• **Week 03: Assessment & Diagnosis**
  - Sept. 12th Lecture on assessment/diagnosis/differential diagnosis. (Read Chp. 4, pp. 107-133).

• **Week 04: Anxiety: Phobias, Panic & GAD**
  - Sept. 19th Lecture on diagnostic criteria and suspected etiology for anxiety disorders. (Read Chp. 6, pp. 174-203).

• **Week 05: OCD and PTSD**
  - Sept. 26th Lecture on OCD and various disorder/PTSD (read Chp. 6, 203-212, Chp. 5, pp. 156-168). Topic for term paper needs to be submitted or will be assigned.

• **Week 06: Depressive Disorders**
  - Oct. 3rd Exam 1 at beginning of class (covering all prior material; 1 hr., 15 min. to complete).
  - Lecture on the various mood disorders/suicide (Read Chp. 7, pp. 220-264).

• **Week 07: Eating Disorders**
  - Oct. 10th Lecture on various eating disorders/etiology (Read
Chp. 9, pp. 303-328).


- **Week 08: Schizophrenia**

- **Week 09: Dissociative Disorders**
  - Oct. 24th Lecture on DID and related disorders (Read Chp. 8, pp. 283-300.)

- **Week 10: Personality Disorders**
  - Oct. 31st Lecture on DSM personality disorder clusters (read Chp. 10, pp. 342-370).

- **Week 11: Neurodevelopmental Disorders**
  - Nov. 7th Lecture Childhood Psychopathology – AD/HD/ASD (read Chp. 15, pp. 534-552).
  - Exam 2 – covers all material following the first exam.

- **Week 12: Neurodevelopmental Disorders cont**
  - Nov. 14th Lecture continued - ASD
  - Presentations of term papers.
• **Week 13: Presentations**
  o Nov. 21st Finish Student presentations; as time allows, lecture/discussion on Ethical issues in the field

• **Week 14: No Class/Thanksgiving Holiday**
  o Nov. 28th No class meeting.

• **Week 15: Presentations**
  o Dec. 5th: No class – Study Days – Take home exam available
  o Case study submitted through Bb by 4:00 pm.

• **Week 16: Final Exam**
  o Final Exam – Submit your take-home essay exams through Bb by Tues., Dec. 10th by 2:00 pm.

**Part 4: Grading Policy**

**Graded Course Activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>In-class participation (9 x 5 points = 45 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Term paper (100 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Presentation (20 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>Case study paper (75 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Exam 1 (40 question X 2 = 80 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80</td>
<td>Exam 2 (40 questions X 2 = 80 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>Final take-home essay exam (100 points)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>Total Points Possible (500 points)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Late Work Policy**

Be sure to pay close attention to deadlines—there will be no make up assignments or exams, or late work accepted without a valid, documented medical excuse or official school activity and instructor approval.

**Viewing Grades in Blackboard**

Points you receive for graded activities will be posted to the Blackboard Grade Book. Click on the My Grades link on the left navigation to view your points.

Your instructor will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete—typically 4-5 days following the completion of an activity. You will see a visual indication of new grades posted on your Blackboard home page under the link to this course.
Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based upon the total points earned and are assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>450-500</td>
<td>Excellent Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>400-449</td>
<td>Mostly Good Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>350-399</td>
<td>Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>300-349</td>
<td>Below Average Work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-299</td>
<td>Failing Work</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part 5: Course Policies

Participation

Students are expected to participate in all activities as listed on the course calendar. Participation will be evaluated based upon the instructor’s monitoring of the timely completion of tasks, depth and effort placed in completion of assignments, and engagement with peers and the instructor in discourse.

Build Rapport

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

Complete Assignments/Tests

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Blackboard (except for in-class exams) unless otherwise instructed. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline or special permission must be requested from instructor before the due date. Extensions will not be given beyond the next assignment except under extreme circumstances.

A superior submitted assignment will demonstrate breadth and depth of knowledge, and critical thinking appropriate for graduate level scholarship. If students miss an exam regardless of the reason, you will have to take it at the time the final exam is offered as an entirely
essay format test.

**Understand When You May Drop This Course**

It is the student’s responsibility to understand when they need to consider disenrolling from a course. Refer to the UTRGV Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons includes: (1) documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or (2) documented and severe physical/mental illness/injury to the student or student’s family.

**Inform Your Instructor of Any Accommodations Needed**

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**
Students with a documented disability (physical, psychological, learning, or other disability which affects academic performance) who would like to receive academic accommodations should contact **Student Accessibility Services (SAS)** as soon as possible to schedule an appointment to initiate services. Accommodations can be arranged through SAS at any time, but are not retroactive. Students who experience a broken bone, severe injury, or undergo surgery during the semester are eligible for temporary services.

**Pregnancy, Pregnancy-related, and Parenting Accommodations**
Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination, which includes discrimination based on pregnancy, marital status, or parental status. Students seeking accommodations related to pregnancy, pregnancy-related condition, or parenting (reasonably immediate postpartum period) are encouraged to contact **Student Accessibility Services** for additional information and to request accommodations.

**Student Accessibility Services:**
**Brownsville Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 1.107 in the Music and Learning Center building (BMSLC) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 882-7374 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**Edinburg Campus:** Student Accessibility Services is located in 108 University Center (EUCTR) and can be contacted by phone at (956) 665-7005 or via email at ability@utrgv.edu.

**MANDATORY COURSE EVALUATION PERIOD:**
Students are required to complete an ONLINE evaluation of this course, accessed through your UTRGV account (http://my.utrgv.edu);
you will be contacted through email with further instructions. Students who complete their evaluations will have priority access to their grades. Online evaluations will be available on or about:

Module 1          October 2nd – 8th  
Module 2          November 27th – December 3rd  
Full Fall Semester  November 14th – December 4th

**ATTENDANCE:**
Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and may be dropped from the course for excessive absences. UTRGV’s attendance policy excuses students from attending class if they are participating in officially sponsored university activities, such as athletics; for observance of religious holy days; or for military service. Students should contact the instructor in advance of the excused absence and arrange to make up missed work or examinations.

**SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY:**
As members of a community dedicated to Honesty, Integrity and Respect, students are reminded that those who engage in scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and expulsion from the University. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to: cheating, plagiarism (including self-plagiarism), and collusion; submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person; taking an examination for another person; any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student; or the attempt to commit such acts. Since scholastic dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced (Board of Regents Rules and Regulations and UTRGV Academic Integrity Guidelines). All scholastic dishonesty incidents will be reported to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

**SEXUAL MISCONDUCT and MANDATORY REPORTING:**
In accordance with UT System regulations, your instructor is a “Responsible Employee” for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and so must report to the Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity (oie@utrgv.edu) any instance, occurring during a student’s time in college, of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault, stalking, dating violence, domestic violence, and sexual harassment, about which she/he becomes aware during this course through writing, discussion, or personal disclosure. More information can be found at www.utrgv.edu/equity, including confidential resources available on campus. The faculty and staff of UTRGV actively strive to provide a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect that is free from sexual misconduct, discrimination, and all forms of violence. If students,
faculty, or staff would like confidential assistance, or have questions, they can contact OVAVP (Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention) at 665-8287, 882-8282, or OVAVP@utrgv.edu.

**COURSE DROPS:**
According to UTRGV policy, students may drop any class without penalty earning a grade of DR until the official drop date. Following that date, students must be assigned a letter grade and can no longer drop the class. Students considering dropping the class should be aware of the “3-peat rule” and the “6-drop” rule so they can recognize how dropped classes may affect their academic success. The 6-drop rule refers to Texas law that dictates that undergraduate students may not drop more than six courses during their undergraduate career. Courses dropped at other Texas public higher education institutions will count toward the six-course drop limit. The 3-peat rule refers to additional fees charged to students who take the same class for the third time.

**STUDENT SERVICES:**
Students who demonstrate financial need have a variety of options when it comes to paying for college costs, such as scholarships, grants, loans and work-study. Students should visit the Students Services Center (U Central) for additional information. U Central is located in BMAIN 1.100 (Brownsville) or ESSBL 1.145 (Edinburg) or can be reached by email (ucentral@utrgv.edu) or telephone: (888) 882-4026. In addition to financial aid, U Central can assist students with registration and admissions.

Students seeking academic help in their studies can use university resources in addition to an instructor’s office hours. University Resources include the Advising Center, Career Center, Counseling Center, Learning Center, and Writing Center. The centers provide services such as tutoring, writing help, critical thinking, study skills, degree planning, and student employment. Locations are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Center Name</th>
<th>Brownsville Campus</th>
<th>Edinburg Campus</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advising Center</strong></td>
<td>BMAIN 1.400 (956) 665-7120</td>
<td>ESWKH 101 (956) 665-7120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu">AcademicAdvising@utrgv.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Career Center</strong></td>
<td>BCRTZ 129 (956) 882-5627</td>
<td>ESSBL 2.101 (956) 665-2243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:CareerCenter@utrgv.edu">CareerCenter@utrgv.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Counseling Center</strong></td>
<td>EUCTR 109 (956) 665-2574</td>
<td>BSTUN 2.10 (956) 882-3897</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Counseling@utrgv.edu">Counseling@utrgv.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Learning Center</strong></td>
<td>BMSLC 2.118 (956) 882-8208</td>
<td>ELCTR 100 (956) 665-2585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:LearningCenter@utrgv.edu">LearningCenter@utrgv.edu</a></td>
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</table>
SUGGESTED READINGS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:


**Important Note:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.

**Course policies are subject to change.** It is the student’s responsibility to check Blackboard for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be posted in Blackboard.