

PSY 424

Psychopathology

Summer 2026

Online Asynchronous Accelerated | 3 Credits

Course Number	PSY 424-90-9
Course Title	Psychopathology
School	School of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Department	Psychology
Term	Summer 2026
Credits	3
Delivery Format	Online asynchronous accelerated
Canvas	https://chaminade.instructure.com

Instructor Information

Instructor	Abby Halston, Ed.D., NCC, LMFT
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Office Location	Behavioral Sciences 111A
Office Hours	By appointment; email to schedule
Communication	Email is the primary form of communication. Responses are generally provided within 24-48 hours on weekdays.

Course Description and Materials

Catalog Course Description

This course examines psychological disorders with emphasis on current diagnostic categories and criteria. Biological, psychological, social, cultural, and environmental influences on psychopathology are considered, along with symptom presentation, assessment, differential diagnosis, intervention, ethics, and evidence-based treatment.

Course Overview

Students will develop foundational knowledge of psychopathology while applying diagnostic reasoning to case material. Course activities emphasize respectful, culturally responsive, and ethically informed consideration of mental health conditions. Students will review current research, analyze clinical cases, and complete a capstone paper that integrates diagnosis, treatment planning, and legal, ethical, and cross-cultural considerations.

Required Materials

- Comer, R. J. (2024). *Psychopathology: Science and Practice* (12th ed.). Macmillan Learning.
- Pomeroy, E. (2015). *The Clinical Assessment Workbook: Balancing Strengths and Differential Diagnosis* (2nd ed.). Cengage Learning.
- American Psychiatric Association. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (5th ed., text revision or current course-approved edition).
- Assigned readings, presentations, videos, and supplemental materials posted in Canvas.

Technology Requirements

- Reliable internet access and a computer capable of using Canvas.
- Ability to stream video, play audio, and open PDF documents.
- Speakers or headphones for assigned media.

For technical assistance, contact the Chaminade IT Help Desk at helpdesk@chaminade.edu or 808-735-4855.

Credit Hour Requirement

This three-credit course requires a minimum of 135 hours of student engagement. In this accelerated online course, engagement includes assigned readings, recorded lectures and videos, case analyses, literature reviews, Canvas learning activities, capstone research and writing, and preparation for the cumulative final examination.

Learning Outcomes

Psychology Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)

1. Identify key concepts, principles, and overarching themes in psychology.
2. Demonstrate adaptation and change through the critical interpretation, design, and evaluation of psychological research.
3. Demonstrate effective written and oral communication within the field of psychology.
4. Explain the dynamic interaction among mind, body, and social influences as part of educating the whole person.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of PSY 424, students will be able to:

5. Explain historical, cultural, biological, psychological, social, and societal perspectives on psychopathology. (PLOs 1 and 4)

6. Apply current diagnostic criteria and differential-diagnosis principles to interpret clinical case information. (PLOs 1 and 2)
7. Evaluate symptoms, evidence-based treatments, and current research related to major categories of psychological disorders. (PLOs 1, 2, and 3)
8. Analyze ethical, legal, cultural, and social-justice considerations in the assessment and treatment of psychological disorders. (PLOs 3 and 4)

Mission and Values

Marianist Values

9. Education for formation in faith.
10. Provide an integral, quality education.
11. Educate in family spirit.
12. Educate for service, justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.
13. Educate for adaptation and change.

This course supports an integral, quality education and education for service, justice, and peace by preparing students to understand psychological disorders with compassion, scientific rigor, cultural humility, and attention to stigma and access to mental health care.

Native Hawaiian Values

- 1. Formation in Faith (Mana):** E ola au i ke akua - May I live by God.
- 2. Integral, Quality Education (Na'auao):** Lawe i ka ma'alea a kū'ono'ono - Acquire skill and make it deep.
- 3. Family Spirit ('Ohana):** Recognize others, be recognized, help others, be helped; such is a family relationship.
- 4. Service, Justice, and Peace (Aloha):** Education is the standing torch of wisdom.
- 5. Adaptation and Change ('Āina):** All knowledge is not taught in the same school.

Assessment and Grading

Assessment Summary

Assessment	Quantity / Value	Points
Milestone One: Welcome - Let's Get Acquainted	1 × 5 points	5
Best Practice Literature Reviews	8 × 10 points	80
Clinical Case Studies	8 × 5 points	40
Capstone Paper	1 × 50 points	50
Cumulative Final Examination	100 questions × 2 points	200
Total Possible Points		375

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

Assignment Descriptions

Milestone One: Welcome - Let's Get Acquainted (5 points)

Students will complete the introductory milestone during Module 1 to establish course participation and become familiar with course expectations.

Best Practice Literature Reviews (80 points)

During Modules 2-9, students will complete eight literature reviews, each worth 10 points. Each review requires a recent peer-reviewed article or other instructor-approved scholarly source related to the diagnostic categories addressed in the module. Students must summarize the evidence, identify implications for assessment or treatment, and cite all sources using APA style.

Clinical Case Studies (40 points)

During Modules 2-9, students will complete eight clinical case-study assignments, each worth 5 points. Case analyses emphasize symptom identification, diagnostic reasoning, differential diagnosis, strengths, contextual factors, and evidence-based recommendations.

Capstone Paper (50 points)

Students will select a character from a film, book, or television series and develop a diagnostic and treatment conceptualization. The paper must identify a diagnosis using current diagnostic criteria, support the diagnosis with evidence, identify an evidence-based treatment approach, address legal, ethical, and cross-cultural considerations, develop at least two treatment goals, and describe a 10-week course of treatment. The paper must be at least five full pages, excluding the title and reference pages, and use APA style with a minimum of five credible sources.

Cumulative Final Examination (200 points)

The final examination includes 100 multiple-choice questions worth 2 points each. It is cumulative and assesses major concepts, diagnostic categories, case application, and treatment principles covered across the course. Students must begin the exam early enough to finish before Canvas closes it at the published deadline.

Course Policies

Participation and Attendance

Regular online participation is required. Participation is demonstrated through timely access to course materials, completion of assignments, and engagement with Canvas. Students should log in several times each week and communicate promptly when circumstances interfere with course progress.

Late Work

Assignments should be submitted by the dates listed in Canvas. Late work may be subject to a point deduction unless an extension has been approved in advance. No work will be accepted after the final course deadline.

Changes to the Syllabus

The instructor may revise course requirements or the schedule when necessary. Changes will be communicated through Canvas or Chaminade email.

Grades of Incomplete

An Incomplete may be considered only when extraordinary circumstances beyond the student's control prevent completion of the course and the student has completed a substantial portion of the work with a passing grade. Approval requires a written completion plan and is subject to University policy.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to submit original work, cite sources accurately, and follow Chaminade University's academic honesty standards. Plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, or unauthorized collaboration may result in academic and disciplinary consequences.

Student Accessibility

Students seeking accommodations should contact Kōkua 'Ike: Center for Student Learning. For information, email ada@chaminade.edu or call 808-739-8305.

Title IX and Nondiscrimination

Chaminade University is committed to a learning environment free from sex discrimination and gender-based violence. Faculty members are required to report disclosures that fall under University reporting obligations. Current policies and support resources are available through the University's Title IX and compliance offices.

Accelerated Course Schedule

Module readings, presentations, videos, and due dates are posted in Canvas. The schedule below summarizes the major graded assignments.

Module	Topics	Readings / Learning Focus	Major Assignments
1	Foundations of Psychopathology	Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 16; history of asylums and foundations of diagnosis	Milestone One: Welcome - Let's Get Acquainted
2	Depressive and Anxiety Disorders	Chapters 4, 6, and 7; DSM/ICD diagnosis; stress, anxiety, and depression	Depression or Anxiety Best Practice Literature Review; Depression and Anxiety Case Studies
3	Dissociative and Somatic Symptom Disorders	Chapters 5 and 8; dissociation, somatic symptoms, and differential diagnosis	Dissociative or Somatic Best Practice Literature Review; Dissociative and Somatic Case Studies
4	Obsessive-Compulsive and Trauma-Related Disorders	Review Chapters 4 and 5; OCD and trauma-related assessment and treatment	OCD or Trauma Best Practice Literature Review; OCD and Trauma Case Studies
5	Disruptive, Impulse-Control, Conduct, and Substance Use Disorders	Chapters 10 and 14; conduct concerns, addiction, and treatment	Milestone Two: Conduct or Substance Best Practice Literature Review; Conduct and Substance Case Studies
6	Psychotic, Bipolar, and Personality Disorders	Chapters 6, 12, and 13; schizophrenia spectrum, bipolar, and personality disorders	Schizophrenia, Bipolar, or Personality Best Practice Literature Review; Related Case Studies
7	Feeding, Eating, Elimination, and Sleep-Wake Disorders	Review Chapters 8 and 14; Chapter 9	Eating, Elimination, or Sleep Disorders Best Practice Literature Review; Related Case Studies
8	Sexual Dysfunctions, Gender Dysphoria, and	Chapter 11 and assigned media	Sexual Dysfunctions, Gender Dysphoria, or

Module	Topics	Readings / Learning Focus	Major Assignments
	Paraphilic Disorders		Paraphilic Disorders Best Practice Literature Review; Related Case Studies
9	Neurodevelopmental and Neurocognitive Disorders	Review Chapter 14; Chapter 15	Neurodevelopmental or Neurocognitive Disorders Best Practice Literature Review; Related Case Studies
10	Course Integration and Capstone	Review all course materials and prepare for the final examination	Capstone Paper; Cumulative Final Examination