

Syllabus
SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY
EDUA 6341:
ADVANCED PSYCHOPATHOLOGY & PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY
Spring 2026/Rebecca Greathouse Wren, LPC-S

Instructor: Rebecca Greathouse Wren, M.Ed., LPC-S

Email: rebecca.wren@sulross.edu.

Cell Phone: 432-386-6973 for texts (preferred and you get a faster response) and phone calls. Please leave your name and the class # you are in (6342) when you text or leave a message.

Office Hours: By appointment: telephone or Zoom meeting.

Please read the syllabus carefully and refer to it throughout the course. I recommend downloading and printing a copy for yourself. All course objectives and expectations are outlined in the syllabus. If anything is unclear, please contact the instructor for clarification. This is a web course and is delivered entirely on Blackboard.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

You need the following materials:

1. Whitbourne, S.K. (2017). *Abnormal psychology: Clinical perspectives on psychological disorders* (8th or 9th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.
2. American Psychiatric Association (2022). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, Fifth Edition, text revision: DSM-5-TR*. American Psychiatric Publishing. ***This is required!*** You will need the paperback version. **ISBN-13: 978-0890425763 (for the paperback version.** Please do not purchase the eBook *DSM-5-TR* online version, *for the page numbers will not match those that we use in this course!* You will need the ***paperback version*** (check to be sure that the ISBN number is accurate before ordering). **ISBN-13: 978-0890425763**
3. Preston, Moore & Johnson (2024). *Clinical psychopharmacology made ridiculously simple*, 10th edition, MedMaster, Inc., Miami, Fla.
4. American Psychological Association (2019). *The publication manual of the American Psychological Association*. Seventh Edition. Washington, D.C. American Psychological Association.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (Official catalog description)

This course examines existing concepts of mental illness and offers a healthier, client-freeing approach. Presentations on medications, stress and the immune system, mental status exam, and cases exemplifying diverse responses to human suffering are included.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course contributes to the following required student learning outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate their ability to apply guidance and counseling, their knowledge of human development, diversity, and factors that affect clients' ability to achieve their potential.
2. Students will demonstrate their ability to plan, implement, and evaluate a developmental counseling program; this program will incorporate assessment, as well as individual and group counseling services utilizing appropriate theoretical frameworks, techniques, and interventions to address personal, interpersonal/social, educational, and career needs.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to communicate and collaborate effectively with others in diverse settings, including the community in order to facilitate client success, and will demonstrate the ability to apply ethical, legal, and professional standards.

In accordance with CACREP best practices standards for all counselors-in-training development, the following areas will be promoted in this course:

CACREP Standard	Activity	SLOs
Common Core for all students:		
Section 2: F. 1-Professional Counseling Orientation and Ethical Practice		
1. History and philosophy of the counseling profession (II F1a);	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	1
2. Self-care strategies appropriate to the counselor role (IIG1l);	Discussion Board	3
Section 2: F. 11-Social and Cultural Diversity		
1. The impact of heritage, attitudes, beliefs, understandings, and acculturative experiences on an individual's views of others (IIF11d);	Assigned textbook reading; Discussion Board	1
2. Help-seeking behaviors of diverse clients (IIF11f);	Assigned textbook reading; Video Quiz Assignments; Discussion Board	1
3. The impact of spiritual beliefs on clients' and counselors' worldviews (IIF11g);	Assigned textbook reading; Discussion Board	1
Standard 2: F.111-Human Growth and Development		
1. Theories of normal and abnormal personality development (IIF111c);	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	2
2. Biological, neurological, and physiological factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior (IIF111e);	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board Video Quiz Assignments	1
3. Systemic and environmental factors that affect human development, functioning, and behavior (IIF111f);	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board Video Quiz Assign	1
4. Effects of crisis, disasters, and trauma on diverse individuals across the lifespan (IIF111g);	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	1

Standard 2: F.V- Counseling and Helping Relationships		
1. Theories and models of counseling (11FVa);	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	2
2. Counselor characteristics and behaviors that influence the counseling process (11FVf);	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	3
3. Essential interviewing, counseling, and case conceptualization skills (11FVg);	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board Video Quiz Assignments	2
Standard 2: F. VII-Assessment and Testing		
1. Procedures for assessing risk of aggression or danger to others, self-inflicted harm, or suicide (11FVIIc)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board Video Quiz Assignments; DSM reading	2
2. Procedures for identifying trauma and abuse and for reporting abuse (11FVIId)	Discussion Board	3
3. Use of assessments for diagnostic and intervention planning purposes (11FVIIe)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	2
4. Use of symptom checklists, and personality and psychological testing (11FVIIf)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	2
5. Use of assessment results to diagnose developmental, behavioral, and mental disorders (11FVIIf)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	2
Standards for Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) track		
Standard 5: V. I-Foundations		
1. History and development of clinical mental health counseling (V.1.a)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	1
2. Theories and models related to clinical mental health counseling (V.1.b)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	2
3. Principles, models, and documentation formats of biopsychosocial case conceptualization and treatment planning (V.1.c)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	2

4. Neurobiological and medical foundation and etiology of addiction and co-occurring disorders (V.1.d)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board Video Quiz Assignment	1
5. Psychological tests and assessments specific to clinical mental health counseling (V.1.e)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	2
Standard 5: V. II-Contextual Dimensions		
1. Roles and settings of clinical mental health counselors (V.11.a)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	3
2. Etiology, nomenclature, treatment, referral, and prevention of mental and emotional disorders (V.11.b)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board, DSM-5 assigned reading and assignments	2
3. Mental health service delivery modalities within the continuum of care, such as inpatient, outpatient, partial treatment and aftercare, and the mental health counseling services networks (V.11.c)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	3
4. Diagnostic process, including differential diagnosis and the use of current diagnostic classification systems, including the Diagnostic and statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and the International classification of Diseases (ICD) (V.11.d)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board Video Quiz	2
5. Potential for substance use disorders to mimic and/or co-occur with a variety of neurological, medical, and psychological disorders (V.11.e)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board Video Quiz	2
6. Impact of crisis and trauma on individuals with mental health diagnoses (V.11.f)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board Video Quiz	1
7. Legislation and government policy relevant to clinical mental health counseling (V.11.i)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	3
8. Cultural factors relevant to clinical mental health counseling (V.11.j)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	1
9. Legal and ethical considerations specific to clinical mental health counseling (V.11.l)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board	3

Standard 5: V.III-Practice		
1. Intake interview, mental status evaluation, biopsychosocial history, mental health history, and psychological assessment for treatment planning and caseload management (V.111.a)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board; Video Assignments	2
2. Techniques and interventions for prevention and treatment of a broad range of mental health issues (V.111.b)	Assigned textbook reading; Lectures, Discussion Board, , Final Video Project.	2

COUNSELOR EDUCATION MARKETABLE SKILLS

1. Graduates will demonstrate oral and written communication skills to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.
2. Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of ethics, social justice issues, and multicultural concerns to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.
3. Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of human growth development throughout the lifespan to apply in careers related to mental and behavioral health including school counseling.

REQUIREMENTS

Students will:

- participate in online discussions and activities.
- complete online quizzes and activities based on assigned videos.
- complete reading assignments and study the material prior to submitting assignments online.
- complete all assignments prior to the due dates (no late assignments accepted).
- take two major exams, complete one DSM diagnostics assignment, and complete one case study.
- practice professional conduct and ethics.
- practice respectful learning exchanges.

EVALUATION:

Your grade for this course will be determined by evidence of the **quality** of your learning as **demonstrated by your performance** in the following areas:

Discussion Boards:

Discussion Board- Course Statements

Discussion Board- Introduce Self

Psychopharmacology Book Discussion Board

Psychopathology Text Discussion Board

Video Quizzes:

Video Quizzes

Final Project

Final Project

Final Project Reference List

Discussion Boards will be 55% of your grade

3 @ 5 pts each

1 @ 10 pts

11 @ 15 pts each

14 @ 30 pts each

Video Quizzes will be 30% of your grade

10 @ 100 pts each

Final Video Project will be 15% of your grade

1 @ 80 pts

1 @ 20 pts.

Course Grade:

A	B	C/F	F
91% - 100%	81% - 90%	71% - 80%	Below 71%

Written work will be evaluated based on content, clarity, clinical insight, attention to formatting, and the correct application of grammar, mechanics, and APA style.

NOTE: Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA to remain in good standing. Grades of Incomplete (I) are not given in the Professional Studies Division of Sul Ross State University *except* in the *most extreme* situations.

PARTICIPATION

You are expected to participate in online activities and discussion boards.

No late assignments will be accepted. You are encouraged to work ahead. Your final course grade will be affected by the quality of your participation. Your postings and responses on the Discussion Board should give evidence that you have completed the assigned readings and viewing of the required videos and attached materials. Your written communication should reflect professional courtesy toward the instructor and fellow students.

DISTANCE EDUCATION STATEMENT:

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are in the student handbook.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

You are responsible for reviewing the university policies on Absences and Class Attendance in the SRSU Student Handbook. Students must participate in this course; you must reply to an Online Participation Policy forum on the Discussion Board. It is policy at Sul Ross State University that if a student is enrolled in an online course and fails to stay active for a period of 3 weeks (one week during a summer session), fails to submit assignments, and/or does not reply to emails from the instructor, he/she will be dropped from the course with an "F." You are required to respond to the "Online Participation Policy" forum on the Discussion Board with a signed statement. Details are provided on the Blackboard Discussion Board. Any student who fails to submit the required participation policy statement on the Discussion Board will be dropped from the course. ***You are expected to check both your Sul Ross email account inbox and the "Important Information" Discussion Board forum daily for the duration of the semester.***

Students in web-enhanced or web classes are expected to log in several times each week to the Blackboard course site on the Internet. The instructor will monitor the Blackboard log-ins for attendance.

ADA Statement

SRSU DISABILITY SERVICES:

The University is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Disability Services Coordinator in Counseling and Student Support Services has the responsibility to ensure that students with disabilities have the opportunity for full participation in programs, services, and activities. Students seeking disability services need to contact the Disability Services Coordinator located in Ferguson Hall, room 112. The mailing address is P.O. Box C-171, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79832. Telephone: 432-837-8203; Fax: 432-837-8724.

<https://www.sulross.edu/counseling-and-accessibility-services/>

ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

Reading Assignments and Discussion Boards:

Three books are required for this class. You are expected to read the *Abnormal Psychology* (Wilbourne) text and the Clinical Psychopharmacology thoroughly, as indicated in your assignments and on the Calendar of Assignments. The *DSM-5-TR* (DSM) should be read selectively and used as a reference. You must become very familiar with its use; you need not memorize all the details of every diagnosis.

Reading assignments are listed in the **DUE DATES** for each assignment, as well as on the course Calendar of Assignments. Please complete the reading assignments and **study** the materials prior to submitting assignments.

DISCUSSION BOARD (DB) ASSIGNMENTS DIRECTIONS & INFORMATION:

All assignments are due at 11:55 pm CENTRAL TIME (OR 10:55 PM EL PASO TIME).

This semester you will be writing 27 Discussion Board posts.

The first three are really easy and are due right away! They are due on **Tuesday, 8-26-26** (see more within the Discussion Board Assignments to Post/complete to know more about this). This first Discussion Board will be for you to read the syllabus, the confidentiality and the AI statements, and then post that you have read it and will abide by it- a separate one for each agreement. This must be done to continue the class. You will receive 5 points each for writing and posting that by the deadline. Please be sure to have your FULL NAME on the form and DATE IT!

The second DB is an introduction of yourself, answering several questions so we can all get to know each other better. That posting is worth 10 points. I HIGHLY ENCOURAGE that you post a photo of yourself in that Introduction (you can attach it to your post, and you'll get a couple of points extra credit if you're in the picture). See the directions and questions to that under 'Assignments to Post/Complete,' 'Discussion Board.' It is the one that is due on **Wednesday, 8-27-24**.

The rest of the DBs are in two categories, with each category requiring different levels of writing, and either to respond to 2 classmates' posts or not. These are also scored differently.

The DBs that you will write using your Psychopharmacology book (the little one) will be to write IN YOUR WORDS (do NOT quote the source but cite it) 2-3 paragraphs about the chapter or pages you are directed to read for each of those. You do NOT need to respond to classmates on these DBs, but you must post before you can see anyone else's. There are 11 of these, and each is worth a maximum of 15 points. You do NOT respond to any of your classmates on these.

The other 14 DBs will be summaries of the chapters you have read for that week. Some of the Discussion Boards are for you to read the indicated chapter in your textbook *Abnormal Psychology* (what I call your Psychopathology text) and write 4-5 paragraphs about the most important things you read in the chapter. **Do not use more than one (1) quote** in these posts and properly cite everything you used. You will be graded on the depth and understanding of your writing, as well as APA style in your writing. You must write your post first before you can see anyone else's. There are 15 chapters, but the first DB due in this category **covers chapters 1 and 2 and is due on Saturday, 8-29-26**. You will get 60 points possible for this assignment.

The rest of these kinds of DBs will be over one chapter. You are required to write these posts in a formal way, using citations, formal APA style, writing 4-5 paragraphs. If you do an excellent job on your post, you may earn a maximum of 30 points. 5 extra points are given for each of 2 responses you write to a classmate AFTER you've made your post. You must post your chapter summary BEFORE you can see any of your classmates' posts. Your responses to your classmates need to be professional observations about what they wrote, NOT for being a 'cheerleader' in their work. These DBs have a possible maximum points of 30.

IF FOR SOME REASON OR WAY YOU BY-PASS WRITING YOUR POST FIRST, you WILL RECEIVE A 0 FOR YOUR WORK, NO MATTER THE REASON FOR HOW YOU DID IT OR EVEN IF IT WAS A MISTAKE!

You usually have two Discussion Boards assigned weekly.

Follow the syllabus due dates for each required DB.

I suggest you write up your work and proof it before you copy and paste it on your post. DO NOT ATTACH any document for someone (like your classmates or me) to have to open to read it. We're looking for ease of sharing our posts.

If you have any questions about these, please feel free to email me at rebecca.wren@sulross.edu, or text me at 432-386-6973. Please include your full name, the course number (6341 for this course), and the reason for reaching out. I will not proof your work before you turn it in, so please do not ask me to do that for you.

Video Quizzes:

Students are required to view video segments based on specific disorders and then take a quiz. There are 10 different disorders that will be presented through videos, and a quiz about the videos follows, with due dates for each. As you view each disorder, you are required to study the section of the *DSM-5-TR* related to that disorder. You should also read the textbook information regarding that disorder. The quiz will be based on the video content and the information in the *DSM-5*. You are not expected to memorize criteria in the *DSM-5-TR*, but you will need to be able to answer questions regarding those criteria.

Videos and Video Quizzes/Tests:

You are required to view video segments based on specific disorders and then take a quiz. As you view each disorder, you are required to study the section of the *DSM-5-TR* related to that disorder. The quiz will be based on the video content and the information in the *DSM-5-TR*. You are not expected to memorize criteria in the *DSM-5-TR*, but you will need to be able to answer questions regarding those criteria somewhat quickly. You must answer 10 questions per quiz/test in *60 minutes (the test will stop after that time and what you have answered will be graded, and what you did not answer will be graded as a 0).

Click on the **"Video Quizzes/Tests"** link on the left of your screen for instructions and to access the videos and quizzes (under the heading of 'Assignments to Post/Complete.')

Due dates for each quiz are listed in the syllabus and in the content folders of 'Video Quizzes/Tests.' To access this, see under 'ASSIGNMENTS TO POST/COMPLETE,' then click on VIDEO QUIZZES/TESTS, and in there you will see folders for each test, listed in chronological order of the due date (hopefully!). Those folders have all the videos you'll need to watch to pass the quiz. After you've watched all of them, click on the title for the Quiz document. You may take the quiz two times by the due date deadline. The questions are given randomly, so you won't have the same test the second time. Your highest score (if you take it twice) will be the score that is recorded and used for your final grade. Each test has 10 questions, with each question worth 10 points, for a maximum total of 100 points.

Late assignments will NOT be accepted, so I recommend you get them done early, in case an emergency were to come up at the last minute (just good time management skills).

Thank you.

* You do NOT have a time limit for the Bipolar Disorder Quiz/Test. But remember, you have two Video Quizzes/Tests due the same day: Both Major Depressive Disorder and Bipolar Disorder Quizzes/Tests are due at 11:55 pm (central) on Sunday, October 4, 2026!

Final Project:

Final Project: A Psychoeducational Video for your private practice website:

More information and details about your Final Project will be posted on Blackboard.

You must have the category or area approved by Wren by TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026! Send Wren an email (rebecca.wren@sulross.edu) with your top two (2) choices!

What you will do for this Final Project is choose a Category of Disorders (such as Anxiety Disorders, Childhood Disorders, Mood Disorders, Eating Disorders, Sleep Disorders, Sexual Disorders, Neurological Disorders, Personality Disorders, etc.) from the DSM-5 and make a video tape. These will be posted on the link under the category of 'Assignments to Post/Complete,' and click on 'Final Project.' You will post your video there on BlackBoard. Although this project is not yet very detailed for you right now, you can start thinking about it and gathering information you may want to use in your video (NOT other videos!). Maybe you have a friend, a family member, or yourself have a disorder you'd like to explore more, but whatever the reason, start thinking about what category you want to present, and how you want to present it.

This project is worth A LOT OF POINTS, and acts as a 'Mid-term, Final, and Research paper' all rolled into one. It will be worth 15% of your grade.

Each of you will imagine having your own private practice where you have a website for your clients and potential clients to visit. In your website you will have a 'Psychoeducational' component where your clients can learn about different disorders from you talking about specific disorders via Videos. It is good to show your face and your basic, kind but professional mannerisms to potential clients through this.

Your project will only be for one psychiatric category, and you will take 10-15 minutes to teach your clients about it. Your video must look and 'feel' professional and describe behaviors and symptoms common to that disorder. You will educate your clients about what the professional name of the category is, and the disorders under that category. You might even want to describe a short history of how that disorder has been seen throughout history. You can give other common terms used for the disorder, what symptoms are used for the diagnosis, common age onsets, different counseling treatment options for managing or overcoming the disorder, and much more. You will also speak about the medications commonly used to help this category of disorders, a very basic description on how they work, and how you can work with your client's psychiatrist, as it will be the psychiatrist who can prescribe psychotropic medications and not you. At the end you will tell the client how and where they can get more information about that disorder online. You will include an extensive (8-15) reference list. This Reference List is worth 20 points, and you will turn that in at the proper folder.

EACH STUDENT MUST REACH ME VIA EMAIL (rebecca.wren@sulross.edu) TO GET APPROVAL FOR THE DISORDER OR CATEGORY THEY WANT TO DO BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2026. YOU MUST GET MY APPROVAL FIRST!!! So, start thinking about that now!

I'm looking forward to seeing your productions, and I feel it will help you down the line when you start your own private counseling practice!

More to come on this later!

Good luck this semester!

Becky Wren