

**Rutgers University**  
Course Syllabus  
**Atypical Child and Adolescent Development**  
Fall 2017 – 830:346:02

Date & Time: Monday and Thursday 12:00 –1:20 pm  
Location: Livingston Campus Tillett Hall, rm 232  
Instructor: Stevie M. McKenna MA  
E-Mail: steviemc@psych.rutgers.edu  
Office Hours: by appt. Livingston campus Tillett #333

Janna Klein - TA office hours TBA - rm 639  
janna.kline@rutgers.edu

### **Course Objectives**

1. This course will introduce you to the study of child and adolescent psychopathology. There will be a brief historical review of society's progress in the understanding and treatment of children with aberrant behavior as well as early notable theories.
2. We will explore the interaction of emotional, cognitive, biological, behavioral, and environmental components that factor into the development of chronic dysfunctional behavior and mental illness in children and adolescents. We will also examine the various theories of the development of childhood disorders as well as the efficacy of the many current treatment modalities including pharmacological interventions.

**Required Texts: Introduction to Abnormal Child and Adolescent Psychology 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition,**  
Sage Publishing, Author: Robert Weis  
ISBN # 978-1-5063-3976-4

Please be aware of bogus notes stating that the classroom has been reassigned to a different location. If the room assignment changes you will receive notification from the psychology department staff at Tillett Hall or myself.

### **Policy:**

- **IMPORTANT** - All students are required to take all exams including the final exam or final make up exam despite earning an A otherwise. If a student does not complete the final exam or final make-up they will receive no higher than a C for the course.
- There will be no extra credit work due to the high enrollment for this course. Therefore, it is imperative that students complete all assigned work to do well.

- **Grades bordering on any letter grade cannot be bumped up.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Assigned Chapters</b>
<b>Sept. 4</b>	<b>LABOR DAY – NO CLASS</b>	
Sept. 7 Thurs.	Syllabus course requirements	
Sept. 11 M	The Science and practice of Abnormal Child Psychology	Chapter 1
Sept. 14	The Causes of Childhood Disorders: A level Analysis Approach	Chapter 2
Sept. 18 M	The Causes of Childhood Disorders: continued	
Sept. 21	Assessment and Diagnosis	Chapter 3
Sept. 25 M	Assessment and Diagnosis contin.	Chapter 3
Sept. 28	Treatment Children, Adolescents, and Families	Chapter 4
Oct. 2 M	Intellectual Disability and Developmental Disorders	Chapter 5
<b>Oct. 5</b>	<b>Review for Exam I – Chapters 1, 2, 3</b>	
<b>Oct. 9 M</b>	<b>Review for Exam I – Chapters 4, 5</b>	
<b>Oct. 12 Thurs.</b>	<b>EXAM I</b>	
Oct. 16 M	Autism Spectrum Disorder	Chapter 6
Oct. 19	Autism Spectrum Disorder contin. Mozart and the Whale	DVD
Oct. 23 M	Communication and Learning Disorders	Chapter 7
Oct. 26	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	Chapter 8
Oct. 30 M	Conduct Problems in Children and Adolescents	Chapter 9
Nov. 2	Substance Use Disorders in Adolescents	Chapter 10
Nov. 6 M	Substance Use Disorders in Adolescents <b>Guest Speaker</b>	Chapter 10

Nov. 9 Substance Use Disorders in Adolescents DVD Chapter 10  
HBO Addiction

Nov.13 M Review for Exam II – Chapters 6, 7, 8

Nov. 16 Review for Exam II – Chapters 9, 10

**Nov. 20M EXAM II**

---

**Nov. 21 Class will meet Tuesday instead of Thursday**  
Anxiety disorders and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders Chapter 11

Nov. 27 M Trauma Related disorders and Child Maltreatment Chapter 12  
Depressive Disorders and Suicide Chapter 13

Nov. 30 Pediatric Bipolar Disorders and Schizophrenia Chapter 14

Dec. 4 M Feeding and Eating Disorders Chapter 15

**Dec. 7 Review for FINAL EXAM – Chapters 11, 12, 13**

**Dec. 11 M Review for FINAL EXAM – Chapters 14, 15**

**Dec. 14 Reading Day**

**FINALS WEEK - December 15 - 23**

**FINAL EXAM December 21 12:00 – 3:00**

**Grading:** Your course grade will be based on **100 points** valued as follows:

First Exam	30 Possible Points (30%)
Midterm Exam	30 Possible Points (30%)
Final Exam	30 Possible Points (30%)
Paper	10 Possible Points (10%)

You will have **2 exam scores** for each exam. The raw score, is simply the number of questions you got correct out of 60 questions. The scaled score the number of points you earned out of a possible 30 pts. The scaled score is what is important toward your final grade. The raw is simply informational and is not factored into your grade. To arrive at the scaled score, divide the raw by 2.

**In class lecture notes:** Lecture notes will be provided for you on the **Sakai** website (resource section). These notes are not intended to be the only source of information for the exams. Please note that additional information will be presented in lecture apart from information in your text. **You will need your text book for this course.** Since videos will be shown periodically during the course, you will *also be expected to take adequate notes as some material from the videos*

*will appear on the exams.*

**Study guides:** Study guides for each exam will be provided and posted on the **Sakai** website (resource section). These guides are to be used to prepare for each exam. Questions on the exams will loosely reflect information given on the study guides.

**Please be aware of pertinent links to articles** that may be posted on the resource section for class discussion as well.

**Term paper ( worth up to 10pt)**

Your term paper should explore a childhood or early adolescent disorder originating and *expressed in childhood or early adolescence*. **I will Not be accepting the personality disorders or dissociative identity disorder. See list.**

**Your paper should address the following:**

- **Symptom picture** – describe the symptoms commonly seen in the disorder you have chosen to research.  
**Prevalence rates** – prevalence rates in the US and world. (1pt.)
- **Cultural variables** – You should list a couple countries your disorder is found in and if it presents differently or with the same **symptom picture** as seen in the US. **You should also include subcultures of the US (e.g. African American, Native American, Hispanic, Asian American).** (2 pts.)
- **Age of onset and Gender features** - What is the average age when symptoms appear that lead to a diagnosis? Is the onset acute or insidious? **For Gender features:** ex. Bipolar is equally common among adolescents, major depression diagnosed 2X more in females than in males. (1pt.)
- **Etiology** - Describe the biology and genetics behind the disorder you are researching. E.g. What neurotransmitter systems and subcortical structures of the brain are effected in the disorder you are researching? It may be primarily a biological disorder such as Bipolar or Schizophrenia, but be sure to address the psychological/emotional issues associated with this disorder. Eg. expressed emotion (EE) with regard to family relations or coping with peers with either bipolar or schizophrenia. Is this highly genetic? Does it run in families such as depression, schizophrenia, bipolar etc? (2 pts.)
- **Course** - Will it be a lifelong chronic course e.g. childhood-onset schizophrenia or relatively short episodes e.g. depression? How does the presentation change and effect the child/adolescent over developmental stages (e.g. Erickson developmental model)? (1pt)
- **Prognosis** - What is the end result you expect to see with regard to the symptom picture? E.g. What would the symptom picture look like when the person is 70. E.g. Would the client still have to be on medication? Would they still exhibit the symptoms of the

disorder or would most of the symptoms abate? (1pt)

- **Current treatment** - What is the most effective treatment for your chosen disorder? Explain the main underlying theory of this treatment(s) and explain a technique that could be employed in the treatment plan. E.g. cognitive restructuring for major depression). (1pt)
- **A differential diagnosis** – You should compare and contrast another disorder which is similar and how to differentiate it from the main disorder you have chosen to research. In what ways is it similar and in what ways is it dissimilar? E.g. major depression vs Persistent Depressive Disorder. (1pt)

**APA style is encouraged** but not required

**\*\*\* No longer than 10 pages - including title and reference pages.**

**\*\*\* Minimum page length 9 pages – including title and reference pages**

**\*\*\* You DO NOT need an abstract for this assignment.**

- Must be double spaced (12pt type and Times New Roman)
- Must have **within text** citations. **THIS IS A MUST**
- Articles, the DSM-V, books, and online sources are fine (.org more preferable but .com is fine with discretion).
- **THE TEXTBOOK IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE SOURCE FOR YOUR PAPER.**
- **Try to use empirical sources when possible. E.g. Journal of Abnormal Psychology**
- **NO WIKAPEDIA.**

**List of Acceptable Disorders for Paper: Choose any one disorder under the heading**

- **Anxiety disorders**
  - Panic attacks
  - Panic Disorder
  - Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)
  - Agoraphobia
  - Specific Phobia
  - Separation Anxiety (SAD)
  - Social Phobia / School Phobia
  - Selective Mutism
  - Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
  - Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- **Mood disorders**
  - Major Depression
  - Persistent Depressive Disorder (Dysthymia)
  - Double depression
  - Seasonal Affective Disorder

- Bipolar I
- Bipolar II
- Cyclothymia
- Rapid Cycling Bipolar
- **Behavioral Disorders**
  - Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
  - Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)
  - Conduct Disorder (CD)
  - Disruptive Mood Dysregulation Disorder (DMDD)
- **Intellectual disability (ID) present the different levels of ID.(mild, moderate, severe, profound)**
  - Fragile X
  - Downs Syndrome
  - Prader Willi Syndrome
- **Autism spectrum disorders**
  - Classic autism
  - Asperger's syndrome
  - Childhood disintegrative Disorder
  - Childhood-Onset schizophrenia
  - Sensory integration disorder
- **Eating disorders**
  - Pica
  - Childhood rumination Disorder
  - Binge eating disorder (BED)
  - Anorexia nervosa (cover both subtypes)
  - Bulimia nervosa (cover both subtypes)
  - Failure to thrive
- **Substance abuse and dependence disorders (focus should be on one specific type of substance of abuse e.g. alcohol)**
  - Should cover both what is considered abuse and dependency and how they are different.

**If you choose to do your paper on abuse you must choose one type of abuse not all forms of abuse:**

- **Physical**
- **Emotional**
- **Sexual abuse**
- **Neglect (in its many forms)**

### **Attendance**

In-class participation is critical and expected. Regular communication with the me and your fellow classmates is encouraged as well as being prepared to provide needed input on critical psychological issues. *You are responsible for any missed class presentation material.*

Please ask *fellow students* for any information you may have missed due to absence from class.

**\*\*\*Doctors notes or other specific documentation are necessary for missing an**

**exam and taking the make-up.**

**Disability Statement**

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, or if you need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation, please contact me as soon as possible.

**Plagiarism:** This is the practice of using information from a source without citing the source and author in your text (**Do not use papers from other courses to submit in this course. It is not acceptable e.g. abnormal psychology paper submitted to this course**). This is a problem in some courses and will result in an F for the course.

**Cheating on Exams** – Anyone caught cheating on any of the exams will receive an F for the course. **ABSOLUTELY NO CELL PHONES ARE TO BE OUT or ON DURING EXAMS.**

**Academic Integrity At Rutgers :**

<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-at-rutgers/>