

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **COUN 646**

#### **PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND COUNSELING**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course studies various forms of psychopathology, etiological factors, differential diagnoses, and current therapeutic approaches. Students are introduced to the DSM, with attention also given to relational and systemic considerations.

#### **RATIONALE**

Making an accurate differential diagnosis is a key component of effective counseling. Understanding the DSM-IV TR and acquiring interviewing strategies for effectively and efficiently gathering diagnostic information will aid the developing counselor in becoming competent.

#### **I. PREREQUISITES**

COUN 501, 502, 503, and 510

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASES**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. RECOMMENDED RESOURCE PURCHASES**

Yarhouse, M. A., Butman, R. E., & McRay, B. W. (2005). *Modern psychopathologies: A comprehensive Christian appraisal*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. (ISBN: 0-8308-2770-6).

Millon, T., Blaney, P., & Davis, R. D. (Eds.). (1999). *The oxford textbook of psychopathology*. New York: Oxford University Press. (ISBN: 0-19-510307-6).

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio and video equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word  
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to Liberty University students.)
- D. VCR/DVD player and viewer

**V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Explain normality and psychopathology from mental health and biblical perspectives.
- B. Define and differentially differentiate DSM disorders.
- C. Summarize critically analyze mental and personality disorders research from clinical, research, and biblical worldview perspectives.
- D. Explain the details of a specific aspect of psychopathology as evidenced by their written presentation.

**VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

A. Textbook readings, DVDs, and lecture presentations/notes

B. Group Discussion Board forums (16)

The student will complete two Group Discussion Board forums each week, both consisting of a thread and a reply. The thread is the student's response to the instructor's prompt and must be submitted for each forum no later than Thursday evening. The student will then substantially reply to at least one other student's thread for each forum no later than Sunday evening. All posts to the Group Discussion Board must be professional and in accordance with the standards set forth in the Liberty Way.

C. Research Paper

Each student will write a paper on a specific DSM disorder (e.g., not anxiety disorders, but a specific aspect of a specific anxiety disorder; i.e., "Psychopharmacological treatment of OCD) that the student chooses. The paper should be 15-20 pages in length (not including the title page, abstract, or references) and use a minimum of 10 references (mostly scholarly, peer-reviewed journals). Since this is a 600 level course, the quality of papers should reflect that level of graduate work. Papers **must be** written in the current APA format—check your APA writing carefully because you will be graded on the accuracy of the APA format. The paper must be submitted no later than the end of Module 6.

Exams (2)

There will be two examinations that will be both objective and subjective in nature. Because the exams cover an extensive amount of material, they will be challenging. The student is encouraged to review the examination study guides to assist him/her in preparing adequately for the exams. Questions are taken from textbooks, selected readings, and presentations. Each part of the exam must be completed in one hour and fifteen minutes. Exams are **closed-book/closed-notes**.

**VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES****A. Points**

Discussion Board forums (16 at 25 pts ea)		400
Research Paper		300
Exam 1	Objective	60
Exam 1	Subjective	90
Exam 2	Objective	60
Exam 2	Subjective	90
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

**B. Scale**

A = 940–1000   A- = 920–939   B+ = 900–919   B = 860–899   B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839   C = 780–819   C- = 760–779   D+ = 740–759   D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699   F = 679 and below

**C. Extra Credit**

It is the policy of the Center of Counseling and Family Studies to **not** offer extra credit opportunities. It is imperative, therefore, that each student applies him/herself to this course in order to get the desired grade. There is no appeal on this policy.

**D. Late Policy**

Papers/projects:

1. 5% deduction per day.
2. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the professor. This approval must be sought prior to assignment due date.
3. Discussion Boards:

No Discussion Board posts accepted after DB has closed without prior permission of professor. Late posts will not be factored into DB grade.

If the professor grants students permission to submit posts after the DB has closed the following requirements apply:

- a. 5% deduction per day.
- b. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the professor. This approval must be sought prior to assignment due date.
- c. Professor may require alternate assignment if Discussion Board has closed. These assignments must be completed within terms of late policy. No assignment will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date.

### Tests/Exams

1. For timed tests/exams students are required to complete the exam within the assigned time. For students who exceed this time limit a penalty of 5 points will be deducted for each minute they exceed the assigned time limit.
2. Students must take the exam during the assigned module. A 5 % deduction from the tests final grade will be assigned for each day the test is late.
3. No test will be accepted seven (7) days after original due date without written approval from the professor. This approval must be sought prior to tests due date.

#### E. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [luoodas@liberty.edu](mailto:luoodas@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations.

#### F. Dual Relationship

The faculty is responsible to interact with counseling students in a supervisory capacity/role. As such, faculty may provide students professional principles, guidance, and recommendations as it relates to the context of the student-client setting. The faculty is responsible to avoid dual relationships with students such as entering a student-counselor or student-pastor relationship. Thus, the faculty does not provide personal counseling addressing student personal problems. If a faculty member perceives that a student is in need of personal or professional counseling, then that faculty member will recommend that the student pursue either pastoral or professional assistance from a counselor in their community.

#### G. Limits of Confidentiality

In the event of a student's disclosure, either verbally or in writing, of threat of serious or foreseeable harm to self or others, abuse or neglect of a minor, elderly or disabled person, or current involvement in criminal activity, the faculty, staff, administrator, or supervisor will take immediate action. This action may include, but is not limited to, immediate notification of appropriate state law enforcement or social services personnel, emergency contacts, and notification of the appropriate program chair or online dean. The incident and action taken will become part of the student's permanent record.

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **COUN 646**

Textbooks: American Psychiatric Association, *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-IV TR* (2000).  
Maddux, J. E., & Winstead, B. A. (Eds.), *Psychopathology: Foundations for a Contemporary Understanding* (2008).

<b>WEEK/ MODULE</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	DSM: Introduction, Cautionary Statement, Use of Manual, Appendix C & I Maddux & Winstead: chs. 1, 2 & 5 DVD: Modules 1–3 4 presentations 4 notes	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions GDB Forum 1B Research Paper Topic Set up Interview	0 25 25 0 0
<b>2</b>	DSM: pp. 429–484; 679–683 Maddux & Winstead: chs. 4 & 8 3 presentations 3 notes	GDB Forum 2A GDB Forum 2B	25 25
<b>3</b>	DSM: pp. 345–428 Maddux & Winstead: ch. 9 DVD: Module 8 1 presentation 4 notes	GDB Forum 3A GDB Forum 3B	25 25
<b>4</b>	DSM: pp. 191–295; 297–343 Maddux & Winstead: chs. 10 & 15 DVD: Module 9 2 presentations 7 notes 1 article 1 study guide	GDB Forum 4A GDB Forum 4B Exam 1 Objective Exam 1 Subjective	25 25 60 90
<b>5</b>	DSM: pp. 535–663 Maddux & Winstead: chs. 12 & 13 DVD: Modules 11 & 13 3 presentations	GDB Forum 5A GDB Forum 5B	25 25
<b>6</b>	DSM: pp. 485–511; 513–517; 519– 533; 663–677; 731–743 Maddux & Winstead: ch. 14 DVD: Module 15 3 presentations	GDB Forum 6A GDB Forum 6B Research Paper GDB Forum 6: Research Paper	25 25 300 0

<b>WEEK/ MODULE</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>7</b>	DSM: pp. 685–729 Maddux & Winstead: ch. 11 DVD: Module 17 1 presentation	GDB Forum 7A GDB Forum 7B	25 25
<b>8</b>	DSM: pp. 39–134 Maddux & Winstead: chs. 16–18 DVD: Module 18 1 presentation 4 notes 1 study guide	GDB Forum 8A GDB Forum 8B Exam 2 Objective Exam 2 Subjective GDB Forum 8: Reflections	25 25 60 90 0
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1000</b>

GDB = Group Discussion Board

DSM = DSM-IV TR

**NOTE:** Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.