

**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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### **PSYC 345**

#### **EXCEPTIONAL CHILD**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

All major areas of exceptionality will be surveyed to provide undergraduate students with a first contact with the field of exceptionality from infancy through adolescence. The focus is on theory, empirical research, and interventions related to behavioral, emotional, and cognitive disorders.

#### **RATIONALE**

This course explores theoretical perspectives and empirical data on disorders in children from infancy through adolescence. Students will be introduced to salient concepts, research, and controversies in the field of exceptionality. This course will enhance students' understanding of various disorders (e.g., etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, current research) and related interventions.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

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. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

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

**IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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

- A. Demonstrate an understanding of the complexity of individual differences within the context of exceptional child psychology.
- B. Explain the major areas of developmental psychopathology including etiology, diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment.
- C. Analyze current research in the field of exceptional child psychology as it relates to real-world applications.
- D. Create an intervention plan that synthesizes research and practical applications within a real-world context.
- E. Discuss a biblical worldview as related to critical issues surrounding children with disabilities and their families.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and presentations

- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (6)

The student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 400 words and be written in current APA format. The thread must include at least 1 textbook or research citation and 1 Bible citation. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 1 other classmate's thread. The reply must be at least 300 words and be written in current APA format. The reply must include at least 1 textbook or research citation and 1 Bible citation (*MLO A, B, C, E*).

- D. Title Page and Reference List for Case Study Paper

The student will submit a title page and reference page with the 8 peer-reviewed articles (2010–present publication dates) that he/she plans on using for either his/her Case Study Paper. The title and reference page must be submitted in one document and in current APA format (*MLO C*).

- E. Case Study Paper

The student will create a case study highlighting a disorder/ disability that interests him/her or with which he/she feels called to work. The student will discuss: etiology, prevalence, characteristics and prognosis for the chosen disorder/ disability; the child and family characteristics (e.g., risk and protective factors); and recommend evidence based intervention approaches for working with the hypothetical child. This assignment must be in current APA format and have a minimum of 8 current (2010–present publication dates), peer-reviewed/scholarly resources (*MLO A, B, C, D, E*).

- F. Exams (8)

Each exam will cover the Reading & Study material for the modules/weeks in which it is assigned. Each exam will be open-book/open-notes, contain 20 multiple-choice and

true/false questions, and have a hour time limit (*MLO A, B, C, D, E*).

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (5 at 70 pts each)	420
Reference Page for Case Study Paper	30
Case Study Paper	150
Exam (8 at 50 pts each)	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. 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. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport)

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **PSYC 345**

Textbook: Parritz & Troy, *Disorders of Childhood: Development and Psychopathology* (2014).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Parritz & Troy: chs. 1–2 1 article 2 websites	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Exam 1	10 0 70 50
<b>2</b>	Parritz & Troy: chs. 3–4 1 website	DB Forum 2 Exam 2	70 50
<b>3</b>	Parritz & Troy: chs. 5–6 1 video	DB Forum 3 Exam 3	70 50
<b>4</b>	Parritz & Troy: ch. 7	Title Page and Reference Page for Case Exam 4	30 50
<b>5</b>	Parritz & Troy: ch. 8 1 video 1 website	DB Forum 4 Exam 5	70 50
<b>6</b>	Parritz & Troy: chs. 9–10	DB Forum 5 Exam 6	70 50
<b>7</b>	Parritz & Troy: chs. 11–12 1 video	Case Study Paper Exam 7	150 50
<b>8</b>	Parritz & Troy: ch. 13 1 video	DB Forum 6 Exam 8	70 50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.