

Northern Kentucky University  
College of Education and Human Services  
Graduate Program in Counselor Education

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COU 670 *Psychopathology/Diagnosis of Mental & Emotional Disorders*

*Examination of the major mental disorders in the current version of the DSM; development of diagnostic and case conceptualization skills; medical model of psychopathology; major theories of etiology & treatment; diagnostic principles; differential diagnosis; diagnostic errors; ethical & legal issues involved in clinical diagnosis.*

Semester: Fall 2007

Location: FH 324

Meeting Times: Thursdays from 6:15pm to 9:00pm.

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Instructor: Greg Hatchett, Ph.D.

Office Location: BEP 203E

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 1:00-3:00pm; Wednesdays from 12:00-3:00pm;  
Thursdays from 1:00-3:00pm; and by appointment.

Phone #: 859-572-6195

Email: hatchettg@nku.edu (easiest way to reach me).

Website: www.nku.edu/~hatchettg

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**Required Textbooks:**

Nevid, J. S., Rathus, S. A., & Greene, B. (2006). *Abnormal psychology in a changing world* (6<sup>th</sup> ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

American Psychiatric Association. (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4<sup>th</sup> ed., text revision). Washington, DC: Author.

Othmer, E., & Othmer, S. C. (2002). *The clinical interview using the DSM-IV-TR: Volume 1: Fundamentals*. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Publishing.

Additional materials may be placed on reserve in Stealy Library.

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### Major Course Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the ethical & legal issues involved in the assignment of psychiatric diagnoses. (CACREP 3.e.)
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the major theoretical models that account for the development and treatment of psychopathology. (CACREP 3.e.)
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the differences between a developmental model of counseling and the medical model of psychotherapy.
4. Students will demonstrate general knowledge of the most common psychiatric disorders in the DSM-IV-TR. (CACREP 3.e.)
5. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the diagnostic principles (e.g., hierarchy, parsimony) of the DSM-IV-TR.
6. Students will demonstrate initial proficiency in the use of the DSM-IV-TR for the assignment of mental disorders. These skills will be refined through COU 671, 691, 692, and post-master's supervised experiences.
7. Students will demonstrate an awareness of common diagnostic errors (e.g., up-coding, down-coding, clinician's illusion, confirmatory bias) and strategies for preventing these from occurring.

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### Expectations for Students

1. Read the assigned chapters before the scheduled class meeting.
2. Attend every class meeting; arrive on time for class.
3. This course requires an unusually large amount of reading. Students are expected to dedicate a minimum of 10 hours each week to this course. Students who cannot budget this much time for the course should drop immediately
4. Complete assignments on time. Late work will not be accepted.
5. Be willing to share your ideas and ask difficult questions. The academic classroom should serve as an environment where diverse, and sometimes controversial, ideas can be discussed and evaluated. *The classroom will serve as a free-speech zone in which students will not be penalized for their viewpoints or opinions.* [NKU's Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities states the following: "The professor has an obligation to encourage free discussion, inquiry, and expression. He/she may not evaluate student performance based on opinions (such as religious belief or political views) or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Should students feel their performance has not been judged on solely

- academic grounds or that their grade does not reflect the quality of their work, they may appeal the professor's decision using the Academic Appeals Procedure outlined subsequently."]
6. Students are expected to adhere to the NKU Student Honor Code. Specifically, the honor code states that students "will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic regulations." Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating or helping other students cheat on examinations/assignments and plagiarism (i.e., presenting another's work or ideas as one's own). When preparing a written document for grading, one should be careful to give credit, through appropriate citations, where credit is due. The use of citations should follow the style guidelines of the APA Publication Manual. Because issues surrounding proper citation can be ambiguous, please consult the instructor if in doubt. Violations of the Honor Code may lead to severe consequences, including up to expulsion from this course or NKU. More detailed information about the Honor Code can be found on one of the university's web pages at the following location: [www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/Rights-Contents.htm](http://www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/Rights-Contents.htm).
  7. Please turn off or place on silent mode all potentially disruptive electronic devices, such as cell phones and pagers.
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### **Course Outline:**

- August 23:** Course Orientation; Conceptualization, Classification, & Treatment of Psychopathology.
- August 30:** Mood Disorders (Quiz on Chapters 1-4 & 8 in Nevid et al. & Chapter on Mood Disorders in DSM-IV-TR).
- September 6:** Adjustment & Anxiety Disorders, V-Codes (Quiz on Chapters 5-6 in Nevid et al. & Chapters on Adjustment, Anxiety Disorders, and V-Codes in DSM-IV-TR).
- September 13:** Substance-Related Disorders (Quiz on Chapter 9 in Nevid et al. & Chapter on Substance-Related Disorders in DSM-IV-TR).
- September 20:** Exam #1.
- September 27:** Psychotic Disorders (Quiz on Chapter 12 in Nevid et al. & Chapter on Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders in DSM-IV-TR).
- October 4:** Childhood Disorders (Quiz on Chapter 14 in Nevid et al. & Chapter on Disorders Usually First Diagnosed in Infancy,

Childhood, and Adolescence in DSM-IV-TR).

- October 11:** Personality Disorders (Quiz on Chapter 13 in Nevid et al. & Chapter on Personality Disorders in DSM-IV-TR).
- October 18:** Eating, Sleep, Impulse, & Sexual Disorders (Quiz on Chapters 10-11 in Nevid et al. & Chapters on Sexual/Gender Identity, Eating, Sleeping, and Impulse-Control Disorders in DSM-IV-TR).
- October 25:** Dissociative & Cognitive Disorders (Quiz on Chapters 7 & 15 in Nevid et al. & Chapters on Cognitive, Somatoform, Factitious, and Dissociative Disorders in DSM-IV-TR).
- November 1:** Exam #2.
- November 8:** Ethical & Legal Issues in Assessment; Avoiding Diagnostic Errors (Quiz on Chapter 16 in Nevid et al.; ACA Code of Ethics; KRS 335: Licensure Law for Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors).
- November 15:** Orientation to Diagnostic Interviewing (Quiz on Chapters 1-3 in Othmer & Othmer).
- November 22:** Thanksgiving Holiday.
- November 29:** Assessing Mental Status & Psychopathology (Quiz on Chapters 4-7 in Othmer & Othmer).
- December 6:** Evaluating Difficult Clients (Quiz on Chapters 8-10 in Othmer & Othmer).
- December 13:** Final Comprehensive Examination.

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### **Evaluation Procedures:**

***In-Class Exams.*** Students will be assessed through three examinations, two unit examinations and a comprehensive final examination. Exams will be based on the assigned readings as well as information presented in class. (All of the information contained in the reading assignments is subject to being included on exams, irrespective of whether such information was specifically discussed in class.) Because a significant amount of the course material is not derived from the textbooks, it is essential that students attend class and take careful notes. Short-answer, application, and essay items will comprise the majority of the exam questions. Consequently, students will need to know the material well

enough to explain it to the instructor. Responses to the exam items will be scored using criterion- and norm-referenced grading procedures. The in-class examinations typically take 90 to 120 minutes to complete.

*Policy on Missed Exams.* A student will be allowed to complete a missed examination only under unusual circumstances (severe illness, death in the family, etc.). If a student misses an exam, he or she will be responsible for providing documentation of an excused absence. In any event, the student must contact the instructor in advance of the exam to explain his or her absence. If a student receives permission to complete a make-up examination, it must be completed within one week of the original exam date and content of the exam may be different from the original examination given to the rest of the class.

**BlackBoard Quizzes.** Students will complete a total of 12 online quizzes through the BlackBoard software system. Each weekly quiz will be posted on BlackBoard by Monday at 5:00pm and it must be completed by Thursday evening at 6:15pm before class. The first nine quizzes will each contain 50 multiple choice questions that must be answered in 1 hour. If you are dissatisfied with your grade, you may retake these quizzes two additional times during the scheduled testing period (Monday-Thursday). The grade on your last attempt will count as the final grade for that quiz. The remaining three quizzes will consist of short-answer items. These quizzes must also be completed in 1 hour. However, you will not have the opportunity to retake the final three quizzes.

Though all the quizzes are technically “open book,” it is imperative that you have carefully completed the assigned readings before logging on to BlackBoard. You will not be able to successfully complete the quizzes in the 1 hour time frame without completing the readings first.

Course assignments will be given the following weights:

Online Quizzes 20%  
Exam 1: 20%  
Exam 2: 20%  
Final Exam: 40%

Grading Scale:

A (*Extraordinary Academic Performance*) = 100-94%.  
B (*Expected Level of Performance*) = 93-79%.  
C (*Marginal, but Passing, Performance*) = 78-72%.  
F (*Inadequate Graduate-Level Performance*) = <72%.

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### **Students with Disabilities:**

*Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, auxiliary aids or services) for this course must register with the Disability Services Office. Please contact the Disability Service Office immediately in the University Center, Suite 320 or call 859-572-6373 for more information. Verification of your disability is required in the Disability Services Office for you to receive reasonable academic accommodations. Visit the Disability Services website at [www.nku.edu/~disability/](http://www.nku.edu/~disability/).*

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### **Flexibility Clause:**

This syllabus should be regarded as a tentative document and subject to change. Any changes to the syllabus or course structure will be announced in class. Because students will be held accountable for any changes in the syllabus, it is incumbent upon students to attend class meetings on a regular basis.

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