



15800 Calvary Rd.  
Kansas City, MO 64147

# Syllabus

**Course:** PSY420 D & N-D Abnormal Psychology & The Biblical Worldview  
**Credit:** 3 credit hours  
**Semester:** Spring 2026 (Session #1) (January 12<sup>th</sup>-March 6<sup>th</sup>)  
**Time:** Monday & Friday (8:00 am-9:20 am)  
**Room:** East Education #118  
**Professor:** **Dr. Luther Smith** MRS, MACP, Psy.D.  
**Email:** luther.smith.@calvary.edu

## I. DESCRIPTION

This course informs the student of basic information and knowledge in the abnormalities of human behavior. Students will also observe the Biblical worldview of Abnormal Psychology and some of the research and strategies that are used to address these abnormalities in human behavior.

*This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

## II. OBJECTIVES

### A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Recognize the different types of abnormalities thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors (PLO 4, 5).
2. Identify key words that are associated with the abnormal behavior (PLO 4, 5).
3. Distinguish the differences of the different abnormalities in human beings (PLO 4, 5).
4. Explain abnormal behavior from a Biblical worldview (PLO 1, 4, 5).
5. Prepare students for graduate level study (PLO 6).

### B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Learn the different types of abnormal behavior (PLO 4, 5).

Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."

2. Learn the differences between symptoms and criteria (PLO 4, 5).
3. Learn the different criteria for abnormal behavior (PLO 4, 5).
4. Learn the difference between human abnormalities and demonic possession (PLO 1, 4, 5).
5. Differentiate abnormal psychology from Secular Humanistic philosophy from the Biblical worldview (PLO 1, 4, 5).

### III. REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Reading Assignments

**Reading Journals:** (two full pages each) the student will give the main points of the chapters read and reaction/reflection of the reading. The student will also share his/her own thoughts or opinions about the subject of the material. The student will also share how this information might be used in his/her own life (or not) and why. The personal reflection section may be written in the first person. There will be a total of **seven (7)** journals. **Each journal will be worth 25 points** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2, 3, 4).

#### B. Written Assignments

**Abnormal Psychology Class Discussion:** **Note: You must have a webcam in order to complete this assignment.** The student will examine Scripture each week that will be given by the instructor. You will post a 5–10-minute video on a topic of the lifespan each week that will be given by the instructor, which they must comment on and offer insight on. Each student will post a 3–5-minute reply video to at least two of their classmates. There will be a total of seven (7) Canvas discussions. **Each will be worth 30 points** (GC 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2).

**Key Term Assignment:** The student will read, write down and submit the key terms that are relevant to the chapter they are reading. There will be **seven (7)** key term assignments. **Each assignment will be worth 20 points** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

**Abnormal Psychology Assignment:** (one page maximum): The student will read a vignette and identify the abnormal behavior that the one is exhibiting. They will bring their analysis in the following week and discuss the assignment. There will be a total of **seven (7)** assignments, and **each assignment will be worth 20 points** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

- C. **Quizzes:** The quizzes will cover information from the lectures from the previous week and will be taken on Canvas. They will consist of true/false multiple choice. There will be **six (6)** quizzes. **Each quiz is worth 15 points** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

**D. Final Exam:** The final exam will consist of 50 questions and will cover information presented and discussed in class. The exam questions will not be taken from the textbook unless the information was also covered in class. The final will include true/false, fill in the blank and multiple choice. **This final exam will be worth 100 points** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

#### **E. Class Participation and Behavior**

Students are expected to maintain classroom decorum that includes respect for other students and the professor, prompt and excellent attendance, and an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. Students are to refrain from using cell phones and handheld devices during class. Playing games, browsing the internet, using email, instant messaging, or text messaging etc., are considered unacceptable when class is in session. In addition, the student will be expected to contribute to class discussions in a positive manner which shows respect for the views of others. Failure to maintain this standard may result in a **full letter grade deduction from their overall grade.**

### **IV. METHODS**

#### **A. Teaching**

1. Lectures by the instructor
2. Large group discussion
3. Research and writing
4. Projects and presentations

#### **B. Grading**

1. Weight given to each assignment		
7 Journal summaries of reading <i>25pts each</i>	150pts	15%
6 Abnormal Psychology Discussion <i>30pts each</i>	180pts	18%
Class Participation <i>25pts each</i>	200pts	20%
7 Key Term Assignment <i>20pts each</i>	140pts	14%
7 Abnormal Psychology Assignment <i>20pts each</i>	140pts	14%
6 Quizzes <i>15pts each</i>	80pts	8%
Final Exam	100pts	10%

**Grading Scale**  
Grade Value Grade Point Value  
Per Semester Hour

A	100-93	4.0
A-	92-90	3.7
B+	89-87	3.3
B	86-83	3.0
B-	82-80	2.7
C+	79-77	2.3
C	76-73	2.0
C-	72-70	1.7
D+	69-67	1.3
D	66-63	1.0
D-	62-60	0.7
F	59-0	0.0

## V. MATERIALS

### A. Bible

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

### B. Required Textbooks

Hoeksema N., S. 2013. *Abnormal Behavior*. Sixth Edition. McGraw-Hill Education. ISBN-13: 978-0078035388. Retail price: \$11.04. Kindle edition available.

**Note: It is your responsibility as a student at Calvary University to have your textbooks *before* class begins so that you are able to complete all of the readings assigned. Please make sure that you have all of your assigned textbooks prior to the start of class. Failure to have your assigned textbooks at the start of the class will result in receiving a zero for every assignment that must completed.**

C. Selected Readings, which will be distributed by Canvas.

## VI. CLASS POLICIES

### Attendance

**Campus/Livestream Students:** Students are expected to attend all scheduled meetings of courses for which they are registered (as this also counts for class participation). If a student begins a course and is unable to attend a class, he/she will not receive the points allotted for this course. There are eight (8) class sessions, which correspond to the eight-week cycle. **Each class participation session is worth 25 points.**

**Online Students:** The online student is to watch the recording and answer the questions provided by his/her professor (as these counts for class participation). They are to be completed and uploaded on Canvas before the next class session. If a student fails to complete this assignment within the due date, he/she will not receive the points allotted for this course. There are eight (8) class sessions, which correspond to the eight-week cycle. **Each class participation session is worth 25 points.**

### Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

### A Secondary Statement Regarding Using AI For All Reports/Projects

Artificial intelligence (AI) in academic use could be beneficial for you as the student. However, when misused it may limit your ability to think critically. As the professor *I cannot catch nor stop you in the act of using AI for your papers and research.* However, it is my expectation that you as the student will do your best by your ability and skill as a human being in the subject(s) that you desire to study. Below is the percentage threshold concerning the effort you put in your paper and the presence of AI within your paper.

0-10 percent of AI*	No points deducted from your paper/project.
11-20 percent of AI*	A third of your overall points are deducted from your paper/project.
21-30 percent of AI*	75% of your overall points will be deducted from your paper/project.
30+ Percent of AI	You will receive no points for the paper/project.

**\*Keep in mind this deduction is *added* to the points that you would lose due to other things (Improper writing style, grammar, etc.).**

### **Writing Style**

All class papers must follow the APA style according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7<sup>th</sup> edition*. You can find APA resources under the ***Getting Started Checklist*** located in the *Introduction to Biblical Counseling* Course on Canvas.

### **Late Work**

Papers, projects, etc. are due the day before the class period meets. Unless under emergencies, and extreme circumstances, which will be determined at the discretion of the instructor ***no late work will be accepted.***

### **Disabilities Statement**

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

### **Learning Center**

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

**VII. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE**

<b>Week/Date</b>	<b>Class Topics</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Week 1	Introduction to Course Overview of Syllabus <b>Lecture #1: Abnormal Psychology and a Biblical worldview.</b>	Read <i>Abnormal Psych.</i> (Chap. 1-2) <b>DUE</b> Journal Reading #1 <b>DUE</b> Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #1 <b>DUE</b> Key Terms assignment #1 <b>DUE</b>
Week 2	<b>Lecture #2:</b> Assessing and diagnosing Abnormal Psychology.	Read <i>Abnormal Psych.</i> (Chap. 2-3) <b>DUE</b> Journal Reading #2 <b>DUE</b> Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #2 <b>DUE</b> Key Terms assignment #2 <b>DUE</b> Abnormal Psychology Assignment #1 <b>DUE</b> Quiz #1 <b>DUE</b>
Week 3	<b>Abnormal Psychology Assign #1 Discussion</b> <b>Lecture #3:</b> Anxiety and Dissociative Disorders.	Read <i>Abnormal Psych.</i> (Chap. 5-6) <b>DUE</b> Journal Reading #3 <b>DUE</b> Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #3 <b>DUE</b> Key Terms assignment #3 <b>DUE</b> Abnormal Psychology Assignment # 2 <b>DUE</b> Quiz #2 <b>DUE</b>
Week 4	<b>Abnormal Psychology Assign #2 Discussion</b> <b>Lecture #4:</b> Mood Disorders, Schizophrenia and other Psychotic disorders.	Read <i>Abnormal Psych.</i> (Chap. 7-8) <b>DUE</b> Journal Reading #4 <b>DUE</b> Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #4 <b>DUE</b> Key Terms assignment #4 <b>DUE</b> Abnormal Psychology Assignment #3 <b>DUE</b> Quiz #3 <b>DUE</b>
Week 5	<b>Abnormal Psychology Assign #3 Discussion</b> <b>Lecture #5:</b> Personality Disorders	Read <i>Abnormal Psych</i> (Chap. 9) <b>DUE</b> Journal Reading #5 <b>DUE</b> Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #5 <b>DUE</b> Key Terms assignment #5 <b>DUE</b> Abnormal Psychology Assignment #4 <b>DUE</b> Quiz #4 <b>DUE</b>
Week 6	<b>Abnormal Psychology Assign #4 Discussion</b> <b>Lecture #6:</b> Neurodevelopmental, impulse, and conduct disorders.	Read <i>Abnormal Psych.</i> (Chap. 10-11) <b>DUE</b> Journal Reading #6 <b>DUE</b> Critical Thinking Canvas Discussion #6 <b>DUE</b> Key Terms assignment #6 <b>DUE</b> Abnormal Psychology Assignment # 5 <b>DUE</b> Quiz #5 <b>DUE</b>
Week 7	<b>Abnormal Psychology Assign #5 Discussion</b> <b>Lecture #7:</b> Eating disorders	Read <i>Abnormal Psych.</i> (Chap. 12) <b>DUE</b> Journal Reading #7 <b>DUE</b> Key Terms assignment #7 <b>DUE</b> Abnormal Psychology Assignment #6 <b>DUE</b> Quiz #6 <b>DUE</b> <b>FINAL EXAM IS NEXT WEEK!</b>
Week 8	<b>Abnormal Psychology Assign #6 Discussion</b> <b>Lecture #8:</b> Substance Abuse Disorders	Read <i>Abnormal Psych</i> (Chap 14) <b>DUE</b> Abnormal Psychology Assignment # 7 <b>DUE</b> Final Exam <b>DUE</b>