Welcome!
Welcome to PSYC 451 Abnormal Psychology online! My name is Ms. Sistad and I will be your instructor this semester. I am currently a graduate student of the Clinical Psychology program. My interests include psychopathology, namely mood and substance use disorders, among the young adult population. I thoroughly enjoy learning, practicing, and teaching Psychology, and look forward to a great semester.

This comprehensive survey course will provide you with an overview of abnormal psychology from evolutionary, biological, neurological, psychological, social, socio-cultural, and political perspectives. You will learn about symptoms, criteria for diagnosis, and possible causes and treatments for various mental disorders. By the end of this course, you will gain a greater understanding of abnormal psychology as a rapidly evolving science, and abnormal behavior within the context of normative behavior. You will make use of your critical thinking skills while gaining knowledge of interdisciplinary research from fields ranging from culture to genetics associated with the development of psychopathology.

Please note that a prerequisite to this course is Psyc 101.

Textbook & Materials
The second edition of Abnormal Psychology by William J. Ray is the required textbook for this course. There is a student study site (edge.sagepub.com/rayabnormal2e) to access for additional study materials.


ISBN: 9781506333359

Technology Requirements
The University of South Dakota has established minimum technology requirements for participation in online courses. These are outlined under the “Technology Support and Requirements” section in the Online Student Handbook document in the Getting Started widget on the course homepage.

**IMPORTANT:** Students must have the ability to submit papers in a format compatible with Turnitin (Word: DOC or DOCX; OpenOffice: ODT; Other: RTF, TXT, PDF, WPS), as
the instructor will use the GradeMark feature of Turnitin to provide feedback.

Additionally, live lectures/office hours will be facilitated via a web-conferencing system called Collaborate. In order to fully engage in these lectures, it is recommended that you either purchase a USB multimedia headset—earphones with a microphone—or you have a phone available to conference into the session, so that you can ask questions instead of typing them. Headsets can be purchased online, or from your local retailer (Walmart, Best Buy, Radio Shack, etc.), for around $15-$30 depending on the brand and model (Logitech is recommended).

**General Course Schedule**
In general, a typical week in this course will be sequenced as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>TASK</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Start of the week; new materials and weekly assessments available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open for independent work and discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Live lecture / office hours @ 7:00 PM CT (optional--see below; these last around two hours).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Open for independent work and discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Open for independent work and discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Open for independent work &amp; discussions. Note, that today the discussions posts are due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>from the previous week’s topic.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>“Weekly Chapter Quizzes” available on edge.sagepub.com/rayabnormal2e.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>If a graded exam is scheduled, it will open @ 12:00 AM CT.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Initial discussion postings due by 11:59 PM CT.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>Open for work on assessments/quizzes or exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Open for work on discussions/assessments/quizzes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Begin to prepare for the next week’s topic. Adjustments made due to technological difficulties</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>and student circumstances.</td>
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**TIP:** Participation in the live lectures is **OPTIONAL**; however, if you do not participate in the live lecture, you must watch the recording. Please refer to the syllabus for details.

**General Course Requirements and Expectations**
The South Dakota Board of Regents defines a credit hour as constituting one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction, and two hours of out of class student work. This is a three credit-hour course, so students should expect to invest around nine hours per week in the course.

Because this is an online course, where we will not meet face to face, this engagement will be facilitated via the following activities, all of which will be due by the end of the week: posting in the weekly discussions; attending the live lecture or watching its recording; completing the weekly quizzes; other
assessments at the discretion of the instructor.

**IMPORTANT:** This will not be a self-paced or correspondence-like course. You will be required to complete—and assessed on—weekly activities. Failure to do so may result in a reduced grade in the course, or being dropped from the course.

In terms of other assessments, there will be five exams, which must be taken using the LockDown Browser. These will NOT be proctored; however, you are not allowed to use any materials while taking the exam. You will also be required to write two performance/album reviews. Please see the syllabus for more details (dates, grading criteria, rubrics, expectations, etc.).

**Getting Started**

First, you will need to access the course in Desire2Learn (D2L). This can be done via the USD student portal, [http://my.usd.edu](http://my.usd.edu), or directly via [https://d2l.sdbor.edu](https://d2l.sdbor.edu). The course should be listed in under “My Courses.” Note: you will not be able to access the course until the official start date.

Next, you should familiarize yourself with the CDE Online Orientation, which can be found in the Getting Started widget on the course homepage. It contains important information on accessing USD’s resources online.

Once in the course, you should do the following:

1. Read through the items in the Getting Started section on the top, left-hand side of the course homepage.
2. Orient yourself to the other important areas (widgets) of the homepage:
   - **News:** where the weekly roadmap will be posted.  
     Note: this is also available under Course Schedule in the Getting Started widget from step 1 above.
3. Familiarize yourself with the various tools that will be used throughout the semester:
   - **Content:** where all course materials reside.
   - **Assessments:** where you will access your Grades and Quizzes (and exams).
   - **Communications:** where you will access the weekly Discussions.
   - **Resources:** where you will find the Classlist (which you can use to contact me), the FAQ, etc.
   - **Course Mail:** this is located at the very top, right-hand side of the course, and will be used for all official correspondence in the course; when you have unread Course Mail, a red badge will appear on the email icon: ![Email Icon]
4. **Post your introduction in the first week’s discussion topic under Communications → Discuss.**

**IMPORTANT:** You must complete the last two tasks (#4 and #5) by the end of the first week of the course, or you risk being dropped from the course. If you are having problems doing so, please IMMEDIATELY contact me.
**Contacting Me**

My contact information is listed at the top of this document. The best way to contact me is via the course my USD e-mail. I will do my utmost to respond to your requests within twenty-four (24) hours during the weekdays, or forty-eight (48) hours on the weekends and holidays. Note: please do not use the pager tool to contact me.