

Advanced Psychopathology

PSYC 210

Spring 2026 Section 01 In Person 3 Unit(s) 01/22/2026 to 05/11/2026 Modified 01/13/2026

Contact Information

Instructor	Erin Woodhead, PhD
Office Location	DMH 316
Telephone	408-924-5654
Office Hours	Tuesdays 11am-1pm in DMH 316
Class Days/Times	Thursdays 12-2:45pm
Classroom	DMH 308
Prerequisites	Admission to MS Clinical Program and student in good standing
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Course Description and Requisites

Advanced course to provide knowledge and experience in the classification and treatment of disorders of childhood, adolescence and adulthood as they are identified in schools, family interactions and worksite settings. Critical review of research related to the evaluation of treatment strategies.

Prerequisite: PSYC 110.

Notes: MS program priority.

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

This is a graduate seminar, so I expect you to be attentive in class, participate in discussions, and limit other distractions. Please place cell phones on silent mode during class. If you must make or answer a call, please excuse yourself from class for such activity. Please do not browse the web during class. Most importantly, please be respectful of your classmates' opinions, as this is a seminar course and we are likely to discuss topics for which students will have differing opinions. Also, if you discuss client-related content in class, please be sure to protect that person's confidentiality. Students are asked not to share these discussions outside of class.

Attendance is expected each week. If you do not attend classes, you will miss material that will appear on the exams. If you have to miss a class, please let me know ahead of time. If you have to miss a few classes, please make an appointment with me so that we can discuss your progress in the course and your reasons for not attending class.

Program Information

Licensure Learning Outcomes (LLOs) indicate how each course meets the educational requirements as detailed by the CA Board of Behavioral Sciences. The MS Clinical LLOs are detailed on our program website. (<https://sjsu.edu/psych/graduate-programs/masters-clinical-psych/learning-objectives.php>, (<https://sjsu.edu/psych/graduate-programs/masters-clinical-psych/learning-objectives.php>))

Program learning outcomes (PLOs) are skills and knowledge that students will have achieved upon completion of the MS in Clinical Psychology degree. Each course in our curriculum contributes to one or more of these PLOs.

The PLOs for the degree are:

1. Interventions and evidence-based applications

1.1 Students will be able to apply, compare, and contrast a variety of psychotherapy theories and implement at least one chosen theory or intervention with clinical case material

1.2 Students will be able to evaluate, select, and implement empirically supported clinical interventions for clinical case material and clients

2. Communication and Case presentation

2.1 Students will be able to integrate and communicate clinical case material

2.2 Students will be able to synthesize contextual and cultural variables into their understanding of and presentation of client materials

2.3 Students will effectively respond to queries about clinical material and engage in discussions about their clients with supervisors and peers

2.4 Students will be able to analyze cases other than those they are treating, applying theories, principles, and relevant empirical findings to those cases

3. Competent Assessment and Evaluation

3.1 Students will be able to evaluate, select, and implement different assessment devices and strategies for assessing client outcomes and processes of change over the course of treatment including nomothetic and idiographic approaches

4. Professional clinical practice

4.1 Students will demonstrate competency consistent with professional standards of practice in areas including, but not limited to, psychotherapy theory, service delivery, ethics, assessment, research methods, family/couples therapy, cultural diversity and humility, risk management and safety planning, psychopharmacology, and issues relevant to adult and child clinical populations.

5. Preparation and meeting professional licensing requirements

5.1 Students will demonstrate fulfillment of coursework and other pre-degree licensing requirements outlined by the Board of Behavioral Sciences

Course Goals

This course is designed to build on knowledge accumulated in undergraduate classes to develop an understanding and classification of types of human psychopathology. This is a core course in the MS Clinical Program. It will have a heavy emphasis on the conceptualization and treatment of specific disorders, following an evidence-based practice model. This course is designed to prepare clinicians for service provision in applied settings. We will not focus extensively on the philosophy or empirical development of nosological classifications systems. We will instead engage in assignments geared toward helping students become competent with using the current diagnostic system and tying diagnosis to the conceptualization and treatment of specific conditions. Students have to pass this course with a B or higher per the student handbook.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

1. CLO1: Know the diagnostic criteria for the major disorders in DSM-5 and have a working understanding of how this classification system operates. This CLO will be met by completing in-class and out-of-class vignettes.
2. CLO2: Develop a case conceptualization and theoretically conceptualize complex human problems attending to relevant cultural, ethical, and treatment considerations. This CLO will be met by completing in-class and out-of-class vignettes.
3. CLO3: Utilize and be familiar with the empirical literature concerning treatments for specific disorders. This CLO will be met by completing in-class and out-of-class vignettes.
4. CLO4: Learn treatment planning within the principles of evidence-based practice. This CLO will be met by completing in-class and out-of-class vignettes.

Course Materials

Clinical handbook of psychological disorders: A step-by-step treatment manual.

Author: Barlow, D. H.

Publisher: Guilford Press

Edition: 6

ISBN: 978-1462547043

Availability: Online outlets and the campus bookstore

Price: 120.00 through Guilford

Course Requirements and Assignments

Weekly Mechanism Quizzes

For most class sessions, class will start with a "mechanism" quiz about the key mechanism of the problem and mechanism of change for the diagnosis category we're discussing that day. Your responses will be hand-written and should be in complete sentences. You won't be able to use notes for the quiz. **(11 mechanism quizzes at 10 points each = 110 points)**

Individual Vignettes

Over the course of the semester, you will be asked to consider two vignettes (1 out of class, 1 in class). In response to these vignettes, you will answer specific questions designed to assess your comprehension of both the diagnosing of the individual in the vignettes and the clinical and assessment issues present in the case. Your responses are to be written out in full sentences. You are not to bullet answers or provide 2-3 word sentences.

Please number your response to each item. **Vignette responses should be no more than 8 pages.**

Each individual vignette is worth 35 points **(2 total individual vignettes = 70 points)**. Please see Canvas for vignette grading rubrics.

Individual Vignette Rewrites

For the individual vignettes, you will complete a re-write that incorporates feedback from the instructor and relevant class discussion about the case. You will turn in the entire vignette document for your re-write, with the revised sections highlighted. To receive full points on the re-write (15 points each), you are required to address all of the concerns raised by the instructor on your first vignette attempt. This grade does not replace your original grade on the vignette. A rubric is provided on Canvas. **(2 re-writes worth 15 points each = 30 points)**

Skillsetter assignments

We'll be using Skillsetter to practice responding to client vignettes. There are 4 modules of Skillsetter assignments, with each module due on a specific date. Within one week of receiving feedback on your responses, you'll be asked to submit a second version with my feedback incorporated (except for the

final module). 9 vignettes, 2 responses each = 90 points; Module 4 response = 10 points. Total of 100 points for Skillsetter assignments.

Group Vignette

At the start of the semester you will complete one vignette with a group. This will be done entirely in class, with responses handed in on paper (not typed). This assignment will be treated as a brainstorming session for what to include in each vignette section. Your group should make notes for each section but it doesn't have to be fully written out into complete sentences. This is worth **25 points (every group member gets the same grade)**.

Final Oral Exam

At the end of the semester each student will schedule a time slot to complete an oral exam with the instructor. This will involve the student being presented with 2 cases and talking through different aspects of the case with the instructor. The student will also be asked to engage in a role-play where they talk through the treatment plan with the client. Details on the grading sections for the oral exam are available on Canvas. **Each case is worth 40 points (80 points total)**

✓ Grading Information

Final Grades: Your final letter grade will be based on a percentage obtained by dividing your points by the total points for this course (410 points). I will use the following grading rubric:

A+ = 97.0 to 100%

A = 93.0 to 96.9%

A- = 90.0 to 92.9%

B+ = 87.0 to 89.9%

B = 83.0 to 86.9% (students must receive a B or higher to pass this class)

B- = 80.0 to 82.9%

C+ = 77.0 to 79.9%

C = 73.0 to 76.9%

C- = 70.0 to 72.9%

D+ = 67.0 to 69.9%

D = 63.0 to 66.9%

D- = 60.0 to 62.9%

F = 59.9% or less

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

When	Topic	Notes
Week 1, Jan 22 DMH 308	Introduction to course; Formulation/case conceptualization	Readings: 1. Kuyken et al. (2008) Assignments: Familiarize yourself with Skillsetter; start group vignette (Shirley)
Week 2, Jan 29 DMH 308	Anxiety Disorders: Panic Disorder and Agoraphobia	Readings: 1. Barlow Ch 1 (Panic) Mechanism Quiz #1 in class
Week 3, Feb 5 DMH 308	Anxiety Disorders: GAD, Phobias, Social Anxiety Disorder	Readings: 1. Barlow Ch 5 (GAD) 2. Barlow Ch 3 (SA) Mechanism Quiz #2 in class; Turn in Shirley vignette by end of class
Week 4, Feb 12 DMH 308	OC-Related Disorders: OCD; Grief	Readings: 1. Barlow Ch 4 (OCD) Mechanism Quiz #3 in class; Phil vignette due on Canvas by 11:59pm
Week 5, Feb 19 DMH 308	Trauma and Stressor-Related Disorders: PTSD, ASD, Adjustment	Readings: 1. Barlow Ch 2 (PTSD) Mechanism Quiz #4 in class; Phil vignette feedback

When	Topic	Notes
Week 6, Feb 26 DMH 308	Depressive Disorders	Readings: 1. Barlow Ch 7 (CBT) 2. Barlow Ch 8 (IPT) Mechanism Quiz #5 in class; Phil vignette re-write due by 11:59pm; Skillsetter Module 1 responses due by Mon Mar 2 11:59pm
Week 7, Mar 5 DMH 308	Bipolar and Related Disorders	Readings: 1. Barlow Ch 12 (bipolar) 2. Barlow Ch 9 (BA dep) Mechanism Quiz #6 in class
Week 8, Mar 12 DMH 308	Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders	Readings: 1. Barlow Ch 14 (alcohol) Mechanism Quiz #7 in class; Skillsetter Module 1 resubmissions due by Monday Mar 16, 11:59pm
Week 9, Mar 19 DMH 308	Eating Disorders	Readings: 1. Barlow Ch 18 (Eating Disorders) Mechanism Quiz #8 in class; Skillsetter Module 2 responses due by Monday 3/23 11:59pm
Week 10, Mar 26 DMH 308	In-Class Vignette (timed, open notes)	Marissa case due by the end of class
Week 11, Apr 2		No class, spring break; Skillsetter Module 2 resubmissions due April 6 by 11:59pm
Week 12, Apr 9 DMH 308	Sleep Problems and Chronic Pain	Readings: 1. Barlow Ch 16 (sleep) 2. Barlow Ch 17 (chronic pain) Mechanism Quiz #9 in class; Marissa feedback
Week 13, Apr 16 DMH 308	Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders & Dissociative Disorders	Readings: 1. DSM Section Dissociative Disorders 2. DSM Section Somatic Symptoms and Related Disorders Assignments: Marissa rewrite due by 11:59pm

When	Topic	Notes
Week 14, Apr 23 DMH 308	Sexual Dysfunctions and Couple Distress	<p>Readings: 1. Barlow Ch 19 (couples) 2. DSM Sections on Gender Dysphoria, Paraphilic Disorders, and Sexual Dysfunctions</p> <p>Mechanism Quiz #10 in class; Skillsetter Module 3 responses due by Monday 4/27, 11:59pm</p>
Week 15, Apr 30 DMH 308	Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders	<p>Readings: Barlow Ch 13 (Schizophrenia)</p> <p>Mechanism Quiz #11 in class</p>
Week 16, May 7 DMH 308	Borderline Personality Disorder	<p>Readings: 1. Barlow Ch 10 (BPD)</p> <p>Assignments: Oral exam dates will occur May 8 to May 18. Sign ups will be announced in class; Skillsetter Module 4 response and Module 3 resubmissions due by Monday May 11, 11:59pm</p>