



PSYCHOLOGY 3310F (570)
Adult Psychopathology
Fall/Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: Dr. Gareth Abbey
Email: gabbey@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

This theory course is designed to introduce the wide-ranging theories and treatment perspectives of psychopathology in adults. The major disorders covered in the DSM will be explored, with an orientation on empirical research findings.

Prerequisite(s): [Psychology 2840F/G](#) (or [Psychology 2801F/G](#), [Psychology 2802F/G](#), the former Psychology 2800E, the former Psychology 2820E, [Psychology 2830A/B](#), [Psychology 2855F/G](#) or [Psychology 2856F/G](#)) and registration in the third or fourth year of Honours Specialization in Psychology, Honours Specialization in Applied Psychology, Honours Double Major, Major or Specialization in Psychology, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisite(s): [Psychology 2030A/B](#), [Psychology 2310A/B](#) and [Psychology 3311](#).

Extra Information: 3 lecture/discussion hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: PSYCHOL

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

King's University College
PSYCHOLOGY 3310F (570)
Adult Psychopathology
Fall/Winter 2025

Course Information:

Course Name, Number, Section: Adult Psychopathology, 3310F, 570
Instructor: Dr Gareth Abbey
Contact Information: gabbey@uwo.ca
Office hours: Virtual & on-campus office hours by appointment

Course Description:

This course will focus on the development of diagnostic classifications, theoretical models, and evidence-bases that underpin the assessment, formulation, and treatment, and how this is applied to mental health problems common in adults. Students will explore historic cultural, and contemporary perspectives, including - but not limited to - the experience and perspectives of minority groups, and perspectives outside the mainstream academic or medical model. Students will discover the value and role of clinical research in the discovery of important psychological processes, and how these discoveries inform evidence-based assessment, formulation, and treatment. The course will focus specifically on DSM-5 (APA, 2013) diagnoses such as depressive and anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), complex PTSD, and personality disorder, and evidence-based treatment models used to treat them (e.g. cognitive-behavioural, psychodynamic, and third-wave approaches).

Course Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Argue multiple historic, cultural, and scientific perspectives of adult psychopathology and their relationship to our understanding of mental disorder.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of general principles underpinning the assessment, formulation, and treatment of common psychological disorders in adulthood.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of how research contributes to conceptualisation and treatment of adult psychopathology.
4. Analyse research evidence to evaluate the validity of psychological models and the effectiveness of their emergent treatments.

Mode of Instruction: *in-person*

Course Expectations:

- Students are expected to attend lectures, participate in exercises, complete written assignments, and exams. Students must pass the mid-term and final exams to pass this course.
- All students are expected to behave in a professional and respectful manner to all students and staff. Failure to do so will result in academic discipline and/or discipline under the Student Code of Conduct. This applies to all verbal and written correspondence.

- Recording of lectures or tutorials without the explicit consent of the Professor or TA is grounds for academic discipline.
- Course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member's intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member.
- Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.

Course Textbooks & Materials:

- Internet connection, web-browser to access assignments and lecture slides on OWL, Brightspace, and computer with Microsoft word/pdf document creation software to complete course assignments.
- Required Textbook: *Perspectives in Psychopathology*, 7th ed (2023), ed. D. Dozois. This book can be purchased in either e-format or printed format at the publisher's website: [Perspectives in Psychopathology](#) for \$67.99.

Method of Evaluation:

The Final Exam will be taken on campus. Students must attain a passing grade on both the term paper and exam to pass the course, and will complete the following summative assessments:

- **Short Written Assignments (20%):** Students will complete two SWAs, weighted at 10% each, during the term. These are to be 500-words each and involve a review and evaluation of a published research or theoretical paper related to Adult Psychopathology, a selection of which will be provided. SWAs will be set at the end of a course section and will be due one week later. Deadlines are on the schedule.
- **Final Term Paper (40%):** Students will complete a 2500-word term paper focused on one of range of selected topics within Adult Psychopathology. The structure and elements of this paper will be presented during class and posted on (OWL).
- **Final Exam (40%)** This will be conducted during the final exam period as shown on the course timetable, with exact time, date, and location announced at the beginning of the semester.

Academic Considerations:

- **Deadlines:** Deadlines cultivate discipline and organisation required for professional work. They also help pace and prioritise your learning. Students are strongly encouraged to submit their work according to the deadlines scheduled in the course outline unless due to extenuating circumstances outlined in the general course policies. However, if a student is unable to submit their work and require some extenuating circumstances, academic consideration is available based on medical or compassionate grounds. If you need to miss a test date (e.g. final exam) or assessment deadline (e.g. short written assignment), contact the Academic Advising Office with supporting documentation for their absence; for medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation.
-

Academic Integrity:

- Plagiarism is copying and/or using the work of others for academic credit without proper reference and citation or reusing your own work that you have already submitted for academic credit. Plagiarism includes using a significant amount of someone else's phrasing, writing, and/or ideas without proper acknowledgement, even if the entire assignment is not an exact copy.
- Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following link: [Definition of Scholastic Offence](#)
- This course will follow the general policy of the King's Psychology Department on using LLM (such as ChatGPT, among others) for assignments. It will be considered an academic offence to use Artificial Generative Intelligence (AGI) for your academic assignments and will be subject to academic discipline policies and procedures. This includes, but is not limited to ChatGPT, Copilot, or any AI that uses a large-language model (LLM), or translation/grammar tools. Link to Western Scholastic Discipline policy: [Western Scholastic Discipline Policy](#)
- All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:

Date	Topic	Assignment Deadlines Readings (Dozois, 2023)
2025-09-10	Conceptualizing Psychopathology I Historical, Cultural, & Clinical Perspectives	Chapter 1
2025-09-17	Conceptualizing Psychopathology II Classification/Diagnosis vs Theory/Formulation	Chapters 2 & 3
2025-09-24	Conceptualizing Psychopathology III Risk & Resilience Factors for Adult Psychopathology	
2025-10-01	Mood Disorders Major Depressive Disorder (MDD) Bipolar Disorder	Chapter 8 SWA-1 (due 3rd Oct)
2025-10-08	Anxiety Disorders I Introduction to Anxiety Simple Phobia	Chapter 5
2025-10-15	Anxiety Disorders II Panic Disorder Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)	
2025-10-22	Anxiety Disorders III Social Anxiety Disorder (SAD)	SWA-2 (due 24th Oct)

	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)	
2025-10-29	Trauma/Stress-Related Disorders I Historical, Cultural, & Clinical Perspectives Differential Diagnosis	
2025-11-03	READING WEEK	
2025-11-12	Trauma/Stress-Related Disorders II Theory & Intervention	
2025-11-19	Personality Disorder I	Chapter 12 Final Term Paper (due 19th Nov)
2025-11-26	Personality Disorder II	Chapter 12
2025-12-03	Psychotic Disorders	
2025-12-09	Classes End	
2025-12-10	Study Day	
2025-12-11	Mid-Year Examination Period	Final Exam (TBD)
2025-12-23	College Closed	

Department of Psychology Policies Related to AI Tools

1. Policy on the Use of Generative AI Tools

The Department of Psychology expects that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial).

The use of generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT) is not permitted for any submitted coursework unless express permission has been granted by your instructor.

Students **should not have AI tools write any part of their assignments or papers, either by copying and pasting or by paraphrasing the output.** Unauthorized use of AI constitutes an academic offence and will be subject to academic discipline.

Additional information: Students can use AI tools to clarify questions they have about course content (e.g., you can ask ChatGPT about a course concept to help with your understanding), but students should be aware that the response may be inaccurate or inconsistent with the course content. Asking your instructor is a more effective strategy. Students should note that information provided by AI tools such as ChatGPT can include mistakes, inaccuracies, biases, and outdated information. Whenever these tools are used, students should cross-verify the information provided to them. This means verifying that the sources used by AI exist and have been accurately summarized, consulting multiple original and reputable up-to-date sources to verify information, and being cautious of bias that could be present in the information provided.

2. Policy on Use of Translation Tools*

The Department of Psychology views the unapproved use of translation or language applications as an academic offence.

Any usage of translation applications or language generation by students to complete specific assigned work for this course **must be approved** by the instructor **prior** to submitting the work **and noted by the student in the submitted work** itself.

Writing text and then feeding it into a computer application to improve or translate your own words, changing a few words, and then submitting this text as if it was your own **constitutes plagiarism**. You must compose text, choose words, construct logic flow, structure sentences and paragraphs to organize, synthesize, interpret information with your own mind. When you borrow language or ideas from another person or from a machine this must be acknowledged with quotation marks and/or citations.

Why do we have this policy?

- Translation is intellectual work and produces intellectual property, thus any text which is translated must cite the translator.
- Psychology endeavors to advance students' linguistic, analytic, and reasoning competencies – this can not happen outside of specific language competencies.
- Earning a university degree signals that an individual has advanced literacy and communicative skill in the language of instruction at the university; this is English at King's University College at Western University. If translation machines are used by students without regulation, we will have no way of certifying whether these competencies exist and fewer mechanism for encouraging students to do the hard work to develop them.

** Based on the policy developed by the Department of Child and Youth Studies*

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is

offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help: https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.