

**THIS IS YOUR COURSE SYLLABUS –
please, KEEP IT HANDY and REFER TO IT OFTEN**

**Welcome to PSY 364!
Introduction to Clinical Psychology
Fall 2015 Unique # 42375**

Instructor: Kirsten Bradbury, Ph.D.
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TA:
Office (Hours):
Email:

Required Text:

Cormier, Nurius, & Osborn (2013). Interviewing and Change Strategies for Helpers, 7th Edition. Cengage.
ISBN-13: 978-0840028570

Additional assigned readings will be made available via Canvas.

There is much more you need to learn on this topic than I can teach you in the lecture time available to us.
Therefore: assigned readings.

Course Objectives:

The major objective of the course is to provide an overview of the field of clinical psychology and introduce students to fundamental clinical skills, attitudes, and ethical viewpoints. Major topic areas to be covered include:

- Theories and conceptual models of clinical helping;
- Career development in the helping professions;
- Professional issues in clinical practice;
- Assessment and therapy techniques used in clinical psychology;
- Ethical and clinical decision-making;
- Relationship between clinical practice and research science.

This course may be used to fulfill the social and behavioral sciences component of the university core curriculum (Core Component 080) and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, empirical and quantitative skills, and social responsibility.

Student Prerequisites:

For psychology majors - upper-division standing and PSY301 and 418 with a grade of at least C in each; **For Nonmajors** - upper-division standing, PSY301 with a grade of at least C, and one of the following with a grade of at least C: Biology 318M, Civil Engineering 311S, Economics 329, Educational Psychology 371, Government 350K, Kinesiology 373, Mathematics 316, Psychology 317, Sociology 317L, Social Work 318, Statistics 309.

Exams:

There will be four exams consisting of multiple-choice items (70%) and short-answer items like matching, fill-in-the-blanks, and brief free response (30%). All four exams will be given during regular class times (see course calendar). There will be no final exam during finals week. All exams are cumulative (cover all previous material from lectures and assigned readings), with the emphasis of Exam 4 in particular being on the overall learning you accomplished over the course of the semester. Each exam is worth about **25%** of your grade in the course. We do not drop any exam grades. You are responsible for assigned reading material whether or not it is covered in class and for lecture material whether or not it is covered in the readings. Information about any curve, dropped items, etc., will be provided following each exam. Please bring photo identification with you to all exams.

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Make-Up Exams: If you need to reschedule an exam in advance, or you miss an exam unexpectedly and want to make it up, please either show the TA documentation supporting your request to take a make-up exam or talk to Dr. Bradbury about it. In most cases of legitimate need to reschedule an exam, documentation is very simple to obtain! We are not interested in preventing you from attending your sister's wedding or a grad-school interview or whatever other self-actualizing, big-deal event in your life happens to conflict with the class exam schedule. Without documentation, you can still talk to us about your situation and we may make exceptions according to our judgment – but you should never *expect* to be allowed to make up a missed exam without some evidence that you have a compelling reason for doing so. Attitude goes a long way with us on this.

Attendance:

I expect you to attend class, and class attendance is *crucial* for doing well in this course (a lot of the exam material comes from my lectures). *Also, I have been known to give an occasional Extra Credit point in class at unpredictable (unannounced) times; you must (must must MUST) be in class when the EC is awarded to benefit from this good fortune!* However, attending class is always up to your discretion. You are a grown-up, and if you miss class I will assume it is because your life works better for you to not be there that day. My goal is to make class so engaging that you enjoy being here even though it's 9:00AM!!

Grades:

Your course grade is based on your exam performance. We add together all the points you earned on the four exams, add in any extra-credit points you happened to earn, and then we divide the total by 4 to yield a percentage score. This percentage score is represented as a letter grade for the course using the following grade distribution:

A = 93 and up	C+ = 78-79
A- = 90-92	C = 72-77
B+ = 88-89	C- = 70-71
B = 82-87	D = 60-69
B- = 80-81	F = 59 and down

Percentage course grades are calculated to two decimal places and rounded to the nearest whole number, such that, for example, the lowest A- is 89.50 (rounds to 90).

Borderline Grades Stay Borderline: Every semester, some students score just below the borderline of the next highest grade. I have great sympathy for people who find themselves in that position, but raising those grades would simply uncover a new group of people whose grades are near the new borderline. This makes everybody edgy. Therefore, my policy must be that borderline grades stay as they are. Thus, for example, an 89.49 is a B+. *Attempting to get me to make an exception to this policy is a waste of your precious time on this planet.*

Important Notices:

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY. *If you have been provided with an accommodations letter or you are in the process of completing an evaluation for these services, please let us know and we will be happy to accommodate your learning needs. Dr. Bradbury and Amelia both play a role in managing accommodations for our students; come see us!*

The UT Honor Code applies to all aspects of your work in this class. We report suspected cheating or other violations. Don't risk it!!

See the Course Calendar for exam dates, lecture topics, and reading assignments. In addition to being distributed in class, this syllabus and the course calendar are posted on the class Canvas page. I typically post lecture slides and other course materials to Canvas also.

It's going to be a great semester!
