

BEHV 7029 PSYCHOPATHOLOGY: THEORY AND PRACTICE

Credit Points 10

Legacy Code 102362

Coordinator Michelle Dean ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Michelle Dean/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Michelle%20Dean/))

Description This subject provides an examination of a range of major categories of psychopathology, including more typical presentations for psychological treatment and inter-professional indications and communication. Students will critically evaluate the common psychopathology diagnostic systems across the lifespan and examine the diagnostic criteria for a range of major psychopathology presentations. The subject will equip students with skills in the application of diagnostic and psychometric assessment of these psychological disorders and the ability to construct a case formulation with systemic and cultural considerations, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to inform psychological treatment interventions. Students will also develop skills in discerning when, why and how to collaborate and communicate with multidisciplinary teams in inter-professional context.

School Psychology

Discipline Psychology

Student Contribution Band HECS Band 1 10cp

Check your fees via the Fees (https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/) page.

Level Postgraduate Coursework Level 7 subject

Equivalent Subjects BEHV 7010 - Clinical Psychopathology 1

Restrictions

Students must be enrolled in 1812 Master of Clinical Psychology or 1814 Master of Professional Psychology.

Learning Outcomes

After successful completion of this subject, students will be able to:

1. Evaluate the history and characteristics of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and International Classification of Diseases (ICD), and their strengths and limitations as classificatory systems of adult psychopathology (APAC GA: 3.16, 4.2.1i, 4.2.1iii & 4.2.2i).
2. Assess the diagnostic features and associated characteristics of major and comorbid psychological disorders and indications for inter-professional treatments, collaboration and communication. (APAC GA: 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.8, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 4.2.1iii, 4.2.2ii, 4.2.2iii & 4.2.3iii).
3. Examine the current major theories of the aetiologies of these disorders, identify risk and resilience factors and apply these across the lifespan, and within a systemic and culturally informed framework, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. (APAC GA: 3.2, 4.2.1i & 4.2.1ii).
4. Perform a clinical diagnostic interview that assesses adult psychopathology to generate, communicate and reflect on provisional and differential diagnoses and case level formulation to

inform treatment planning that takes into consideration systemic and cultural contexts (APAC GA: 3.3, 3.6, 3.14, 3.15 & 4.2.2iii).

Subject Content

Theoretical and empirical foundations of psychopathology, including current diagnostic classification systems ? International Classification of Diseases, 11th revision (ICD 11), Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition (DSM 5).

Clinical and psychometric assessment of psychopathology, including risk assessment.

Case formulation that includes systemic and cultural considerations in client presentations.

Anxiety disorders.

Mood disorders.

Trauma and stressor-related disorders.

Obsessive-compulsive and related disorders.

Eating and Feeding disorders.

Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

Personality Disorders.

Substance Related Disorders.

Assessment

The following table summarises the standard assessment tasks for this subject. Please note this is a guide only. Assessment tasks are regularly updated, where there is a difference your Learning Guide takes precedence.

| Type | Length | Percent | Threshold | Individual/ Group Task | Mandatory |
|-------------------|-------------|---------|-----------|------------------------|-----------|
| Simulation | 50 minutes | S/U | Y | Individual | Y |
| Simulation | 50 minutes | 40 | Y | Individual | Y |
| Professional Task | 1,000 words | 20 | Y | Individual | Y |
| Final Exam | 2 hours | 40 | Y | Individual | Y |

Teaching Periods

Autumn (2025)

Bankstown City

On-site

Subject Contact Quincy Wong ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Quincy Wong/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Quincy%20Wong/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV7029_25-AUT_BK_1#subjects)

Penrith (Kingswood)

On-site

Subject Contact Quincy Wong ([https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Quincy Wong/](https://directory.westernsydney.edu.au/search/name/Quincy%20Wong/))

View timetable (https://classregistration.westernsydney.edu.au/odd/timetable/?subject_code=BEHV7029_25-AUT_KW_1#subjects)