I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

PSY 540 - Behavior Problems of Childhood and Adolescence, as described in the WKU Graduate School Bulletin, is a course designed to cover the major forms of psychopathology in children and adolescents with an emphasis upon recent research, classification systems and developmental patterns.

II. REQUIRED TEXT – (excerpts will be posted on Blackboard – do not buy)


Readings as assigned.

III. COURSE GOALS

*To become familiar with the scope of mental health problems in children.
*To become familiar with personality development from a dynamic, developmental, and behavioral/learning viewpoint.
*To become familiar with the concepts of risk and resiliency and the impact of family systems and culture on child development.
*To become familiar with issues of identification and treatment of various disabilities including:
  - Mental Retardation
  - Autism and related Pervasive Developmental Disorders
  - Learning Disabilities
  - Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder
  - Conduct Disorder/Oppositional Defiant Disorder
  - Anxiety and Mood Disorders
  - Eating Disorders

*To become familiar with functions of a family and the potential impact and mutual influences of a child’s disability on these functions.
*To become familiar with the experiences and needs of families that have a child with a specific concern or disorder.
*To become familiar with family assessment skills, including the ability to prioritize, identify strengths, establish partnership in the assessment process, recognize the multiple characteristics of individual families including cultural factors.
*To become sensitive to cultural differences that may effect the acceptance and treatment of children with disabilities.
*To become knowledgeable about various methods of assessment of the disorders.
*To become familiar with person first language and respectful methods of interaction with individuals with disabilities.
*To become familiar with the roles of mental health professionals within and outside of educational settings including multidisciplinary teams and mental health treatment teams.
*To become familiar with issues in labeling, mainstreaming and public laws 94-142 and 99-457, IDEA, and Regulation 504.
*To familiarize one with various resources for obtaining further information on particular disorders including the World Wide Web.
*To discuss classroom interventions for various kinds of children’s problems.
*To become familiar with the rights of children.
IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Examinations - There will be 4 equally weighted examinations. Exam questions are drawn directly from the objectives, notes, and text and will be comprised of multiple choice and short answer essay questions. Each exam will be worth a maximum of 100 points and all four exams will constitute 50% of your grade.

B. Project - Each student will complete a project that will be described in a separate handout. The project will consist of a Internet based activity (100 points) and a book review paper (200 points). The Individual Project will allow for some choice of topics with instructor approval.

C. Attendance & Class Participation - Class participation and attendance are an integral part of your grade. Students are encouraged to participate in class by asking questions, volunteering professional experiences, etc. There will be 20 class meetings. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 100 participation/attendance points during the course. Full attendance in each class will earn 2 points per class (30 total) and class activities and quizzes will be worth 70 points. Quiz points and class activity points can only be earned during the class they are offered.

V. OTHER NOTES
I encourage students to ask questions. Please feel free to call or E-mail me. However, I recommend that you make an appointment to see me. I will be available before and after class meeting times for appointments. If you feel that you need a block of time please make an appointment. This will ensure that you are not interrupted and that you do not interrupt others.

VI. GRADING

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Accounts</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet Critique</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total points possible</strong></td>
<td><strong>800</strong></td>
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Grading Scale:

- **A** 90 - 100% 720 - 800
- **B** 80 - 89% 640 - 719
- **C** 70 - 79% 560 - 639
- **D** 60 - 69% 480 - 559
- **F** Below 60% Below 479

Note: This is not an Averaged grade but the total of all possible points.

VII. OTHER: The course schedule and procedures are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor or in the event of extenuating circumstances.

Course readings should be read before the topic is covered to facilitate discussion.

Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Student Disability Services, Room 445, Potter Hall. The OFSDS number is (270) 745-5004 tty. Per University policy, please DO NOT request accommodations directly from the professor without a letter of accommodation for the Office for Student Disability Services.