

**GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**  
**College of Education and Human Development**  
**HEAL**

HEAL 220 A01 – Dimensions of Mental Health  
3 credits, Fall 2020  
Distance Learning

**Faculty**

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**Prerequisites/Corequisites:** (None)

**University Course Description**

Focuses on integrating behavioral and sociocultural factors in studying mental health.

**Course Delivery Method**

This course will be delivered online using format via the Blackboard learning management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on Aug. 23, 12:01am.

**Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.**

*Technical Requirements*

To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:

- High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see:

[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#supported-browsers](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers)

To get a list of supported operation systems on different devices see:

[https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting\\_Started/Browser\\_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems)

- Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.
- Students will need a headset microphone for use with the Blackboard Collaborate web conferencing tool. [Delete this sentence if not applicable.]
- Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.
- The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download: [Add or delete options, as desire.]
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

- Windows Media Player: <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/14209/get-windows-media-player>
- Apple Quick Time Player: [www.apple.com/quicktime/download/](http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/)

### *Expectations*

- Course Week: Because asynchronous courses do not have a "fixed" meeting day, our week will start on Mon (12:01a). and finish on Sun (end of day). Our course week will begin on the day that our synchronous meetings take place as indicated on the Schedule of Classes. Each assignment and discussion post will have 7 days to complete. **Important**- follow the schedule
- Log-in Frequency: Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials at least two times per week.
- Participation: Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.
- Technical Competence: Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.
- Technical Issues: Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.
- Workload: Please be aware that this course is **not** self-paced. Students are expected to meet *specific deadlines* and *due dates* listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.
- Instructor Support: Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.
- Netiquette: The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.
- Accommodations: Online learners who require effective accommodations to insure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

### **Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to do the following:

1. Describe a preventive approach to mental health;
2. Discuss the major theories of personality development and therapeutic intervention;
3. Describe the physiological basis of mental health;
4. Describe the adverse effects of stress on functioning;
5. Have knowledge and understanding of environmental factors affecting mental health;
6. Have a better understanding of contemporary mental health issues, such as behavior and personality disorders, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and others; and
7. Understand mental health in the larger social context.

## Required Readings

Assigned readings will be extrapolations from the professional literature on mental health and located at Blackboard <https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu>:

- Section 1 Overview
  - Chapter 1 Introduction
  - Chapter 2 History
  - Chapter 3 Present Understanding
  - Chapter 4 Mental Health Conditions
  - Chapter 5 Mental Wellness
- Section 2 Professional Intervention
  - Chapter 6 The Professionals
  - Chapter 7 Prevention
  - Chapter 8 Therapy
- Section 3 Impairments, Disorders and Dysfunctions
  - Chapter 9 Learning Impairments
  - Chapter 10 Anxiety Disorders
  - Chapter 11 Mood Disorders
  - Chapter 12 Behavioral Health Concerns
  - Chapter 13 Severe Dysfunctions
  - Chapter 14 Mental Health Community

## Course Performance Evaluation

Students are expected to complete the quizzes, discussion forums, tests and portfolio on time through Blackboard. This course will be graded on a point system, with a total of 100 possible points.

<b>Tests and Assignments</b>	<b>Possible Points</b>
<u>Tests</u> Test 1 (covers chapters 1-7) Test 2 (covers chapters 8-14) Each Blackboard online test is composed of 50 multiple-choice questions. The tests are based on the content of the online readings text as organized and presented in PowerPoint lectures. Each test will be graded 0-100 points and weighted .15 of overall grade. Multiple-choice items will measure students' abilities to identify/recall, differentiate, apply and analyze subject material.	<b>30 points</b>
<u>Short Essay Quizzes</u> There will be 10 in-class short essay quizzes based on the content of the text as organized and presented in PowerPoint lectures. Each short essay quiz will be graded 0-3 points for a total of 30 possible points that will be factored directly into the overall grade. The short essay questions will measure students' abilities to apply and analyze subject material.	<b>30 points</b>
<u>Discussion Forums</u> Each student is expected to post a comment in 10 different discussion forums and reply to another student's comment within that forum. Each discussion forum will be based on a self-assessment related to text material and completed by the student and then posting as a comment at the forum. Each posting with reply is worth 2 points for a total of 20 points that will be factored directly into the overall grade. The discussion forums will represent affective learning experiences.	<b>20 points</b>

<b>Portfolio</b> Each student will be expected to compile a portfolio of mental health experiences within an online portfolio. Guidelines are provided at Blackboard. This assignment is worth 20 points. The portfolio primary addresses affective and psychomotor learning experiences.	<b>20 points</b>
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**TOTAL** **100 points**

**Grading Scale**

A = 94 – 100	B+ = 88 – 89	C+ = 78 – 79	D = 60 – 69
A- = 90 – 93	B = 84 – 87	C = 74 – 77	F = 0 – 59
	B- = 80 – 83	C- = 70 – 73	

**Professional Dispositions**

See <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/>

**Class Schedule**

WEEK		TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENT DUE
1	Aug. 24- Aug. 30	Introduction to the course	Chapter 1 Introduction
2	Aug. 31- Sept. 6	History	Chapter 2 History Short essay quiz 1 (based on ch 2) due Sept. 6 end of day Discussion forum 1 post due Sept. 5 end of day and response due Sept. 6 end of day
3	Sept. 7- Sept. 13	Understand mental health	Chapter 3 Present Understanding Short essay quiz 2 (based on ch 3 ) due Sept.13 end of day Discussion forum 2 post due Sept. 12 end of day and response due Sept. 13 end of day
4	Sept. 14- Sept. 20	Mental Health Conditions	Chapter 4 Mental Health Conditions Short essay quiz 3 (based on ch 4) due Sept. 20 end of day Discussion forum 3 post due Sept. 19 end of day and response due Sept. 20 end of day
5	Sept. 21- Sept. 27	Mental Wellness	Chapter 5 Mental Wellness Short essay quiz 4 (based on ch 5) due Sept. 27 end of day Discussion forum 4 post due Sept. 26 and response due Sept. 27 end of day
6	Sept. 28- Oct. 4	Professionals	Chapter 6 Clinical and Counseling Professionals Short essay quiz 5 (based on ch 6) due Sept. 28 end of day Discussion forum 5 post due Sept. 27 and response due Sept 28 end of day
7	Oct. 5- Oct. 11	Prevention	Chapter 7 Prevention Short Essay quiz 6 (based on ch 7) due Oct. 11 end of day Discussion forum 6 post due Oct. 10 and response due Oct. 11 end of day
8	Oct. 12- Oct. 16		<b>Test 1 due Friday Oct. 16 end of day (covers chs 1-7 of assigned readings)</b>
	Oct. 16		Mid Term Grades Posted

WEEK		TOPIC	READINGS/ASSIGNMENT DUE
9	Oct. 19- Oct. 25		Chapter 8 Therapy Short essay quiz 7 (based on ch 8) due Oct. 25 end of day Discussion forum 7 post comment by Oct. 24 and reply by Oct. 25 end of day
10	Oct. 26- Nov. 1	Therapy	Chapter 9 Learning Impairments Short essay quiz 8 (based on ch 9) due Nov. 1 end of day Discussion forum 8 post comment by Oct. 31 and reply by Nov. 1 end of day
11	Nov. 2- Nov. 8	Learning Impairments	Chapter 10 Anxiety Disorders Short essay quiz 9 (based on ch 10) due Nov. 8 end of day Discussion forum 9 post comment by Nov. 7 and response by Nov.8 end of days
12	Nov. 9 Nov. 15	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 11 Mood Disorders Short essay quiz 10(based on ch 11)due Nov.15 end of day Discussion forum 10 post comment by Nov. 14 and reply by Nov. 15 end of days
13	Nov. 16- Nov. 22	Mood Disorders Behavioral Health Concerns	Chapter 12 Behavioral Health Concerns <b>Work on Mental Health Portfolio</b>
14	Nov. 23- Nov. 29	Severe Dysfunctions	Chapter 13 Severe Dysfunctions <b>Mental Health Portfolio due Nov. 25</b>
15	Nov. 30- Dec. 6	Mental Health Community	Chapter 14 Mental Health Community Prepare for Test 2
16	Dec. 7	Last day of class	<b>Prepare for Test 2 (covers chs 8-14 and some material on schizophrenia)</b>
	Dec. 11	Final Exam Schedule	<b>Test 2 due end of day Dec. 11</b>

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary.

### Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: <http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/>.

### GMU Policies and Resources for Students

#### *Policies*

1. GMU Policies and Resources for students

#### *Policies*

- a. Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/>).

- b. Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/>).
- c. Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.
- d. Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see <https://ds.gmu.edu>).
- e. Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

#### *Campus Resources*

1. Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to [tk20help@gmu.edu](mailto:tk20help@gmu.edu) or <https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20>. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to <https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/>.
2. Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking: As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at [703-380-1434](tel:703-380-1434) or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at [703-993-2380](tel:703-993-2380). You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling [703-993-8730](tel:703-993-8730), or emailing [titleix@gmu.edu](mailto:titleix@gmu.edu).
3. For information on student support resources on campus, see <https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus>
4. For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <http://cehd.gmu.edu/>. **For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website <https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/> .**

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