

# Abnormal Psychology: Neuroscience Perspectives on Human Behavior and Experience


By William J. Ray




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**Contemporary. Current. Complete. Thoroughly integrating DSM-5, this text offers the most current coverage of abnormal psychology available!**

**Abnormal Psychology: Neuroscience Perspectives on Human Behavior and Experience**, by William (Bill) J. Ray, is a fresh and innovative text that teaches students that abnormal psychology is a rapidly evolving science. Evolutionary, biological, neurological, psychological, social, socio-cultural, and political perspectives are explored for a complete view of the field with an eye toward critical thinking and evaluation. Thoroughly integrating DSM-5, this text offers the most current coverage of abnormal psychology available. The text's multi-level perspective ranges from culture to genetics, helping students move beyond simple nature/nurture perspectives to new ways of considering psychological disorders based on current interdisciplinary research. First-person accounts and case studies help readers better understand the experiences of a person with a psychological disorder while demonstrating their ability to live full, productive lives. Abundant illustrations and a terrific resource package ensure student engagement and success.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“I have been waiting for this textbook for over 10 years! The reason is simple—it lays out the logic for the acquisition of a mental issue, the development process from all angles, and reasonable treatment approaches—with many visuals, figures, and graphics included...I have not been this excited about a new text in a long time.” (Martha V. Low)

“Great examples, clear definitions, great illustrations. Easy to read, especially for an UG class. Chapters are well organized. Very up to date and great information on neuroscience behind psychopathology. Also, very good coverage of the DSM-5.” (David M. Feldman)

“I think this is a terrific approach to abnormal psychology, reflecting a very current integrative approach to neuroscience and its reciprocal relationship with the environment.” (David E. Gard)

“I have read several texts that cover the new/revised DSM and they are not as well written, nor do they come with as many graphs and charts to aid in explanation.” (Elysia V. Clemens)

“These chapters are easy to digest and follow. The criteria for diagnoses are all laid out for students, and this text eliminates the need for students to buy additional books, such as the DSM (since the criteria is included).” (Ashley M. Rolnik)

“The discussion of DSM-5 is excellent—well defined.” (Wayne S. Stein)

“I am a behavioral neuroscientist with interdisciplinary training and I believe that that is the best way to look at disorders. This text takes multiple perspectives into account when explaining disorders in general [as well as] specific aspects of disorders...This text does the best job of integrating current research and the complex levels (society, individual person, and physiology) that contribute to the presence and presentation of disorders.” (Lisa R. Jackson)

“Evolution-based material is brilliant, novel, and welcome.” (Fred Ernst)

“The emphasis on neuroscience and neuropsychology is an important innovation in the field of mental health and represents the direction in which much of the field is moving.” (Cameo Borntreger)

“Current and relevant, especially from a neuroscience perspective. This is a great book!” (Bruno M. Kappes)

“Very well written, up-to-date. The evolutionary psychology perspective is generally overlooked in most texts, but this text brings it front and center and is groundbreaking in that regard.” (Rob Hoff)

“The author’s writing style is a clear and evident strength. The material is presented in a way that is very easy to understand, especially the topics that many psych students ‘dread’—discussion of research methods and statistics. The neuroscience material was also very clear and easy to follow.” (Fran Sessa)

“I appreciate that this text includes the most up to date information available and incorporates a thoughtful comparison of previous editions to the new DSM-5. The focus on neuroscience is especially salient to

students who are taking psychology classes in preparation for medical school and other graduate programs. I also appreciate the inclusion of the evolutionary psychology perspective; a viewpoint that I think is often overlooked or minimized in other texts and a perspective that is frequently elucidating.” (Amanda di Bartolomeo)

“The author writes well and does a great job of explaining complicated concepts [and] the excerpts of first-person accounts that begin the chapters do a good job of engaging the reader.” (H. Russell Searight)

“I am thrilled with the DSM criteria and all of the statements from individuals with the disorder.” (Jan Mendoza)

“Presents state-of-the-art information on neuroscience and evolutionary psychology.” (Ryan A. McKelley)

“The neuroscience approach is very current and is expected to grow, not decline, in importance to the field. The neuroscience focus is a great strength. I see this as the definite separation between this text book and others.” (Amy Badura Brack)

“The descriptions of genetics and biological etiology are fascinating, and the emphasis on neurobiology is interesting.” (Brian Fisak)

#### About the Author

**William J. Ray** is a Professor of Psychology at Penn State University. He received his PhD from Vanderbilt University and was a Fellow in Medical Psychology at the University of California Medical Center in San Francisco. He received his undergraduate degree from Eckerd College, where he learned about the value of primary sources and the need to integrate information from a number of perspectives. As part of his clinical training, he has worked in a number of mental hospitals and clinics across the country, where he developed an appreciation of the experiences of those with mental disorders. In his career, he has served as a visiting professor and researcher at the University of Hawaii, Münster University, University of Rome, Tübingen University, and Konstanz University. At Penn State, he is currently the Director of the SCAN (Specialization in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience) program and was previously the Director of the Clinical Psychology Program. His research has focused on approaching clinical questions from a neuroscience perspective. He has used psychophysiological and brain imaging techniques such as EEG, MEG, DTI, and fMRI to study emotionality, psychopathology, and individual differences. These studies can be found in numerous articles, book chapters, and books. His work has been published in such journals as *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Journal of Neuroscience*, *Psychophysiology*, *Physiological Reviews*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, *Developmental Psychology*, *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, *Cognitive Brain Research*, *Biological Psychology*, *NeuroImage*, and *Clinical Neurophysiology*. This work has been funded by both national and international agencies including NIH, NIMH, NASA, NATO, and the DAAD. In addition to research, teaching has been an important part of his career. His textbooks include *Methods Toward a Psychology of Behavior and Experience*, *Psychophysiological Methods (with Robert Stern & Karen Quigley)*, and *Evolutionary Psychology: Neuroscience Perspectives Concerning Human Behavior and Experience*.

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