



PSYC 126 - Abnormal Psychology Course Outline

Approval Date: 03/11/2021

Effective Date: 08/13/2021

SECTION A

Unique ID Number CCC000295230

Discipline(s) Psychology

Division Social Sciences

Subject Area Psychology

Subject Code PSYC

Course Number 126

Course Title Abnormal Psychology

TOP Code/SAM Code 2001.00 - Psychology, General / E - Non-Occupational

Rationale for adding this course to the curriculum Updating textbooks and revising examples in the "methods of evaluation" and "assignments" sections only

Units 3

Cross List N/A

Typical Course Weeks 18

Total Instructional Hours

Contact Hours

Lecture 54.00

Lab 0.00

Activity 0.00

Work Experience 0.00

Outside of Class Hours 108.00

Total Contact Hours 54

Total Student Hours 162

Open Entry/Open Exit No

Maximum Enrollment

Grading Option Letter Grade or P/NP

Distance Education Mode of Instruction On-Campus

SECTION B

General Education Information:

SECTION C

Course Description

Repeatability May be repeated 0 times

Catalog An introduction to the concepts of abnormal and maladaptive behavior.

Description Models of diagnosis, classification and treatment are discussed in depth. A discussion of major psychological disorders and study of the different perspectives on their causation, development and treatment.

**Schedule
Description**

SECTION D

Condition on Enrollment

1a. Prerequisite(s)

- PSYC 120

1b. Corequisite(s): *None*

1c. Recommended: *None*

1d. Limitation on Enrollment: *None*

SECTION E

Course Outline Information

1. Student Learning Outcomes:

- Examine and evaluate the major psychological approaches to the conceptualization, etiology, and treatment of psychological disorders and the historical and sociocultural influences from which they arise.
- Identify the distinguishing characteristics of psychological disorders, differentials, and comorbidities in the DSM-IV-TR.
- Critically analyze the important legal, social, economic, and political factors that impact the definition, treatment, and stigmatization of psychological disorders.

2. Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Define and use basic biological and psychological terminology to describe psychopathology and atypical behavior and mental processes.
- Compare and contrast the various theoretical perspectives on etiology and implications for treatment of various psychological disorders.
- Summarize the major disorder classifications and give concrete examples using appropriate diagnostic terminology (i.e., DSM).
- Explain specific research methods and the ethical principles for the study and treatment of psychopathology.
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3. Course Content

- Psychopathology and Mental Disorders: Historical, Cultural, Social, Scientific, and Ethical Considerations
- Issues in classification and diagnosis
 - DSM-IV-TR (or current edition)
- Introduction to Clinical Assessment Procedures
- Research Methodology in Psychopathology
 - Descriptive, epidemiological, experimental and single-subject research designs
- Theories and Paradigms in Psychopathology
 - Biological paradigm

- b. Psychodynamic paradigm
- c. Humanistic and existential paradigm
- d. Behavioral/learning paradigm
- e. Cognitive paradigm
- F. Psychological Disorders (characteristics, etiology, and treatment):
 - a. Anxiety disorders
 - b. Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders
 - c. Mood Disorders
 - d. Schizophrenia
 - e. Substance-related Disorders
 - f. Personality Disorders
 - g. Sexual Dysfunctions and Gender Identity Disorders
 - h. Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence
 - i. Eating Disorders
- G. Outcomes and Issues of Psychological Intervention
- H.

4. Methods of Instruction:

Discussion:

Lecture:

5. Methods of Evaluation: Describe the general types of evaluations for this course and provide at least two, specific examples.

Typical classroom assessment techniques

Exams/Tests --

Quizzes --

Papers --

Final Exam --

Mid Term --

Additional assessment information:

Quizzes and examinations -

For example:

1. Multiple choice and short answer quizzes

Example questions:

a) Which of the following is not a typical characteristic of schizophrenia?

- delusions
- flat affect
- hallucinations
- multiple personalities

b) Describe how a clinician could distinguish bipolar disorder from borderline personality disorder.

2. Final exam: Combination of multiple choice, short answer and case study

3. Case study quizzes: with 5 axis diagnosis, theoretical examination of pathology etiology and treatment planning using various theoretical approaches

Letter Grade or P/NP

6. Assignments: State the general types of assignments for this course under the following categories and provide at least two specific examples for each section.

A. Reading Assignments

Textbook readings -

For example,

1. Read Chapter 8 on treatments for depressive and bipolar disorders in "Abnormal Psychology"

2. Read Chapter 12 on substance use and addictive disorders in "Abnormal Psychology"

B. Writing Assignments

Term paper and/or case study analysis -

For example,

1. In class group analysis of case studies including 5 axis diagnosis, etiology of pathology from various theoretical perspectives and treatment planning based on empirical research of efficacy outcome studies.

2. Term Paper (4 to 8 pages) - The instructor will provide essays on both sides of a current debate in abnormal psychology. Pick one of the debates, read both the pro and con arguments, then develop a critical argument in support of one of the positions taken by the experts in the essay. Support your opinion with additional sources and research not already presented. Your opinions and the conclusions you make must be backed up by research and properly cited.

C. Other Assignments

Personal genogram, psychological assessment tests, written self-reflection exercise completed before and after field trip to State Mental Hospital.

7. Required Materials

A. EXAMPLES of typical college-level textbooks (for degree-applicable courses) or other print materials.

Book #1:

Author: Comer, R. & Comer, J

Title: Abnormal Psychology

Publisher: Macmillan

Date of Publication: 2018

Edition: 10th

Book #2:

Author: Barlow, D., Durand, V., & Hofmann, S

Title: Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach

Publisher: Cengage

Date of Publication: 2018

Edition: 8th

B. Other required materials/supplies.

