

PSY 281
PSYCHOLOGY OF ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prerequisites: PSY 150

Corequisites: None

This course provides an examination of the various psychological disorders as well as theoretical, clinical, and experimental perspectives of the study of psychopathology. Emphasis is on terminology, classification, etiology, assessment, and treatment of the major disorders. Upon completion, students should be able to distinguish between normal and abnormal behavior patterns as well as demonstrate knowledge of etiology, symptoms, and therapeutic techniques. Course work includes projects. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement for the general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.* Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Student will be able to:

- a. Discuss the definition of abnormal behavior.
- b. Explain research methods used in abnormal psychology.
- c. Provide a historical overview of abnormal psychology.
- d. Define and discuss classification, diagnosis, and assessment.
- e. Identify and discuss assessment techniques.
- f. Identify major diagnostic categories.
- g. Identify four etiological perspectives in abnormal psychology.
- h. Identify and explain at least four types of therapies and discuss their effectiveness.

OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Abnormal behavior
 - A. Definition of abnormality
 - B. Epidemiology of abnormality
 - 1) Incidence
 - 2) Prevalence
- II. Historical perspective
 - A. The Ancient Greeks
 - B. The Middle Ages
 - C. The Reform Movement
- III. Theoretical and research perspectives
 - A. Research methods
 - B. Biological perspective
 - C. Psychoanalytic perspective

- D. Behavioral perspective
 - E. Cognitive perspective
 - F. Humanistic/existential perspective
- IV. Identification and classification of abnormal behavior
- A. Assessment
 - B. Diagnosis
- V. Stress
- A. Vulnerability to stress
 - B. Coping methods
 - C. Prevention and treatment of stress-related disorders
- VI. Psychology of health and disease
- A. Psychophysiological disorders
 - B. Somatoform disorders
 - C. Treatment alternatives
- VII. Anxiety based disorders
- A. Panic disorder
 - B. Generalized anxiety disorder
 - C. Phobia
 - D. Obsessive-compulsive disorder
 - E. Post-trauma stress disorder
 - F. Etiology
 - G. Treatment
- VIII. Dissociative disorders
- A. Dissociative fugue
 - B. Dissociative identity disorder
 - C. Depersonalization disorder
 - D. Etiologies
 - E. Treatment
- IX. Mood disorders
- A. Depression and depressive disorder
 - B. Bipolar disorder
 - C. Etiologies
 - D. Treatment
- X. Personality disorders
- A. Classification of disorders
 - B. Behavioral manifestations
 - 1) Eccentric behaviors
 - 2) Erratic/dramatic behaviors
 - 3) Anxious behaviors
 - C. Etiologies
 - D. Treatment

- XI. Sexual disorders
 - A. Variations
 - B. Dysfunctions
 - C. Etiologies
 - D. Treatment

- XII. Schizophrenia
 - A. Symptoms
 - B. Types
 - C. Etiologies
 - D. Treatment

- XIII. Substance related disorders
 - A. Alcoholism
 - B. Other drugs
 - C. Etiologies
 - D. Treatment

- XIV. Disorders of childhood and adolescence
 - A. Autism
 - B. Mental retardation
 - C. Learning disabilities
 - D. Disruptive disorders
 - E. Emotional disorders
 - F. Eating disorders
 - G. Etiologies
 - H. Treatment

- XV. Organic disorders
 - A. Delirium
 - B. Dementia's
 - C. Etiologies
 - D. Treatment

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS:

To be selected by instructor.

STATEMENT OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 686-3652 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1309.