

**MINERAL AREA COLLEGE**  
**PSY 200 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**INSTRUCTOR: MATT SOPKO, M.A.**  
**SPRING 2007**

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Social Science Dept. Chair: Dr. Nute

The purpose of this course is to improve the students' understanding of the various types of mental illness and how each type is classified, diagnosed, and treated. Theoretical issues related to mental illness will also be presented.

It would be convenient if we could understand the nature of the mind without understanding the nature of the brain. Unfortunately, it is difficult, if not impossible to theorize effectively on those matters in the absence of knowledge about how the nervous system works. Therefore, an introduction to the nervous system is an important component of this course.

I. TEXTBOOK: Durand, V.M. and Barlow, D.H. Essentials of Abnormal Psychology. 4th Edition, Wadsworth-Thomson, Pacific Grove, CA, 2003.

II. COURSE COMPETENCIES (OBJECTIVES):

- a. Examine the history, basic concepts, major views, and research methodology that characterize the field to abnormal psychology.
- b. Assess the complexity of maladaptive behavior.
- c. Examine the diagnostic process, methods of assessment and intervention strategies involved in psychopathology.

III. LEARNING EXPERIENCES:

The classroom experience will consist of lecture, classroom discussion, group activities, and the use of video material, when applicable. Class discussions will include the opportunity for discussing current issues pertinent to assigned topics as they arise during the course work.

#### IV. EVALUATION—GRADING

Students' theoretical progress will be assessed by:

- A. Four multiple-choice exams on which students are given some choice in which questions on the exam are to be answered, that is, students are allowed to "pass" on a small number of exam questions.
- B. The final grade will be determined by averaging the three highest of each student's four exam scores and the attendance grade (see Course Policies). The following scale will be used to determine your final grade:

<u>Percent Correct</u>	<u>Grade</u>
90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
<60%	F

#### V. COURSE POLICIES:

**Attendance:** Each student will start the semester with 100 attendance points. Two points will be deducted for each hour of class from which the student is absent without a documentable excuse. This attendance grade will constitute of each student's final grade. Further, "Excessive Absences" for this course shall be defined as: Twelve hours of absence or two missed exams which may result in a student being dropped from class. It is advised that the student be familiar with college policies regarding attendance, change of class schedule, and withdrawal from classes as stated in the Student Handbook.

**Make-up Exams:** All make-up exams will be given at the next regularly scheduled class meeting. Since the student is aware that an exam has been missed, it is the student's responsibility to be prepared for examination at the appropriate time. The final exam must be taken at the time scheduled per the college calendar.

#### VI. SPECIAL NEEDS:

Accommodations for students with special needs will be provided on an as needed basis. Students with special needs should contact me or Lisa Leftridge, in the Access Office.

#### VII. OFFICE HOURS:

As an adjunct faculty member, my office hours will be arranged by appointment. Occasionally, I may be able to meet with students on a drop-in basis. My office is in Room C-7 of the Arts & Sciences Building and my office phone number is (573) 518-2250. Please feel free to call anytime and leave a message on the answering machine if the office is closed.

### VIII. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Incidents of academic dishonesty, for example, plagiarism, cheating on exams, etc., will be reported to the Dean of Arts & Sciences and may result in, but not limited to receiving an F for the course or being dropped from the course.

### IX. TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
Jan. 23	Introduction and Syllabus
	Chapter 1: Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context
Jan. 30	Chapter 2: An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology
Feb. 6	Chapter 3: Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Research Methods
Feb. 13	Chapter 4: Anxiety Disorder
Feb. 27	FIRST EXAM: Chapters 1-4
	Chapter 5: Somatoform and Dissociative Disorder
Mar. 6	Chapter 6: Mood Disorders and Suicide
Mar. 20	Chapter 7: Physical Disorders and Health Psychology
Mar. 27	Chapter 8: Eating and Sleep Disorders
Apr. 3	SECOND EXAM: Chapters 5-8
	Chapter 9: Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders
Apr. 10	Chapter 10: Substance Related and Impulse Control Disorders
Apr. 17	Chapter 11: Personality Disorders
Apr. 24	THIRD EXAM: Chapters 9-11
	Chapter 12: Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders
May 1	Chapter 13: Developmental and Cognitive Disorders
May 8	Chapter 14: Mental Health Services: Legal and Ethical Issues
May 15	FINAL EXAM: Chapters 12-14