

## **Abnormal Psychology Syllabus**

**Fall 2009**

Class: PSY 2000A1 Abnormal Psychology

Time: T/Th 9:30 – 10:45

Location: AS Office #9

Department Chair: Fred Nute

Professor: Fred Nute, Ph.D.

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Office HRS: T/Th 10:45 – 11:45am

MWF 9:00 – 10:00am

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A survey of various psychological disorders, including their signs, symptoms, causes, and treatment, as well as the theoretical perspectives through which these disorders are viewed. Legal and ethical issues are also discussed along with other controversial topics in the field.

**PREREQUISITES:** General Psychology I (PSY1130)

**TEXT:** Durand and Barlow (2010). Essentials of Abnormal Psychology (5<sup>th</sup>/ed). Cengage Publishing.

### **COURSE COMPETENCIES:**

1. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the history, basic concepts, major views, and research methodology that characterizes the field of abnormal psychology.
2. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the psychological disorders that are considered maladaptive in our culture, including how psychologists diagnose and assess disorders.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding the commonly accepted treatment modalities for psychological disorders.
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of current legal and ethical mental health issues and controversies in abnormal psychology.
5. Students will develop critical thinking skills by evaluating evidence from research in the field of abnormal psychology and applying concepts and theory through in-class group work.

## **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:**

Teaching procedure will consist of lectures, class discussions, in-class group work, demonstrations, and the use of multimedia resources. It is hoped that class discussions and collaborative activities will offer an opportunity for raising pertinent issues and exploring various concepts and theories which apply to the topics of abnormal psychology.

## **CLASS EXPECTATIONS:**

Participation in class is important and means that you should be prepared by pre-reading the assigned chapters in the text in order to contribute in a meaningful way to group discussions and class activities. Students' are responsible for all information presented in class, even if it is not contained in the textbook. Also, it is your responsibility to find out what happened in missed classes, including any announcements or schedule changes. The instructor does not provide notes for any missed classes. Students are expected to arrive on time for class and stay until the end of the class period. Leaving class early without any justifiable advance notice will count as an absence. **TURN OFF BEEPERS AND CELL PHONES DURING CLASS!**

## **DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

**EXAMS (240 pts.)** – There will be four exams during the semester. Each exam will consist of 60 multiple-choice questions (1 point each). All exams will count toward your final course grade. Grading will follow the conventional scale: 90-80-70-60%

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY & PRESENTATIONS (200 pts.)** – Students will choose a mental disorder of interest and write an annotated bibliography on four articles (research, periodical, etc.) related to the chosen disorder. Bibliographies should include a title page with all the proper components. Each article should be summarized in at least one page, describing the content of the article with a focus on the main points, including a brief critique of the article. Each summary should be formatted in APA style and should include an APA style reference for the featured article at the top of the page. All papers must be typed and hardcopies of all four articles must be submitted along with the bibliography. All articles chosen must have one or identifiable authors. Article summaries without an author (s) or without accompanying article hardcopies will receive zero points. Also, as part of the grading for this assignment, students will be required to orally present a summary of their bibliography research to the class at the end of the semester. **(PLEASE NOTE: Bibliography work must be original! Avoid plagiarism— students must write summaries in their own words and include the reference at the top of the page.)**

**\*CHAPTER 9 AND 10 FACTS (60 pts.)** --Students should review chapters 9 and 10, as these chapters will not be covered in class. This assignments involves simply listing six facts from each chapter that the student has learned from the chapter material. Each fact need not be more than one or two sentences; however, students may expand on their summaries if they desire. There should be a total of twelve facts worth five points each. Fact papers must be typed and include your name along with the title of the chapter for each set of facts.

**EXAM SEQUENCE:**

**EXAM ONE**

**Chapters 1, 2, 3**

Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context  
An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology  
Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and Research

Chapter 1  
Chapter 2  
Chapter 3

**EXAM TWO**

**Chapters 4, 5, 6**

Anxiety Disorders  
Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders  
Mood Disorders and Suicide

Chapter 4  
Chapter 5  
Chapter 6

**EXAM THREE**

**Chapters 7, 8, 11**

Physical Disorders and Health Psychology  
Eating Disorders  
Personality Disorders

Chapter 7  
Chapter 8  
Chapter 11

**EXAM FOUR**

**Chapters 12, 13, 14**

Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders  
Developmental and Cognitive Disorders  
Mental Health Services: Legal and Ethical Issues

Chapter 12  
Chapter 13  
Chapter 14

**CHAPTER FACTS\***

Sexual and Gender Identify Disorders  
Substance Related Disorders

Chapter 9  
Chapter 10

**GRADING & PERFORMANCE EVALAUATION:**

The following criteria will be used in determining the student’s grade:

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Four Exams @ 60pts each	240	9/15; 10/06; 10/22; 11/19
Annotated Bibliography/ Presentations	200	Bibliography – 11/05 Presentations – 11/24 and 12/01
Chapter 9 and 10 Facts	60	10/20
Attendance/Participation	60	
<b>TOTAL POINTS:</b>	<b>560</b>	

Your final grade will be based on a total of 560 possible points using the following scale:

**A = 504 – 560**

**D = 336 – 391**

**B = 448 – 503**

**F = Below 336**

**C = 392 - 447**

<b>GRADING RUBRIC FOR BIBLIOGRAPHY/PRESENTATIONS PSY2000 – Abnormal Psychology</b>	<b>POSSIBLE POINTS</b>	<b>POINTS EARNED</b>
<b>Title Page (APA format with all proper components)</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>Writing Presentation</b> *Grammar *Neatness *Clarity *APA Format	<b>20</b>	
<b>Annotated Bibliography (25 pts per article)</b> *Article is relevant to topic ( 5 pts) *Summary successfully covers article’s content highlighting main points, including a brief critique (15 pts) *APA style reference precedes article summary (5 pts) *Hardcopy of article is submitted --Required	<b>125</b>	
<b>Oral Presentation</b> *Organization (15 pts) *Content (20 pts) *Delivery (15 pts)	<b>50</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200</b>	

## **GENERAL COURSE POLICIES:**

**Class Attendance:** Attendance is expected and will affect participation points earned. There are no unexcused absences. If a student is absent, he or she is simply absent. Four consecutive absences will result in an automatic drop from the course. NOTE: It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw from a course they do not wish to take. If you simply stop coming to the class and do not officially withdraw from the course, they you will receive an automatic F for the class.

**Academic Honesty:** Cheating and plagiarism are not acceptable behavior and will result in an automatic F for this course. This would include looking on someone else's answer sheet during testing or using someone else's ideas or words for writing assignments. The Academic Dean will be notified of all student transgressions for further disposition.

**Exam Make-ups:** I expect your attendance on all scheduled exam dates and arrival to class on time for exams. Students who arrive late to take an exam will only be permitted to complete the exam in the remaining portion of the allotted time devoted to the exam. The allotted time ends when the regularly scheduled class time ends. For tandem testing, both partners are expected to be present on time together and to start the exam together. Should one of the partners be late, both parties will be required to take the exam individually.

IMPORTANT—If you need to miss a regularly scheduled exam due to a valid unavoidable circumstance, you must let me know by providing written documentation within 24 hours of the scheduled exam. If you or a personal representative does not contact me within the 24 hours of the scheduled exam, you will receive a zero for that exam. Do not ask to be excused from a scheduled exam unless you are hospitalized, contract a major illness, or experience some equally traumatic event for which you can provide appropriate documentation. If such an instance is not appropriately documented and subsequently approved, the student will receive a zero for that exam. The instructor will make the final determination of whether or not a reason missing an exam is to be considered valid and excused. Family vacations, relationship break-ups, etc. are not considered valid reasons.

All make-up exams will be given the last of classes and will need to be taken individually. All Make-ups will be different from the regularly scheduled exams.

**Tandem Testing Option:** Students have the option of taking the four scheduled exams individually or in tandem. The tandem option is a form of cooperative learning/assessment in which two students work together in answering the test questions. You will have one answer sheet and receive the same grade. Testing partners are formed by students and no more than two students will be allowed to test together. If you feel that a partner is not working out, you choose to find a new partner or take the remaining exams individually. A one page crib sheet—front/back—can be used while taking the scheduled exams.

**Late Assignments:** Late turn-ins are not accepted. All late assignments will receive a zero.

**Extra Credit:** There is not extra credit in this course. Grades are based only on the assignments described on page 4 of this syllabus

**Special Needs:** Mineral Area College complies with guidelines set forth in the American with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you need special assistance or support due to special circumstances such as a physical and/or learning disability, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss appropriate accommodations.