

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences & Human Services

Date of Departmental Approval: January 6, 2010

Date approved by Curriculum and Programs: March 3, 2010

Effective: Fall 2010

1. **Course Number:** PSY207
Course Title: Abnormal Psychology
2. **Description:** This course includes the study of the major psychiatric disorders, such as depression, anxiety and schizophrenia. Analysis is made of the probable causes of these disorders, with emphasis on the strengths and limitations of the commonly used therapies. Consideration is given to positive, constructive, alternative responses to the basic problems of living.
3. **Student Learning Outcomes:**
 - A. **Knowledge Base of Psychology**

Students who successfully complete the course work will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and historical trends. The student will understand the historical explanations of abnormal psychology across various cultures. The student will compare and contrast different conceptual approaches to understanding the causes of abnormal behavior. The student will analyze why it is difficult to define abnormal behavior.
 - B. **Research Methods in Psychology**

Students who successfully complete the course work will be able to understand and apply basic research methods in psychology, including research design, data analysis, and interpretation. Students will articulate strengths and limitations of various research methods and distinguish those methods that permit causal inferences from those that do not. Students will design studies to address psychological questions using appropriate research methods.
 - C. **Critical Thinking Skills in Psychology**

Students who successfully complete the course work will be able to respect and use critical and creative thinking, skeptical inquiry, and, when possible, the scientific approach to solve problems related to behavior and mental processes. Students will demonstrate a working knowledge of classification systems for psychological disorders. Students will question the strengths and limitations of classification systems.
 - D. **Application of Psychology**

Students who successfully complete the course work will be able to understand and apply psychological principles to personal, social, and organizational issues. Students will comprehend, apply, and relate, the effects of biological, psychological, and socio-cultural factors on adaptive and mal-adaptive behavior. Students will demonstrate an understanding of various psychological disorders (e.g., mood disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, schizophrenia). Students will compare various treatment modalities.
 - E. **Values in Psychology**

Students who successfully complete the course work will be able to weigh evidence, tolerate ambiguity, act ethically, and reflect other values that are the underpinnings of psychology as a discipline. Recognize and respect human diversity and understand psychological explanations and treatments may vary across populations and contexts. Understand the limitations of their psychological knowledge.
4. **Credits:** Three credits
5. **Satisfies a General Education Requirement:** Behavioral and Social Sciences
6. **Prerequisite:** PSY101
7. **Semester(s) Offered:** Fall, Spring, Summer
8. **Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation:** The methods of assessment used to gauge the outcomes are written assignments, interview of a mental health professional, tests, class discussion, and small group activity. The final grade will consist of written papers, class projects, class participation and attendance, and examination.

9. General Topical Outline (Optional):

Abnormal Psychology over Time
Causal Factors and Viewpoints in Abnormal Psychology
Clinical Assessment and Treatment
Stress and Adjustment Disorder
Panic, Anxiety, and their Disorders
Mood Disorders and Suicide
Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders
Psychological Compromises to Health and Eating Disorders
Personality Disorders
Substance-Related Disorders
Sexual Variants, Abuse and Dysfunction
The Schizophrenias and Delusional Disorders
Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence
Contemporary Issues in Abnormal Psychology