

MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Welcomes You to PSY 281-10
Abnormal Psychology
3 credit hours / 3 contact hours
Summer 2005

Course Description

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 placed 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. *This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in social/behavioral sciences.*

Prerequisites: PSY 150

Corequisites: None

Instructor Information

Instructor: April Pittman
Office Location: 247 Gwaltney Hall
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Office Hours: Tuesdays from 11-11:30am, Thursdays from 11am-1pm, and other times by appointment.

Course Information

This course meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8-10:50am in Room 252 of Gwaltney Hall.

Required Text(s): Nevid, J. S. & Greene, B. (2001). *Essentials of Abnormal Psychology in a Changing World*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to

- Recognize the problems associated with defining, predicting, and treating abnormal behavior.
- Discuss the history of the treatment of the mentally ill.
- Describe the system of classification that is currently used in the diagnosis of mental disorders.
- Identify the different theoretical views regarding abnormal behavior and the causes of abnormal behavior.
- Identify the various types of behavior disorders and describe the symptoms associated with individual psychological disorders.

Mayland Community College's General Education core courses will provide the essential body of knowledge and skills that enable all degree-level students to perform competently as employees and as contributing members of society.

Graduates of all degree programs at Mayland Community College will have completed the general education core. That core encompasses the essential knowledge and skills that enable all degree-level students to perform competently as employees and as contributing members of society. Upon completion of the general education core, students will be able to demonstrate the following:

1. Effective communication in speaking and listening situations needed for college, personal, and work successes

2. Effective communication in writing and reading situations needed for college, personal, and work successes
3. Logical, critical, and creative thinking to evaluate evidence and reach a conclusion
4. Application of basic computer use skills
5. Application of fundamental math skills
6. Basic awareness of the diversity of various world groups from both historical and contemporary contexts

For each of the following goals of Abnormal Psychology, the applicable General Education Learning Competencies are noted.

To be successful in this course you will need to:

- Be an active participant in class and small group discussions regarding topics in psychology (1 and 2).
- Apply critical thinking skills to material presented in the textbook, lectures, activities, and discussions (1, 2, and 3).
- Work independently and as part of a group to successfully complete written assignments related to material from the course (1, 2, and 6).
- Develop an understanding of cultural, racial, and ethnic differences in human thought and behavior (6).

Attendance Policy:

Attendance and participation are important in order for you to be successful in this course. You will be responsible for material that is covered during class lectures that is not covered in the textbook. In addition, you will receive an attendance and participation grade for this course. Attendance will be taken in this course at the beginning of each hour. For each hour of class that you are present for the entire hour (without being tardy or leaving early) you will receive points towards your attendance grade. A good attendance grade also depends on appropriate participation in class discussions and activities.

Make-Up Work/Late Assignments:

There will be no make-up for missed tests in this class. Before calculation of your final average one test grade will be dropped, therefore a missed test will be the drop grade. Exceptions to this will be made **only** in emergency situations with which written documentation (doctor's note, court papers, etc.) is available. The individual project (described below) will be due close to the end of the semester. Due to the extensive grading time required for the projects, these **will not** be accepted after the due date and other assignments will not be accepted after Tuesday, August 2.

Grading Criteria/Tests/Projects:

<i>Tests.....</i>	<i>70%</i>
<i>Projects.....</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Written Assignments.....</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Attendance.....</i>	<i>5%</i>

Tests: There will be four tests on the dates and topics listed in the attached course outline. Keeping good notes, reading the text and regular reviews will provide a good basis for test preparation. Tests will cover material from the textbook **and** from class lectures. There will be **no** make ups for missed tests. I will drop the lowest test grade for everyone in class. A "0" from a missed test will be considered the lowest grade and will be dropped before calculation of the final grade.

Projects: There is a project requirement for this course in which students will work to research a topic and prepare a paper or other product. More information regarding the project will be provided in a separate handout.

Written Assignments: During the semester we will have a number of assignments consisting of group assignments, internet assignments, and other activities.

Grading Scale:

A = 93-100 **D** = 70-76
B = 85-92 **F** = 0-69
C = 77-84

Academic Standards/Student Expectations/Ethics:

Honesty and integrity with respect to academic work is expected in this and all classes at Mayland Community College. As outlined in the MCC Student Code of Conduct, any form of academic dishonesty is subject to disciplinary action. At the minimum, students who engage in academic dishonesty of any type will receive a grade of F for the course. For a description of acts considered to be violations of the code of conduct, refer to the MCC Code of Conduct in the student handbook and college catalog.

Note regarding cell phones, pagers, MP-3 players, etc...

Technology has made our lives much easier in many ways. It has made it easier for us to stay in touch with our loved ones and it makes us much more accessible to the rest of the world. While this technology can be wonderful, it can be very disruptive in the classroom. For that reason I am asking that you turn off and put away (in your book bag, purse, pocket) cell phones, pagers, and other devices of that type while in this class.

Withdrawal Dates:

Withdrawal dates: Thursday, June 23 – End of Unconditional Withdrawal
Tuesday, July 19 – End of Conditional Withdrawal

If a student has not been in contact with the instructor and has not attended class for a consecutive two-week period, an administrative withdrawal will be submitted by the instructor. After the administrative withdrawal is completed the student will not be allowed to be added back to the class.

Accommodation:

Any student requesting special accommodations for this course due to a disability should apply for services through the SOAR Office or the Counseling Center, which will document the disability. A counselor will then help determine which accommodations, if any, the student needs for success in this course.

Disclaimer:

While I have attempted to be as thorough as possible with this syllabus, actual class procedures may vary to suit the needs of this group.

Course Outline/Weekly Topics

Date	Topic	Assignment
Tues. 6/7	Introductions and Syllabus What is Abnormal Psychology?	
Thurs. 6/9	Theoretical Perspectives and Methods of Treatment	Read pp. 1-19 of chapter 1 and all of chapter 2
Tues. 6/14	Classification and Assessment	Read chapter 3 Project Proposals Due
Thurs. 6/16	Assessment #1 Stress, Psychological Factors and Health	Read chapter 4
Tues.	Anxiety Disorders	Read chapter 5

6/21		
Thurs. 6/23	Dissociative and Somatoform Disorders	Read chapter 6
Tues. 6/28	Mood Disorders	Read pp. 214-250 of chapter 7
Thurs. 6/30	Suicide Assessment #2	Read pp. 250-256 of chapter 7
Tues. 7/5	Summer Break – No Classes MCC closed on July 4 for Independence Day holiday.	
Thurs. 7/7		
Tues. 7/12	Personality Disorders	Read chapter 8
Thurs. 7/14	Substance Abuse and Dependence	Read chapter 9
Tues. 7/19	Eating Disorders and Sleep Disorders`	Read chapter 10
Thurs. 7/21	Assessment #3 Gender Identity Disorder and Paraphilias	Read pp. 360-379 of chapter 11
Tues. 7/26	Sexual Dysfunctions Clinical Features of Schizophrenia	Read pp. 379-391 of chapter 11 and pp. 392-406 of chapter 12
Thurs. 7/28	Schizophrenia: Theoretical Perspectives and Treatment Approaches Pervasive Developmental Disorders and Mental Retardation	Read pp. 406-425 of chapter 12 and pp. 426-442 of chapter 13 Projects Due
Tues. 8/2	Learning Disorders, Attention-Deficit and Disruptive Behavior Disorders, and Anxiety & Depression in Children	Read pp. 442-463 of chapter 13
Thurs. 8/4	Assessment #4 Presentation and discussion of projects	

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