

James Sprunt Community College
Course Syllabus
Abnormal Psychology - PSY-281
received by Mayland Community College

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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.*

Course Objectives: Through class participation and satisfactory performance on three exams, a class presentation and a comprehensive final exam, students will demonstrate:

- 1. Familiarity with the historical roots of the understanding of mental disorders and
Abnormal Behavior.**
- 2. An understanding of the current diagnostic system (DSM).**
- 3. The ability to specify symptoms associated with major mental disorders.**
- 4. An understanding of the frequency and distribution of mental disorders in the
general
population.**
- 5. Familiarity with the most popular theories about the causes of some of the
mental
disorders.**
- 6. Knowledge of the different treatment modalities for some mental disorders.**

**Required Text: Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Abnormal Psychology, 3rd Edition
Richard P Halgin, UNIV OF MASS-AMHERST 2005 ISBN 0072917091**

Supplemental Readings: Provided

Course Methodology: The course will consist of a mixture of lecture and class discussion of material in the text. Audio/video and extra materials will be used as

well. Handouts will be given on a regular basis and are VERY Important to the understanding of this class material. As this is a college transfer class reading of assigned text is a MUST before coming to class. Please if possible type all written work turned in times new roman font of at least 12-14 as this makes it easier for me to read and assess.

Grading Policy: There will be four tests. The average of the best three of these tests will constitute 30% of the course grade. Students will not be able to make up tests except under extenuating circumstances as determined by the instructor.

Tests	= 30%
Article Readings/Analysis	= 40%
Project	= 20%
Participation	= 10%

Each test will consist of multiple-choice, short answer, true false, or fill in the blank.

Article Readings/Analysis: Students will be given articles approximately every two weeks to read and analyze. They will concern an area of Psychopathology and students will give a brief but concise analysis of their thoughts on this article. More information on this will be given in class.

Project: Open ended to allow for individuality of students to design a project that will enhance the learning process. In the first weeks of class decide what kind of project that you would like to under take. Project ideas can include direct observation of a target population (no NOT at Wal-Mart) with resulting findings, giving a short presentation on a topic area you research, making a poster or if you choose writing a short (no more than five pages) paper on an area of development that interests you.

Participation: Class participation includes attendance as well as timely assignments, attitude and motivation to learn.

A ten-point scale will be used.

A = 90-100

B = 80-90

C = 70-80

D = 60-70

F = 69 or lower.

Students having perfect attendance during the semester will receive 3 bonus points.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is critical to success in this class and absences should be avoided. Three absences will be allowed without penalty. When you are absent, you are responsible for getting notes from a class member and to make up missed work (with exception to the tests mentioned above).