

PSYC-126: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

Effective Term

Fall 2025

CC Approval

03/07/2025

AS Approval

03/13/2025

BOT Approval

03/20/2025

SECTION A - Course Data Elements

CB04 Credit Status

Credit - Degree Applicable

Discipline

Minimum Qualifications	And/Or
Psychology (Master's Degree)	

Subject Code

PSYC - Psychology

Course Number

126

Department

Psychology (PSYC)

Division

Social Sciences (SOCS)

Full Course Title

Abnormal Psychology

Short Title

Abnormal Psychology

CB03 TOP Code

2001.00 - Psychology, General

CB08 Basic Skills Status

NBS - Not Basic Skills

CB09 SAM Code

E - Non-Occupational

Rationale

CCN update.

SECTION B - Course Description

Catalog Course Description

An introduction to the concepts of abnormal and maladaptive behavior. Models of diagnosis, classification and treatment are discussed in depth. A discussion of major psychological disorders and study of the different perspectives on their causation, development and treatment.

SECTION C - Conditions on Enrollment

Open Entry/Open Exit

No

Repeatability

Not Repeatable

Grading Options

Letter Grade or Pass/No Pass

Allow Audit

Yes

Requisites

Prerequisite(s)

Completion of PSYC-C1000 with a minimum grade of C.

Requisite Justification

Requisite Description

Course Not in a Sequence

Subject

PSYC

Course #

120

Level of Scrutiny

Content Review

Upon entering this course, students should be able to:

1. Basic knowledge of biological bases of behavior.
2. Knowledge of basic psychological processes such as sensation, perception, consciousness, learning, memory, thinking, emotion and motivation.
3. Knowledge of social concepts and their influence in the development and functioning of a normal individual.

SECTION D - Course Standards

Is this course variable unit?

No

Units

3.00

Lecture Hours

54.00

Outside of Class Hours

108

Total Contact Hours

54

Total Student Hours

162

Distance Education Approval

Is this course offered through Distance Education?

Yes

Online Delivery Methods

DE Modalities	Permanent or Emergency Only?
Entirely Online	Permanent
Hybrid	Permanent
Online with Proctored Exams	Permanent

SECTION E - Course Content

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Examine and evaluate the major psychological approaches to the conceptualization, etiology, and treatment of psychological disorders and the historical and sociocultural influences from which they arise.
2.	Identify the distinguishing characteristics of psychological disorders, differentials, and comorbid in the DSM-IV-T
3.	Critically analyze the important legal, social, economic, and political factors that impact the definition, treatment, and stigmatization of psychological disorders.

Course Objectives

Upon satisfactory completion of the course, students will be able to:	
1.	Define and use basic biological and psychological terminology to describe psychopathology and atypical behavior and mental processes.
2.	Compare and contrast the various theoretical perspectives on etiology and implications for treatment of various psychological disorders.
3.	Summarize the major disorder classifications and give concrete examples using appropriate diagnostic terminology (i.e., DSM).
4.	Explain specific research methods and the ethical principles for the study and treatment of psychopathology.

Course Content

1. Psychopathology and Mental Disorders: Historical, Cultural, Social, Scientific, and Ethical Considerations
2. Issues in classification and diagnosis
 - a. DSM-IV-TR (or current edition)
3. Introduction to Clinical Assessment Procedures
4. Research Methodology in Psychopathology
 - a. Descriptive, epidemiological, experimental and single-subject research designs
5. Theories and Paradigms in Psychopathology
 - a. Biological paradigm
 - b. Psychodynamic paradigm
 - c. Humanistic and existential paradigm
 - d. Behavioral/learning paradigm
 - e. Cognitive paradigm
6. Psychological Disorders (characteristics, etiology, and treatment):
 - a. Anxiety disorders
 - b. Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders
 - c. Mood Disorders
 - d. Schizophrenia
 - e. Substance-related Disorders
 - f. Personality Disorders
 - g. Sexual Dysfunctions and Gender Identity Disorders
 - h. Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence
 - i. Eating Disorders
7. Outcomes and Issues of Psychological Intervention

Methods of Instruction

Methods of Instruction

Types	Examples of learning activities
Discussion	Class discussions related to psychological disorders and psychotherapy
Lecture	Lecture topics in the field of clinical psychology

Instructor-Initiated Online Contact Types

Announcements/Bulletin Boards
 Chat Rooms
 Discussion Boards
 E-mail Communication
 Telephone Conversations
 Video or Teleconferencing

Student-Initiated Online Contact Types

Chat Rooms
 Discussions
 Group Work

Course design is accessible

Yes

Methods of Evaluation

Methods of Evaluation

Types	Examples of classroom assessments
Exams/Tests	Final Exam Mid Term
Quizzes	
Essays/Papers	
Other	<p>Quizzes and examinations For example: 1. Multiple choice and short answer quizzes Example questions: a) Which of the following is not a typical characteristic of schizophrenia? - delusions - flat affect - hallucinations - multiple personalities b) Describe how a clinician could distinguish bipolar disorder from borderline personality disorder. 2. Final exam: Combination of multiple choice, short answer and case study 3. Case study quizzes: with 5 axis diagnosis, theoretical examination of pathology etiology and treatment planning using various theoretical approaches.</p>

Assignments

Reading Assignments

Textbook readings

For example,

1. Read Chapter 8 on suicide in "Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology." Prepare to discuss the section on "The Right to Commit Suicide."
2. Read Chapter 13 on personality disorders in "Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology."

Writing Assignments

Term paper and/or case study analysis

For example,

1. In class group analysis of case studies including 5 axis diagnosis, etiology of pathology from various theoretical perspectives and treatment planning based on empirical research of efficacy outcome studies.
2. Term Paper (4 to 8 pages) - The book "Taking Sides" (on reserve in the library) contains a collection of essays on both sides of a current debate in abnormal psychology. Pick one of the debates, read both the pro and con arguments and then answer the questions at the end of the essays. Then develop a critical argument in support of one of the positions taken by the experts in the book. Support your opinion with additional sources and research not already presented. Your opinions and the conclusions you make must be backed up by research and properly cited.

Other Assignments

Personal genogram, psychological assessment tests, written self-reflection exercise completed before and after field trip to State Mental Hospital.

SECTION F - Textbooks and Instructional Materials

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Comer, R. & Comer, J

Title

Abnormal Psychology

Edition/Version

10th

Publisher

Macmillan

Year

2018

Material Type

Textbook

Author

Barlow, D., Durand, V., & Hofmann, S

Title

Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach

Edition/Version

8th

Publisher

Cengage

Year

2018

Course Codes (Admin Only)

ASSIST Update

No

CB00 State ID

CCC000295230

CB10 Cooperative Work Experience Status

N - Is Not Part of a Cooperative Work Experience Education Program

CB11 Course Classification Status

Y - Credit Course

CB13 Special Class Status

N - The Course is Not an Approved Special Class

CB23 Funding Agency Category

Y - Not Applicable (Funding Not Used)

CB24 Program Course Status

Program Applicable

Allow Pass/No Pass

Yes

Only Pass/No Pass

No