

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

PSY 6 - Abnormal Psychology

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level III

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

This course introduces the scientific study of psychopathology and atypical behaviors, broadly defined. Students investigate abnormal behavior from a variety of perspectives including biological, psychological, and sociocultural approaches. An integrative survey of theory and research in abnormal behavior, and intervention and prevention strategies for psychological disorders are also introduced. (C-ID PSY 120).

II. OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Define and use basic biological and psychological terminology to describe psychopathology and atypical behavior and mental processes.
- B. Compare and contrast the various theoretical perspectives on etiology and implications for treatment of various psychological disorders.
- C. Summarize the major disorder classifications and give concrete examples using appropriate diagnostic terminology (i.e., DSM).
- D. Explain specific research methods and the ethical principles for the study and treatment of psychopathology.

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture	
<u>Topics</u>	<u>Hours</u>
1. Psychopathology and Mental Disorders: Historical, Cultural, Social, Scientific, and Ethical Considerations.	8.00
2. Issues in classification and diagnosis: DSM-IV-TR (or current edition).	3.00
3. Introduction to Clinical Assessment Procedures.	3.00
4. Research Methodology in Psychopathology: Descriptive, epidemiological, experimental and single-subject research designs.	4.00
5. Theories and Paradigms in Psychopathology: Biological paradigm, Psychodynamic paradigm, Humanistic and existential paradigm, Behavioral/learning paradigm, Cognitive paradigm.	8.00
6. Psychological Disorders (characteristics, etiology, and treatment, including: Anxiety disorders, Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders, Mood Disorders, Schizophrenia. Substance-related Disorders, Personality Disorders, Sexual Dysfunctions and Gender Identity Disorders, Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence, Eating Disorders.	13.00
7. Therapies and treatments, including outcomes and issues related to psychological intervention.	12.00
Total Hours	51.00

IV. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- A. Lecture
- B. Guest Speakers
- C. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- D. Discussion
- E. Reading Assignments
- F. Audio and video tapes

V. METHODS OF EVALUATION

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Quizzes
- C. Research Projects
- D. Papers

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
 - 1. Read Ch. 4 and be prepared to analyze a case study from a biological, behaviorist and humanist point of view.
 - 2. Read Ch 1 and be prepared to discuss four challenges in defining "abnormal behavior."
- B. Writing Assignments
 - 1. Imagine what life might be like from the standpoint of someone diagnosed with schizophrenia. In 2-3 pages, describe the type of schizophrenia your imaginary person has and the sensory, emotional and behavioral experiences they might have as a result.
 - 2. Write a 2-3 page essay arguing for or against the use of neuroimaging technology in court cases to determine mental or emotional stability.
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments
 - 1. Attend a drug court calendar at a superior court. Describe the mental health issues that you observe in three of the cases.
 - 2. Attend an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous or a similar open support group meeting. What group norms and rules do people follow? What therapeutic interventions do you see present at the meeting?

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Materials Other Than Textbooks:

- A. Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology By Ronald J. Comer, Worth Publishers, 2010.
- B. Abnormal Psychology, An Integrative Approach by David H. Barlow & Vincent Mark Durand. Cengage Learning, 2008.

Created/Revised by: Linda E Johnson

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