

Las Positas College  
3000 Campus Hill Drive  
Livermore, CA 94551-7650  
(925) 424-1000  
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

**Course Outline for ECD 15**  
**ABNORMAL CHILD PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Effective: Spring 2012**

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

ECD 15 — ABNORMAL CHILD PSYCHOLOGY — 3.00 units

An exploration of the emotional, cognitive, developmental, and behavioral problems of childhood and adolescence. Topics include: common stresses and problems of adjustment; the effects of stress, abuse, and traumas on development; mental retardation, autism and other developmental disabilities; normal and abnormal problems of attention, conduct, mood, anxiety, sleep, eating, sex, learning and speech. Examination of the causes of mental health problems in children and adolescents and approaches to treatment. Students who have completed or are enrolled in Psychology 15 may not receive credit.

3.00 Units Lecture

**Grading Methods:**

Letter or P/NP

**Discipline:**

	<b>MIN</b>
<b>Lecture Hours:</b>	54.00
<b>Total Hours:</b>	54.00

**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1**

**III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:**

**IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:**

**Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:**

- A. describe contemporary methods used in the evaluation, assessment, and diagnosis of children and adolescents
- B. summarize the differences between normal problems of development and the mental health disorders of childhood and adolescence
- C. explain the major mental health disorders of childhood and adolescence
- D. explain the major cognitive and learning disorders of childhood and adolescence
- E. compare and contrast the major psychological, biological, and sociocultural models of mental health
- F. critically evaluate contemporary methods of treatment of disorders
- G. discuss the influence of cultural contexts as it relates to the perception, diagnosis and treatment of childhood problems

**V. CONTENT:**

- A. Developmental Perspective
  - 1. Normal Development
  - 2. Developmental Psychopathology
- B. Influences and Risks
  - 1. Biological
  - 2. Psychological
  - 3. Sociocultural
- C. Classification and Treatment
  - 1. Classification and Diagnosis
  - 2. Assessment
  - 3. Treatment
- D. Anxiety Disorders
- E. Mood Disorders
- F. Conduct Disorders
- G. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- H. Mental Retardation
- I. Autism
- J. Disorders of Basic Physical Functions
- K. Contemporary Issues in Mental Health Care for Children and Adolescents
  - 1. Cultural Issues
  - 2. Trends and controversies
  - 3. Prevention and advocacy

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Individualized Instruction** - Individual problem-solving assignments and activities
- B. **Discussion** -
- C. **Classroom Activity** - Group and paired activities
- D. **Audio-visual Activity** - Videos accompanied with worksheets
- E. **Lecture** -

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. Chapter Quizzes
- B. Writing Assignment:
  - 1. Opinion Papers
  - 2. Critical Analyses
- C. Essay Exams
- D. Semester Project

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

- 1. Exams/Tests
- 2. Quizzes
- 3. Papers
- 4. Projects
- 5. Home Work

B. **Frequency**

- 1. Minimum of one midterm examination
- 2. Minimum of one research project
- 3. One final examination.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

- 1. Mash, Eric, and David Wolfe. *Abnormal Child Psychology*. 4th ed., Cengage, 2010.
- 2. Kearney, Christopher. *Casebook in Child Behavior Disorders*. 4th ed., Cengage, 2010.
- 3. Wicks-Nelson, Rita, and Allen Israel. *Abnormal Child and Adolescent Psychology*. 7th ed., Prentice Hall, 2009.
- 4. Instructor generated collection of readings

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: