

Course Outline for: PSYC 2200 Abnormal Psychology

A. Course Description:

1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: PSYC 1110 Introduction to Psychology
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 – History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences

This course is a survey of the scientific study of psychological disorders such as obsessive-compulsive disorder, depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. Topics include how people are diagnosed, possible causes of disorders, and research on the treatment of disorders.

B. Date last reviewed/updated: May 2025

C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

1. Defining “abnormal”
2. Historical views of abnormality
3. Classification of disorders
4. Cultural aspects of psychological disorders
5. Characteristics of major disorders
6. Causes of disorders
7. Evaluating disorders, treatments, and diagnosis methods
8. Legal and ethical issues in Abnormal Psychology

D. Course Learning Outcomes:

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

1. Distinguish between normal and abnormal behavior and mental processes. (Goal 2a, 5a)
2. Explain major research findings from the scientific study of psychopathology. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a)
3. Evaluate and contrast major historical and contemporary theoretical and treatment perspectives associated with the field of abnormal psychology in contemporary clinical practice and research. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5b, 5c)
4. Explain the characteristics, strengths and limitations of the DSM. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a)
5. Describe the symptoms and epidemiology of DSM disorders. (Goal 2a, 2d, 5a, 5c)
6. Describe the principal methods used to gather information about psychological disorders, i.e., assessment. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a)
7. Apply an understanding of reliability and validity to the evaluation of various assessment methods. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a)

8. Evaluate empirically validated treatments of specific psychological disorders. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5c)
9. Explain important ethical considerations related to Abnormal Psychology, both in clinical practice and legal situations. (Goal 2a, 2c, 2d, 5a, 5c, 7b, 7d)
10. Apply multicultural competencies and psychological constructs (diagnostic criteria, assessment approaches, clinical research and treatment approaches) to the interpersonal, intrapersonal and intercultural aspects of psychopathology. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 5a, 7c)
11. Describe how diverse background and cultural beliefs influence our views about psychological abnormalities and our reactions to people with mental disorders. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 5b, 7a)
12. Identify ways in which persons with disorders have suffered exclusion, economic discrimination, and disenfranchisement in American society. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 7b)
13. Identify common misconceptions about persons with disorders and how those have contributed to long-held stereotypes. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 7d)
14. Analyze one's own beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors about mental disorders. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 7c)

E. Methods for Assessing Student Learning:

Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Unit exams, midterms, and/or a comprehensive final
2. Class assignments
3. Projects

F. Special Information:

None