



COURSE SYLLABUS

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SECTION 1: COURSE INFORMATION

Format: Eight weeks.

Course ID: PSYC 3003

Course Title: Abnormal Psychology

College: College of Unrestricted Education – Department of Behavioral & Social Sciences

Prerequisites: PSYC 1133 or PSYC 1233, PSYC 2133

Credit Hours: 3

Instructor: See the online course in MyFIRE for instructor contact information and availability.

Course Description

A study of the nature, causes, and treatment of abnormal behavior including personality disorders, neuroses, psychoses, stress reaction and other dysfunctions. Elements contributing to mental health and well-integrated personality are also considered.

Course Overview

Through this course students will be able to define abnormal behavior as well as identify the key characteristics and causes of the many different psychological disorders. Students will also develop and understanding of the diagnostic procedures as well as the different treatment methods available for treating mental illness.

Course Workload

Time spent on course assignments will vary by student depending on familiarity with course content, reading rate of speed, writing rate of speed, and other individual factors. Based on averages for most students, it is estimated that the course workload estimate for this course is 65.68 (8.21 hours per week).

Course Materials

Sue, D. [David], Sue, D.W., Sue, D. [Diane], & Sue, S. (2016). Understanding abnormal behavior (11 ed.). Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.

Required and optional textbooks are accessed and ordered through [SEU's bookstore](#).

Disclaimer: The resources utilized in this course provide information, thoughts and insights that should encourage critical thinking on the part of the student. Please note as well that as an Assembly of God institution, Southeastern University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.

Course Topics

The purpose of this course is to introduce, reinforce, and measure learning on the following topics:

1. Abnormal behavior
2. Assessment
3. Anxiety related disorders
4. Trauma and stress related disorders
5. Depressive and bipolar disorders
6. Suicide
7. Eating disorders
8. Addictive disorders
9. Schizophrenia spectrum disorders
10. Neurocognitive disorders
11. Personality disorders
12. Childhood and adolescence related disorders

Intended Learning Outcomes

As a result of reading, study, and assessments in this course, the student should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the historical and contemporary perspectives of abnormal behavior.
2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the procedures and methods used to assess and classify abnormal behavior.
3. Identify, describe, and explain the nature and qualifying characteristics of various forms of abnormal behavior, including the differential characteristics that distinguish one mental disorder from another mental disorder.
4. Identify, describe, and explain various approaches to treating mental disorders.
5. Apply critical thinking skills to the assumptions and evaluations made of

human behavior by the media, social scientists, academicians, friends, and family.

6. Display a sensitivity towards and understanding of those whose lives have been touched by mental illness.

7. Apply a Biblical worldview of abnormal behavior and psychopathology.

Late Work

None accepted.

Extra Credit

None accepted.

SECTION 2: SOUTHEASTERN POLICIES

Academic Policies

View this link to see Southeastern's Policies regarding SEU's Mission and Vision Statements, Title IX Statement, Student Services, Class Participation, Official Email, MyFIRE Use, Technical Difficulties, Technical Support, Disability Statement, Academic Honesty, Course Evaluation, Official Withdrawal, Grading Scale, and Netiquette.

SECTION 3: COURSE SCHEDULE

The **Course Schedule** provides a listing of your work in this course. The assessments are listed by Module and include the due dates and point values.

Note: Assignments are due by 11:59 p.m. EST on the due date, unless otherwise noted.

AIM, LEARN, AND APPLY DESCRIPTIONS

Aim



When you see the Aim icon, you will be introduced to topics and ideas that will be covered throughout this module. The AIM will also provide you with a glimpse into your learning objectives and an introduction to this module.

Learn



When you see the Learn icon, all of your reading assignments will be listed and may include additional resources that your instructor is providing to help you complete the activities and assessments for the module.

Apply



When you see the Apply Icon, it will be time to demonstrate your learning for the module. The items here are those in which you'll be graded and may include discussions, activities, assignments, quizzes, exams, and projects.

MODULE 1:

XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX



- Define abnormal behavior.
- Identify the stigma and stereotypes associated with mental illness.
- Discuss how explanations of abnormal behaviors have changed over time.
- Identify and describe the models of psychopathology that have been used to explain abnormal behavior.
- Describe the role social factors play in psychopathology.



- Chapter 1: Abnormal Behavior
- Chapter 2: Understanding and Treating Mental Disorders
- View: Module 1 Lesson



- Module 1 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
 - Points: 50
- Module 1 Assignment
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 50

MODULE 2:

XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX



- Describe the kinds of tools that clinicians employ in evaluating a client's mental health.
- Explain how professionals make a psychological diagnosis.
- Identify the methods that researchers use to study the causes of and treatments for psychopathology.
- Summarize the current trends in research into psychopathology.



- Chapter 3: Assessment and Classification of Mental Disorders Research
- Chapter 4: Methods for Studying Mental Disorders



- Module 2 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
 - Points: 50
- Module 2 Assignment
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 50

MODULE 3:

XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX



- Identify how biological, psychological, social, and sociocultural factors are involved in the development of anxiety disorders, and why the multipath model is important.
- Describe panic disorder, phobias, and generalized anxiety disorder, and OCD, including their etiology and how each is treated.
- Explain acute and posttraumatic stress disorders and explain how they are diagnosed and treated.
- Discuss the role that stress plays in our psychophysiological health.



- Chapter 5: Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders
- Chapter 6: Trauma- and Stress-Related Disorders
- View: Module 3 Lesson



- Module 3 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
 - Points: 50
- Module 3 Assignment
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 50

MODULE 4:

XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX



- Describe dissociations, what forms they can take, how they are caused, and how they are treated.
- Explain what somatic symptom and related disorders have in common, and describe the causes and treatments of these conditions.
- Identify and describe the symptoms of depression and mania.
- Discuss depressive and bipolar disorders, what causes them, and how they are treated.



- Chapter 7: Somatic and Dissociative Disorders
- Chapter 8: Depressive and Bipolar Disorders
- View: Module 4 Lesson



- Module 4 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
 - Points: 50
- Midterm Exam
 - Due: Tuesday

- Points: 100

MODULE 5:

XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX



- Discuss what might cause someone to commit suicide.
- Identify the ways in which we can prevent suicide.
- Explain how suicide affects friends and family.
- Outline the possible causes of eating disorders.
- Summarize the different treatment options for eating disorders.



- Chapter 9: Suicide
- Chapter 10: Eating Disorders
- View: Module 5 Lesson



- Module 5 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
 - Points: 50
- Module 5 Assignment 1
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 50
- Module 5 Assignment 2

- Due: Tuesday

○ Points: 25

MODULE 6:

XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX



- Outline the substances that are associated with addiction.
- Describe the types of interventions and treatments that are most effective for treating substance-use disorders.
- Discuss the symptoms of schizophrenia spectrum disorders.
- Identify the risk factors for developing schizophrenia.
- Explain the treatments currently available for schizophrenia, and discuss their effectiveness.



- Chapter 11: Substance-Related and Other Addictive Disorders
- Chapter 12: Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders
- View: Module 6 Lesson



- Module 6 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
 - Points: 50
- Module 6 Assignment
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 75

MODULE 7:

XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX



- Describe the criteria used to assess personality disorders.
- Identify the traits that are associated with a pathological personality.
- Outline the problems associated with personality assessments.
- Summarize the internalizing disorders that may occur in childhood and adolescence.
- Discuss the characteristics of externalizing disorders.



- Chapter 15: Personality Psychopathology
- Chapter 16: Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence
- View: Module 7 Lesson



- Module 7 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
 - Points: 50
- Psychological Disorder Research Paper
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 200

MODULE 8:
XX/XX/XX - XX/XX/XX



- Identify the different types of neurocognitive disorders.
- Describe the current treatments for neurocognitive disorders.
- Explain what is known about disorders that affect our sleep.



- Chapter 13: Neurocognitive and Sleep-Wake Disorders
- View: Module 8 Lesson



- Module 8 Discussion Forum
 - Due: Saturday (initial post), Tuesday (response posts)
 - Points: 50
- Final Exam
 - Due: Tuesday
 - Points: 100

SECTION 4: ASSESSMENTS

Discussion Forums

Description

Each module, students will participate in a class discussion. The discussion topics will relate to the readings and will encourage the student apply what they have learned during the module as they engage with both the instructor and their fellow students.

Each module, students will be required to respond to the given discussion questions with a substantial post (at least 200 words) that demonstrates depth of understanding and is supported by a minimum of one cited and referenced source. This initial post should be posted each module by Saturday at 11:59 PM EST.

In addition to the initial post, students must respond substantially to a minimum of two of their peer's initial posts (100 word minimum for each reply). These posts must add breadth and depth to the discussion, continue to build on the initial post, and add additional insights and questions. These posts should be made each module by Tuesday at 11:59 PM EST.

Total Possible Points

400

Grade Weight

37%

Assignments

Description

Various assignments will be required throughout the course. Instructions for each assignment are provided in the course.

Total Possible Points

300

Grade Weight

27%

Exams**Description**

Two exams will be required (Midterm and Final Exam). Each exam is 50 questions each, with a two-hour time limit.

Total Possible Points

200

Grade Weight

18%

Psychological Disorder Research Paper**Description**

For your final paper, you are going to research a psychological disorder of your choice in order to fully understand the disorder. Your paper should cover the following points:

- Prevalence of the disorder
- Symptomology
- Etiology
- DSM-V diagnostic criteria
- What differentiates the diagnosis of this disorder from other disorders in the same diagnostic category
- Current recommended treatments including strengths, weaknesses, and population best suited to for each treatment option
- Prognosis, specifically discussing how this disorder will affect the person throughout the remainder of their life
- Impact on family and friends
- Culture-related issues, culturally bound symptoms, or cultural biases that will affect treatment

Make sure to use headings throughout your paper to clearly organize it.

This paper should be a total of five to seven pages, double-spaced, and written in proper APA format. In addition to the minimum page count (i.e., five pages and one line minimum), you should also include a cover page and a reference page in APA format. Additionally, use a minimum of three additional sources in addition to your textbook to support your points.

Total Possible Points

200

Grade Weight

18%

