

INSTRUCTIONAL SYLLABUS

COURSE:

Abnormal Psychology
PSY 250H-01
2020CS

INSTRUCTOR:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Syllabus Spring 2019: The primary objective of this course is to develop an understanding of observed human behavior. "Normal" and "abnormal" behaviors are reviewed through historical and cross-cultural perspectives culminating in the classification system outlined in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders-5* (DSM-5), which is the categorization adopted by most mental health professionals. Psycho-diagnostic methods and treatment approaches are examined within the course. These perspectives become the basis for addressing current social issues in mental health, such as involuntary commitment, group home alternatives for care, client-therapist confidentiality, and other pertinent topics.

COURSE FORMAT

This section of this course will be taught in an online format. Learning in the course is cumulative; in the early weeks, we'll develop skills you will need for more advanced projects. It's important that you plan for time-intensive work later in the semester.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS

Nevid, J.S., Rathus, S.A., & Greene, B. (10th Edition). *Abnormal Psychology in a Changing World*. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-448492-1.

COURSE OUTCOMES

1. To understand the dominant theoretical perspectives of abnormal behavior in the field of psychology as well as how the theories relate to the professional treatment of behavioral disorders.
2. To interpret psychological theory and treatment within both historic and contemporary contexts.

3. To examine identified treatment delivery methods through the student's own system of values.
4. To develop critical thinking abilities about complex issues in mental health.
5. To understand introductory diagnostic and treatment issues associated with psychological disorders, including disorders involving alcohol and other drugs.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Contacting Your Instructor

Contact your instructor via e-mail or phone (both are supplied above). Be sure to include your full name, the course, and section. If you are asking specific questions about an assignment, include the title of the assignment as it appears in Moodle.

Your instructor will typically respond to your e-mails within 1-2 business days.

Assignment Submissions

Regarding assignments, work must be submitted according to the specifications, due date, and time posted. Specifications, due dates and times will be clearly noted on Moodle, course calendars, or directly on the assignments/assessments. You must complete work in a timely manner to pass the course.

Opportunity to revise work is not guaranteed and is granted only if there is evidence of substantial effort on the first attempt. Resubmission of work to attain satisfactory completion must be individually negotiated with the instructor. It is your responsibility to initiate this action immediately upon receiving feedback.

To pass the class, you must successfully complete all assignments and assessments. You are responsible for all materials and work completed or assigned in class. Students who must miss an assignment or assessment for emergency reasons are *required to notify the instructor prior to the scheduled date* to plan to complete the work. Extensions on any due dates will **NOT** be granted without prior discussions. Late papers may not get comprehensive feedback and may result in unsatisfactory status. It is your responsibility to be aware of the posted schedule.

Student assessments will include combinations of the following required activities, assignments, and assessments:

- Discussion questions
- Worksheets to reinforce course concepts
- Reflective self-assessments
- Papers in which you will
 - Make inferences based on relevant scholarly articles
 - Apply discipline-specific terms, concepts, and processes
 - Develop researchable empirical questions

- Identify and operationalize variables
- Develop hypotheses about the relationship between variables

You must successfully complete all assignments and meet criteria satisfactory. An “Incomplete” may not be given to students who fail to keep up with the schedule.

Feedback

You can typically expect feedback on submitted assignments within 1-2 weeks following the due date if your work was submitted on time. There is no guarantee when feedback will be expected for work submitted after the due date. Feedback is delivered via Moodle.

Attendance

This course is being offered in online format. Submission of work will be taken as attendance of the course. It is important that you submit your work regularly.

Alignment with Specific Program Outcomes

Your performance in this course will align with the following Alverno College Major/Program Outcomes.

Psychology: To construct plausible explanations for complex human behavior relying on reasoning and evidence, solve problems by selecting, using, and evaluating a variety of psychological methods, and interact and communicate with people in a variety of professional contexts.

Nursing: Integrates analytic frameworks within the practice of professional nursing, applies problem solving processes to promote wellness in multiple environments, and learns how to advocate for and improve access to health care.

Additional College Policies

You will be expected to adhere to policies specified in the student handbook as well as the following. Please review them to be sure you understand what is expected of you.

- [Copyright Policy](#)
- [Technology Use Policy](#)
- [Student Handbook](#) – Policies regarding email, academic honesty, professional behavior, children on campus
- [Netiquette Suggestions](#)

College Resources

The following resources may be useful to you in this class.

- [Technical support](#)
- [Academic support](#)
- [Disability Services](#)