

Dakota College at Bottineau Course Syllabus

Course Prefix/Number/Title:

PSYC 270H—Honors Abnormal Psychology

Number of credits:

1 credits

Course Description:

In this course, students will learn extensively about different psychological disorders through the use of popular media, non-fiction and fictional accounts of these disorders. Each week, students will be asked to reflect on one of these media sources, and apply DSM-IV-TR diagnostic criteria to determine the correct diagnosis and whether or not the portrayal of the disease is accurate and/or typical.

Pre-/Co-requisites:

Pre-requisite: PSYC 111—Introduction to Psychology

Co-requisite: PSYC 270—Abnormal Psychology

Course Objectives:

Students will:

1. Define key concepts in the field of abnormal psychology.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of basic diagnosis of psychological disorders.
3. Explain basic psychological disorders, including classification, symptoms, and etiology.
4. Apply concepts learned in class to different scenarios (both in class, and within their own lives).

Instructor:

Lexi R. Kvasnicka-Gates, Ph.D.

Office:

Thatcher Hall 2208

Office Hours:

Mondays and Wednesdays: 3:00-4:00

Thursdays: 11:00-1:00

Phone: 228-5475

Email: lexi.kvasnicka@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule:

TBA

Textbook(s):

Comer, R. J. (2010). *Abnormal psychology*, 7th Ed. New York: Worth Publishers.

American Psychological Association. (2010). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4th Ed., Text Revision). Washington, DC: APA.

Genova, L. (2009). *Still Alice*. New York: Pocket Books.

Picoult, J. (1999). *The Pact*. New York: W. Morrow & Company.

Phillips, M. (2009). *High on Arrival*. New York: Simon Spotlight Entertainment.

Course Requirements:

- Read weekly readings and come to class prepared to discuss.
- Participate in seminar style discussion.
- Weekly diagnostic criteria assignments.

*****If the above criteria are met, the student will receive a passing grade. If students fail to meet the above criteria, students will not pass the honors portion of PSYC 270.**

Major Assignments:

- **Weekly Readings:** We will read three different novels throughout the semester. Student are responsible for reading the assigned pages, understanding the text, and noting any psychological disorder symptoms. Furthermore, students should devise questions regarding the content of the novels. These questions will facilitate discussion if needed.
- **Weekly Diagnostic Criteria Assignments:** While reading the assigned readings, or while watching the assigned movie and/or television show, students should keep detailed notes on “patient” symptoms. These notes enable the students to diagnosis the “patient” with an appropriate psychological diagnosis.
- **Honors Symposium Presentation:** Students will compile diagnostic information from the “patients” and will present this during an Honors Symposium at the end of the semester. Students will compare and contrast diagnostic criteria from the DSM-IV-TR to the DSM-5.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Pages
Week 1			Class Introduction	
Week 2			<i>The Pact</i>	Part 1
Week 3			<i>The Pact</i>	Part 2
Week 4			<i>The Pact</i>	Part 3
Week 5			<i>High on Arrival</i>	pp. ix-73
Week 6			<i>High on Arrival</i>	pp. 74-142
Week 7			<i>High on Arrival</i>	pp. 145-224
Week 8			<i>High on Arrival</i>	pp. 225-301

Week 9			A Beautiful Mind	
Week 10			Spring Break (No School)	
Week 11			Sybil	
Week 12			<i>Still Alice</i>	pp. 1-156
Week 13			<i>Still Alice</i>	pp. 157-292
Week 14			Temple Grandin	
Week 15			Temple Grandin (Discussion)	
Week 16			Prepare Symposium Presentation	
Week 17			Prepare Symposium Presentation	

General Education Goals/Objectives:

- Goal 1: Explains the interrelationships between humans and their environment and the role of science in their lives.
- Goal 4: Demonstrate Effective Communication

Relationship to Campus Theme:

Campus theme: Nature, Technology, and Beyond

- Students will be familiar with the technological tools used to investigate the mind and our behavior.
- Students will be familiar with how nature influences our own (psychological) development.
- Students will use critical thinking to understand the importance of psychology now, and in the future.

Classroom Policies:

- **Participation.** Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively engage in class discussion and activities. The classroom environment is open and harassment free, so please engaged in discussion. Computers are NOT allowed in this seminar style class.
- **Grades.** Grades in this class are based on participation in class discussions, and coming to class prepared (i.e. reading the assigned readings and completing the diagnostic criteria requirements). The instructor will notify the students of their pass/fail status during Week 5 and Week 13 (students should feel free to inquire about their status whenever they see fit).

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism (taking the ideas, thoughts, or language of someone else and passing them off as your own) will not be tolerated in this class. If a student is suspected of plagiarizing, cheating, or not doing their own work, the matter will be investigated. Any student who is found to engage in academic dishonesty (including letting others cheat off of you) will receive an automatic “F” in the course. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the appropriate University office and additional action may be taken.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

Please inform the instructor within the first week of classes if any assistance is required due to disabilities or special needs.