

# PSYC 270 Abnormal Psychology

3 semester hour credits

## Course Description:

A survey of the classification, symptoms, and etiology of psychological disorders. This class focuses on the entire range and scope of human behavior, including theoretical, etiological, epidemiological, and phenomenological approaches to mental illness. It is intended that the student increases their understanding of psychopathology in general and learn more about basic psychological disorders. The course will also explore the aspects of social consequences and treatment options offered in the past and at the current time.

**Prerequisite:** PSYC 111 Introduction to Psychology

## Course Objectives:

The student will be required to think objectively about research, social issues, case studies, etc.

This is a social science course, so understanding and analysis using the scientific method is a crucial cornerstone here.

This course will cover the entire spectrum of human behavior, showing the student the varying forms of mental processes.

1. Define abnormal behavior.
2. Describe the influences that produce and maintain mental disorders.
3. Outline the processes of clinical assessment and diagnosis.
4. Describe the symptoms, causes, and treatments of anxiety disorders, somatoform disorders, dissociative disorders, mood disorders and suicide, eating and sleep disorders, sexual and gender identity disorders, substance-related and impulse-control disorders, personality disorders, schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, developmental disorders, and cognitive disorders.
5. Explain the psychological and social factors that influence the development of physical disorders, including the relationships between stress, the immune system, and lifestyle choices.
6. Discuss the legal and ethical issues associated with the assessment and treatment of abnormal behavior.

**Instructor:** Alice West, M.A.

**Office:** Online. You may post questions in my Virtual Office in our online classroom.

**Office Hours:** Use the eMail tool within the online course to communicate with the instructor. Course eMail messages will be checked daily, Monday through Friday. If you have a technical problem, contact the Distance Education office by calling 1-701-228-

5623 or 1-888-918-5623 (toll-free).

**Email:** Use online course eMail tool.

**Class Schedule:** Online

### **Textbooks:**

Barlow, D. H. and V. Durand. *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach*; 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. Wadsworth. ISBN-13: 978-0-495-09556-9, ISBN-10: 0-495-09556-7.

This textbook comes with a CD-ROM called Abnormal Psychology Live. If you purchase a new textbook, it should be included. If you purchase a used textbook, make sure you get the CD-ROM, because we will be using it for assignments.

Order by e-mail: [dcb.bookcell@dakotacollege.edu](mailto:dcb.bookcell@dakotacollege.edu)

or Order online: <http://www.dakotacollege.edu/bookstoreorder.php>

### **Course Requirements:**

There are **weekly deadlines** for completing assignments.

### **Discussion Forums:**

Each week, you will have one or more discussion forums (one for each chapter.) For each forum, you will need to post one answer to a question, two replies to other students' answers, and two replies to students who have replied to you. Forums will close on Saturday nights at 11:45 p.m. If you wait until Saturday night to post your answer, other students will not have time to reply to you, and you will not have time to reply to them, resulting in a loss of points for you. So please, make the discussion forums your first priority each week in this class.

### **Homework Assignments:**

During the term, you will have six short papers (one-half to one page each) due in the drop box. The deadline for submitting this homework to the drop box is 11:45 p.m. Saturday nights.

### **Paper:**

A research paper is due the last week of the term. The topic for your paper is due in the 2<sup>nd</sup> drop box of the term. Both are to be submitted to the drop box just like homework assignments.

### **Quizzes:**

Each week you will need to take one or more quizzes (one for each chapter.) There is no time limit on the quizzes, and you can take each one as many times as you like. The

highest grade you earn will be the grade recorded in the gradebook. The quiz for each week will be available until 11:45 p.m. Saturday night.

### **Final Exam:**

A comprehensive final exam will be taken at the end of the term. It will have a 2-hour time limit, and it can only be taken once.

**Attendance: Regular participation is expected. Students should complete all assignments by the due dates.**

Be sure to read my Lecture Notes for each chapter. They will be posted weekly in our classroom.

### **Course Outline:**

WEEK 1: Chapter 1  
WEEK 2: Chapter 2  
WEEK 3: Chapter 3  
WEEK 4: paper topic due  
WEEK 5: Chapter 5  
WEEK 6: Chapter 6  
WEEK 7: Chapter 7  
WEEK 8: Chapter 8  
WEEK 9: Chapter 9  
WEEK 10: Chapter 10  
WEEK 11: Chapter 11  
WEEK 12: Chapter 12  
WEEK 13: Chapter 13  
WEEK 14: Chapter 14  
WEEK 15: Chapter 15  
WEEK 16: Chapter 16, paper due  
WEEK 17: Final Exam

### **General Education Goals and Objectives:**

#### **Goal 4: Demonstrates effective communication**

##### **Objective 1: Expresses ideas through effective writing**

Skill 1: Uses the stages of the writing process to develop, organize, and present ideas in writing

Skill 2: Analyzes the demands and possible strategies of a writing task, based on topic, purpose, context, and audience, and then accomplish that task with clarity

Skill 3: Demonstrates competent writing that includes a clear, original thesis or claim, appropriate evidence and support, a logical structure, and a style of language that serves the writer's purpose and audience

Skill 4: Uses Edited Standard Written English in spelling, grammar, punctuation, and syntax, and presents written work in a style and format consistent with the demands of an academic setting

### Relationship to Campus Theme:

Upon completion of the course, the student will be familiar with modern diagnostic technologies and treatments within the field.

### Classroom Policies:

- Regular participation is expected.
- All quizzes and exams can be taken on any computer with Internet access.
- Students need to set up or select an environment conducive for testing (e.g. distraction-free area at home, a computer lab at a library, etc.)
- Students can take the quizzes and exam at any time between the given dates and times.
- A discussion is only a discussion if everyone is participating together. Therefore, no points will be given for forum posts once the week is over.
- Homework assignments and the paper will lose 10% for each day they are late, and will not be accepted more than one week after the due date.
- Grades are based on total points earned.

Discussion Forums	150
Quizzes	150
Drop Box Homework	96
Research Paper	104
Final Exam	<u>100</u>
Total Points:	600

A--90-100%	(540 points)
B--80-89%	(480 points)
C--70-79%	(420 points)
D--60-69%	(360 points)
F--59% or lower	(359 points or lower)

**Academic Integrity:** The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity and fair play. It is the expectation that all students, as members of the college community, adhere to the highest levels of academic integrity. This means that:

- Students are responsible for submitting their own work. Student work must not be plagiarized.
- Students must not cooperate on oral or written examinations or work together on evaluated assignments without authorization.

To learn how to avoid plagiarism in your work, review the website from Purdue University, [Is It Plagiarism Yet?](#)

Violations of academic principles such as cheating, plagiarism or other academic improprieties will be handled using the guidelines outlined in the [Student Handbook](#).

### **Disabilities and Special Needs:**

If you have a disability for which you need accommodation, contact the Learning Center to request disability support services: phone 701-228-5477 or toll-free 1-888-918-5623.