

Dakota College Course Syllabus

Course Prefix/Number/Title:

PSYC 270 - Abnormal Psychology

Course Description:

Prerequisite: PSYC 111

For the student, this class will be an introduction to the study of abnormal behavior and mental processes within human beings. Using case studies, the DSM-IV, and various other materials, we will venture into the world of the altered mind and explore the process of diagnosis and treatment availabilities.

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.

Instructor:

Steven J. Sathre

Office:

Thatcher Hall 2208

Office Hours:

MWF 1:00-2:30

Phone:

701-228-5456

Email:

steve.sathre@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule:

MWF 8:00-8:50

Nelson Science Center 125

Textbook(s):

Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach, Barlow/Durand, 4th edition.
DSM-IV-TR, American Psychological Association, 4th edition.

Course Requirements:

The formula for grades is as follows.

3 exams (non-cumulative), 40 pts. each = 120 pts.

10 quizzes, 3 pts. each = 30 pts.

1 essay (details to follow) = 50 pts.

Total pts. available = 200 pts.

90-100% - 180-200pts. = A

80-90% - 160-179pts. = B

70-80% - 140-159pts. = C

60-70% - 120-139pts. = D

<59% - <119pts. = F

No Incompletes will be given.

Exams will be essay format. They are not cumulative. You will be allowed to use the DSM-IV. Assume you will be taking the final for this class on Friday, May 13 – there will be no early exams given.

Quizzes will be 3 questions and given randomly. They cannot be made up under any circumstances. They cover material in that week's reading and are short answer in form.

The essay is thesis-based, 1800 words at minimum and written in APA format.

Tentative Course Outline

Week 1

Introduction to the historical context

Week 2 – MLK day, no class on 17th

The integrative approach

Week 3

Clinical assessment and diagnosis

Week 4

Using the DSM-IV

Week 5
Research Methods
Exam 1

Week 6
Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders

Week 7
Anxiety Disorders

Week 8
Mood Disorders and Suicide

Week 9
Eating and Sleep Disorders

Week 10
Spring Break

Week 11
Physical Disorders

Week 12
Sexual and Gender-based disorders
Exam #2

Week 13
Substance issues

Week 14
Personality Disorders

Week 15
Schizophrenia

Week 16
Developmental Disorders
Essay Due: April 27

Week 17
Legal issues

Week 18
Final Exam
Date and Time to be Determined

General Education Goals/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:

- The student will be familiar with new technologies within the field upon completion of the course.
- In a specific class period, we will examine the calming effects some natural environments have on those suffering from behavioral disorders.
- What will future diagnosis and treatment for mental disorders consist of?

Classroom Policies:

Reading the assigned text is the student's responsibility, and is essential to success in this course. It should be noted though that it is in your best academic interest to read material *before* the week of lecture/discussion as to aid in your understanding. Any deadlines are final and your work is due on the day specified (11:59:59 PM). Any late work will not be accepted for full credit.

Please refrain from doing anything that might be disruptive and disturb other students or the instructor, such as chronically arriving late, leaving early, talking with neighbors, or texting. Turn all electronic junk off. This class does not require the use of a laptop computer, therefore they are not allowed to be operated in lecture periods.

This academic environment is an open and harassment free one. Participation within the classroom is highly encouraged and is an integral part of the higher education experience. Ask questions – comment on discussions.

Academic Integrity:

Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary defines plagiarism as: "The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work." There will be *zero tolerance* of any form of academic dishonesty. If any evidence appears of students not doing their own work, plagiarism, or outright cheating on quizzes/exams, the matter will be investigated. If it is concluded that such dishonesty occurred, the student in question will receive an automatic "F" for the course. Furthermore, the matter will be reported to the appropriate university office and the instructor will participate in any proceedings against the guilty party.

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.