



Peru State College
PSYC 450 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
Syllabus Spring – 2012

Instructor: Dr. James R. Nevitt

Office Hours: 8:00 – 9:00 am and 3:15 – 4: 15 pm on MW; 8:00 – 9:00 am and 3:15- 4:15 pm on T-Th; Fridays 9:00 – 11:00 am by appointment only in Room 243 T. J. Majors

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Course Meets: 2:00 – 3:15 MW in 301 T.J. Majors

Required Textbook: Butcher, J.M., Mineka, S., & Hooley, J. (2011). *Abnormal Psychology: Core Concepts (2nd ed.)*. Boston, MA: Allyn & Bacon. ISBN 978-0-205-76531-7

Required Software: Computer and internet access, email, and Microsoft Word are needed. Course notes and other resources will be available electronically on a Black Board Shell.

Course Description & Objectives: This course focuses on personality disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, as well as other DSM-IV TR categories of abnormal behavior patterns.

Prerequisites: Psychology 121; Junior standing or permission of the instructor.

Upon completion of this course, learners should be able to:

- A. Understand traditional controversies concerning abnormal behavior.
- B. Understand the necessity to promote a more 'humanistic' outlook toward the mentally ill.
- C. Understand ethical implications of diagnosis and treatment programs.
- D. Understand DSM-IV TR diagnostic systems.
- E. Understand many viewpoints regarding mental illness.
- F. Understand clinical concepts important in the area of abnormal psychology.
- G. Explore and utilize electronic library resources to research areas of interest in the field of abnormal behavior.
- H. Understand how the topic of "science" is common to all disciplines, including clinical areas of psychology and abnormal behavior.

Additionally - Upon completion of this course, learners should be able to:

- A. Demonstrate mastery of basic abnormal behavior/clinical psychology terms.
- B. Express knowledge of the DSM-IV TR classification systems verbally and in writing.
- C. Express knowledge of the 'science and research basis' supporting ideas presented in class, verbally in class discussions and in writing.
- D. Utilize the electronic library resources to find articles appropriate for your interests in abnormal behavior and summarize these in a brief research paper using APA writing style.

E. Demonstrate knowledge of traditional areas of study of abnormal behavior in writing and through participation in class discussions.

At the beginning of the course, we will discuss how these objectives fit into the College's and School's mission and goals.

Expectations & Instructional Approach

Classes will include lectures and power point presentations, guided discourse, recording attendance, unit exams and occasional DVD/videotape case history presentations. Your attendance and participation are vital to the learning experience. Consequently I expect you to be at each class, having read the material of the day, and read to participate in the day's discussion and learning experience. **Do not bring/utilize a radio, ipods, MP3 players or other such devices into my classroom this semester as these distract from the learning experience. I will ask you to leave the classroom if these wishes are not respected!** In particular, **texting is not permitted during a class session.**

Assessment and Grading

Exams:

500 points

There will be five (5) exams during the semester. Most will cover at least two chapters in your textbook and related lecture/power point materials. Each exam will be worth 100 points. The final exam will be comprehensive. It will be given during the appropriate scheduled time during finals weeks.

Attendance and Participation:

It is important that you attend each class as scheduled. Class time is important. Attendance will be taken and will count as a significant part of your grade (see section on Final Grade). Attending a lecture or videotape presentation is defined as "being present throughout the entire period," as such attendance will be taken during the first ten minutes of class. Late arrivals will be counted on the attendance roster at the discretion of the instructor if the reason seems valid.

Students may miss the equivalent of two (2) morning classes without adverse effect on their grade, thereafter ten (10) points shall be deducted from the student's final grade for each additional unexcused absence. Any student missing more than 7 classes shall not pass this course. If you are going to be absent due to an athletic event or a field trip for another class, it is your responsibility to contact me and see if any makeup work is available for your absence. **Regular exams must be taken at the scheduled time unless excused in advance by Dr. Nevitt, with the exception of a medical emergency verified by a doctor's confirmation. Exams must be taken within one week of the time administered to the class to be considered as part of a student's grade.**

Weekly Quizzes:

100 points

There will be 10 quizzes which will cover materials from the previous week (or last quiz) presented in lecture. Students will have ten minutes to take these at the end of lecture. They are considered part of the attendance/participation grade and may not be made up in the event of student absence.

Videolab assignments and use of Discussion Board:

100 points

There will be ten (10) brief writing assignments to promote class discussion related to case histories used in class this semester. They are considered part of the attendance and participation grade and may not be made up in the event of an absence.

Research Paper:

50 points

A ten page (not including title page or references page) research paper written in APA style, utilizing electronic and conventional library resources (minimum number of references will be twelve) is required in this course; each reference listed on the references page must be noted in APA style in the body of the paper where it is utilized). The topic for the term paper must go through a prior approval process involving the course instructor in which primary references and an outline of the paper is submitted first. A term paper which ignores these requirements will be rejected and an F will be given for the assignment, without opportunity to re-submit. It is essential for success that the student will do his/her own research, and produce the finished product himself/herself. Anything less will be considered academic dishonesty, and PSC college procedures dealing with academic dishonesty will be initiated by the instructor. When you are completing your assignments, make sure you appropriately cite ALL sources.

Late Assignment Policy: Late coursework is generally unacceptable in this course. All work (discussion board assignments and papers) are due on the assigned dates.

Extra Credit Assignments: There will be no extra credit assignments offered in PSYC 450 this semester.

Grading Scale:

Grading: Your final grade is based upon the accumulated scores of the quizzes, discussion board, the research paper, and exams.

	Grade		Total Possible Points	Percent
			750 points	%
To receive an	A	Learners must earn	675 points	90-100
To receive a	B+	Learners must earn	637 points	85-89
To receive a	B	Learners must earn	600 points	80-84
To receive a	C+	Learners must earn	562 points	75-79
To receive a	C	Learners must earn	525 points	70-74
To receive a	D+	Learners must earn	487 points	65-69
To receive a	D	Learners must earn	450 points	60-64
To receive an	F	Learners must earn	449 points	<60

College's Incomplete Coursework Policy

To designate a student's work in a course as incomplete at the end of a term, the instructor records the incomplete grade (I). Students may receive this grade only when serious illness, hardship, death in the immediate family, or military service during the semester in which they are registered prevents them from completing course requirements. In addition, to receive an incomplete, a student must have completed substantially all of the course's major requirements.

Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, students must initiate requests for an incomplete by filling out an Incomplete Grade Completion Contract, which requires the signature of the student, instructor, and Dean. The Incomplete Grade Completion contract cites the reason(s) for the incomplete and details the specific obligations the student must meet to change the incomplete to a letter grade. The date by which the student agrees to complete required work must appear in the contract. The Dean, the instructor, and the student receive signed copies of the Incomplete Grade Completion Contract.

Even if the student does not attend Peru State College, all incomplete course work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester. Unless the appropriate Dean approves an extension and if the student does not fulfill contract obligations in the allotted time, the incomplete grade automatically becomes an F.

College's Academic Integrity Policy

The College expects all students to conduct themselves in a manner that supports an honest assessment of student learning outcomes and the assignment of grades that appropriately reflect student performance. It is ultimately the student's responsibility to understand and comply with instructions regarding the completion of assignments, exams, and other academic activities. At a minimum, students should assume that at each assessment opportunity they are expected to do their own original academic work and/or clearly acknowledge in an appropriate fashion the intellectual work of others, when such contributions are allowed. Students helping others to circumvent honest assessments of learning outcomes, or who fail to report instances of academic dishonesty, are also subject to the sanctions defined in this policy.

Instances of academic dishonesty may be discovered in a variety of ways. Faculty members who assign written work ordinarily check citations for accuracy, run data base and online checks, and/or may simply recognize familiar passages that are not cited. They may observe students in the act of cheating or may become aware of instances of cheating from the statements of others. All persons who observe or otherwise know about instances of cheating are expected to report such instances to the proper instructor or Dean.

In order to promote academic integrity, the College subscribes to an electronic service to review papers for the appropriate citations and originality. Key elements of submitted papers are stored electronically in a limited access database and thus become a permanent part of the material to which future submissions are compared. Submission of an application and continued enrollment signifies your permission for

this use of your written work.

Should an occurrence of academic misconduct occur, the faculty member may assign a failing grade for the assignment or a failing grade for the course. Each incident of academic misconduct should be reported to the Dean and the Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA). The VPAA may suspend students for two semesters found to be responsible for multiple instances of academic dishonesty. The reason for the suspension will be noted on the student's transcript.

A faculty member need present only basic evidence of academic dishonesty. There is no requirement for proof of intent. Students are responsible for understanding these tenets of academic honesty and integrity. Students may appeal penalties for academic dishonesty using the process established for grades appeals.

Title IX Compliance Notice

Peru State College is an equal opportunity institution. PSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Eulanda Cade, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Peru State College, PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421-0010, (402) 872-2230.

Students requesting reasonable accommodation and tutoring services should contact the Center for Achievement and Transition Services (CATS).

Topics Covered This Semester

Introduction to Abnormal Behavior; What is "Normal"; What is meant by "Abnormal"?

Spectrums of Disorders

Janna – Borderline Personality Disorder

The Commitment Process

The Assessment of "Dangerous"

Classification of Abnormal Behavior and the DSM-IV-TR

Steve – Bipolar Disorder complicated by Brain Tumor

Speaking Out – Anorexia – Natasha

Early History of Abnormal Psychology

Undifferentiated Schizophrenia – John

Substance Abuse Complicated by Panic Episodes – Kathy

Examination 1

Etiology of Abnormal Behavior – Biological Causation, Genetics, Neurological Imbalances, Physical Trauma

Etiology of Abnormal Behavior – Stress

Risk Factors

Neuropsychological Disorders and Brain Damage

Speaking Out – Dementia – Alvin

Amnesic Disorder - Interview

Schizophrenias and the Schizophrenic Spectrum of Disorders

Schizophrenia - Interview

Speaking Out - Autism – Xavier

Speaking Out – Larry – Schizophrenia

Speaking Out – Asperger's Syndrome David

Joe – Delusional Disorder

Susan – Schizotypal Personality Disorder

Examination 2

Anxiety Disorders and the Obsessive-Compulsive Spectrum of Disorders

Tanya – Obsessive Compulsive Disorder with Tourette's Syndrome

Speaking Out - PTSD - Bonnie

Speaking Out – OCD – Dave

Speaking Out – Social Phobia – Steve

Panic Disorder - Interview

Speaking Out – Hypochondriasis – Henry

Examination 3

Mood Disorders and the Affective Spectrum of Disorders

Major Depressive Disorder - Interview

Bob – Major Depressive Episode (no mania)

Allen – Schizoaffective Disorder

Bipolar I Disorder - Interview

Speaking Out – Bipolar Disorder – Feliziano

Speaking Out – Bipolar Disorder - Ann

Examination 4

Substance Abuse and Dependence

Speaking Out - Alcoholism – Chris

Personality Disorders

Interview

Comprehensive Final Exam