

# Shepherd University

Spring 2011

**Abnormal Psychology (PSYC 309) 3 credits**

Thursdays 5 – 7:40 PM

White Hall Room #303

Prerequisite: Intro. To Psychology (PSYC 203)

Dr. Thomas Craney

[tcraney@shepherd.edu](mailto:tcraney@shepherd.edu)

Cell: 301-471-4750

**REQUIRED TEXT:** *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach, 5th ed.*, by David H. Barlow and V. Mark Durand (Wadsworth CENGAGE Learning)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** A study of the classifications, dynamics, symptoms, and treatment of abnormal behavior.

## **GOALS FOR THIS COURSE:**

- \_ To gain a working knowledge of scientific methods and findings in the field of abnormal psychology.
- \_ To increase awareness of, and sensitivity to, the commonness of psychological difficulties, and to reduce the stigma associated with them.
- \_ To increase awareness of safe and effective treatments that are available for psychological difficulties.
- \_ To gain skills in describing and formulating a particular case.
- \_ To gain skills in literature research – that is, in searching for, locating, and reading empirical articles in the field of abnormal psychology.
- \_ To gain skills in summarizing and analyzing scientific literature relating to one specific topic within the field of abnormal psychology, as well as writing a concise paper relating that summary and analysis.

## **COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

### **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

- Class Attendance and Participation
- 7 Quizzes (7 x 5%)
- Case Study Assignment
- Media Connection Assignment
- 3 Online Topical Assessments ( 3 x 5%)
- Research Paper Assignment
- Final Exam

### **ASSIGNMENT WEIGHTING**

- 5%
- 35%
- 15%
- 10%
- 15%
- 10%
- 10%

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Please see me to discuss any appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of

the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made. Students are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services to verify their eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

### **POLICY ON ABSENCES**

It is not necessary to contact Dr. Craney about every absence, but more than 2 per semester may become problematic. If you miss class you are responsible for the class content. Obtain notes, etc. from another student if necessary.

### **CLASS PARTICIPATION**

Much of the quality of in-class discussions and activities depends on YOU, on how well you prepare for class and what you contribute to the class. Students learn best when they make connections between what they already know and the course content. So, please offer comments, observations and experiences. Ask questions!!! Make the course content relevant to you! Class Participation will account for 5% of the course grade.

### **QUIZZES AND FINAL**

The quizzes are likely to include multiple-choice and short answer questions. Quizzes will be administered within the classroom at the beginning of the class. If you miss a quiz, you may be permitted to make it up. Documentation will be required for make-up quizzes, and make-up quizzes will consist of essay questions. Makeup quizzes may be given in the Academic Support Center. The 7 quizzes will account for 35% of the course grade, whereas, the final will account for 10% of the course grade. The Final may be comprehensive and will likely be similar to the quizzes in format.

### **CASE STUDY ASSIGNMENT\***

This assignment will require students to interview and subsequently write about someone they've come to know well, who has one of the disorders covered in the Abnormal Psychology course. If students wish, they may conduct this assignment in an autobiographical fashion describing their own experience with a specific disorder. Students will write a 5 to 8 page paper in a manner consistent with APA style (or other formal writing style). See specific assignment requirements in separate document. The Case Study Assignment will account for 15% of the course grade.

### **MEDIA CONNECTION ASSIGNMENT\***

Students will select a subject from the popular media (i.e., film, TV, music, theater, news outlets) and specifically relate a mental health disorder to the selected media, highlighting the disorder, its symptoms, features, treatment and relevance to the media selected. In addition to 3 to 5 page paper written in a manner consistent with APA style (or other formal writing style), students will share their finding with the class in the form of a brief presentation. The Media Connection Assignment will account for 10% of the course grade.

### **3 ONLINE TOPICAL ASSESSMENTS**

These 3 online assessment assignments require students, on 3 separate occasions during the semester (see syllabus), to identify a topically appropriate (Abnormal Psychology) online test, take the test of their choice, and write a brief paper regarding their experience and the results of the test. Each experience should result in a 2 to 3 page paper written in a manner consistent with APA style (or other formal writing style). See specific assignment requirements in separate document. The 3 Online Topical Assessment papers will account for 15% of the course grade.

### **RESEARCH PAPER ASSIGNMENT\***

This assignment will require students to identify an Abnormal Psychology topic of interest or relevance, conduct research of the literature, and write a paper on the topic. This is a 5 to 8 page paper written in a manner consistent with APA style (or other formal writing style). See specific assignment requirements in separate document. The Research Paper Assignment will account for 10% of the course grade.

**\*NOTE:** The topics for the Case Study, Media Connection and Research Assignments must be different, so choose your topics carefully.

**POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY:** Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Shepherd University Academic Integrity Procedures found in the **Shepherd University Student Handbook**. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work.

### **CALENDAR OF CLASS MEETINGS AND TOPICS/MATERIAL COVERED**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>CHAPTER</b>
<b>January 13</b>		
	<b>Read</b> – Course Overview and Review of Syllabus	Sakai
	What's my connection with abnormal psychology?	
	– Abnormal Behavior in Historical Context	1
	<b>Review</b> –Case Study, Research Paper, Media Connection and	
	3 Online Topical Assessment Assignments	Sakai
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<b>January 20</b>		
	<b>Read</b> – An Integrative Approach to Psychopathology	2
	<b>Review</b> – for Quiz – Chapters 1 & 2	
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<b>January 27</b>		
	<b>Quiz</b> – Chapters 1 & 2	
	<b>Read</b> – Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis	3
	<b>Read</b> – Research Methods	4
	<b>Review</b> - for Quiz – Chapters 3 & 4	
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**February 3**

**Quiz** – Chapters 3 & 4

**Read** – Anxiety Disorders 5

**Due** – Online Topical Assessment Assignment #1

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**February 10**

**Read** – Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders 6

**Review** - for Quiz – Chapters 5 & 6

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**February 17**

**Quiz** – Chapters 5 & 6

**Read** – Mood Disorders and Suicide 7

**Review** - for Quiz – Chapter 7

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**February 24**

**Read** – Eat and Sleep Disorders 8

– Physical Disorders and Health Psychology 9

**Review** – for Quiz – Chapters 7 & 8

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**March 3**

**Quiz** – Chapter 7 & 8

**Read** – Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders 10

**Review** - for Quiz – Chapters 9 & 10

**Due** - Online Topical Assessment Assignment #2

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**March 10**

**Quiz** – Chapters 9 & 10

**Read** - Substance Related and Impulse Control Disorders 11

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**March 17**

**\*\*Spring Break - No Class\*\***

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**March 24**

- Read** – Personality Disorders 12  
**Review** - for Quiz – Chapters 11 & 12  
**Due** - Online Topical Assessment Assignment #3
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**March 31**

- Quiz** – Chapters 11 & 12  
**Read** – Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders 13  
**Due** –Case Study Assignment
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**April 7**

- Read** – Developmental Disorders 14  
**Review** - for Quiz – Chapters 13 & 14  
**Due** – Media Connection Assignment
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**April 14**

- Quiz** – Chapters 13 & 14  
**Read** – Cognitive Disorders 15  
**Due** – Research Paper Assignment
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**April 21**

- Read** – Mental Health Services: Legal and Ethical 16
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**April 28**

- Final Exam** – May be comprehensive and may includes all course content
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**FACULTY AVAILABILITY:**

Please feel free to come and talk to me (or call or e-mail) if you have any questions, concerns or comments, or if I may be of service to you in any way. Office hours will be held by appointment only and may be most easily scheduled before or after class on Thursday evenings. Dr. Craney's Shepherd University faculty mailbox is located in Rm. 202 of White Hall.

Cell Phone: 301-471-4750

Shepherd Email: tcraney@shepherd.edu