

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE  
PSYCHOLOGY 3390: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY  
Winter, 1995-96

INSTRUCTOR : DR. KENDEL TANG  
OFFICE NUMBER : C427 OFFICE PHONE NO. : 539-2867  
Office Hours : Mon., Wed., & Fri., 10:00 - 11:00 A.M. or by appointment.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is intended to enable students to achieve a deeper understanding and a broader perspective of mental disorders than what general introductory psychology courses usually provide. After a review of the relevant theories of abnormal behavior and their historical perspective, the course will focus on the psychological disorders themselves - - their assessment, diagnosis and various treatment modalities, with emphasis on the multimodal/multicultural approach based on the principle that many disorders have a complex etiology and require an equally complex treatment response based on eclectic combinations of theories about the disorders.

The content of the course includes some commonly known psychological disorders such as adjustment, personality, anxiety, phobic, dissociative and somatoform disorders; those that involve psychosis, such as schizophrenia and mood disorders; and those that involve some violation of legal or social standards, such as sexual and gender identity disorders, substance-related disorders, and impulse control disorders. Various syndromes of central nervous system impairments and related behavior patterns are also included. Finally, legal and ethical issues will be examined and debated especially those related to controversial cases involving the "criminally insane".

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The major objectives of this course are as follows:

1. To enable students to achieve familiarity with the concepts and theories in the field of abnormal psychology.
2. To enable students to identify and differentiate the various psychological disorders, list and explain their possible causes or correlates, and evaluate proposed treatment approaches and techniques.
3. To analyze published actual cases and apply etiologic, diagnostic, and therapeutic criteria of the major theoretical perspectives.
4. To acquaint students with the various measures and procedures for assessing mental disorders and the classification system employed by DSM-IV.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Sue, D., Sue, D., and Sue, S. (1994). Understanding Abnormal Behavior (4th ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Spitzer, L. B. et al. (1994). DSM-IV CASEBOOK (4th ed.)  
Washington, D. C.: American Psychiatric Press, Inc.

#### COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. The student of the course is required to write a term paper on a relevant topic after consultation with the instructor. This paper should be typewritten (double-spaced) and should be about 10 pages in length. (For format and style, see the APA publications manual.) Only typewritten papers will be accepted. The format and style are given a combined weight of 20%. The content is given a weight of 80% of the paper's grade.
2. As an alternative to the term paper, the student may undertake a project involving volunteer work with one of the community mental health agencies in the city. The student is required to write a report describing and evaluating the project at the end of the semester.

#### GRADING SYSTEM:

SCALE	TRANSLATIONS	APPROXIMATE % EQUIVALENT
9		90 - 100
<u>8</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>80 - 89</u>
7		72 - 79
<u>6</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>65 - 71</u>
5		57 - 64
<u>4</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>50 - 56</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Failure</u>	<u>45 - 49</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Failure</u>	<u>26 - 44</u>
1		0 - 25

Marks in the course will be weighted as follows:

Average of two tests	20%
Term Paper/Project Report	20%
Class Involvement (based on degree of participation in discussions, in asking questions and other activities)	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Note: The prerequisite for this course is PY 2330:Personality.

## TIMETABLE

Winter, 1995-96  
PY 3390: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

DATES	TOPICS	TESTS, PAPER, PROJECT REPORT, & FINAL EXAM
Jan. 5 - 12	Abnormal Psychology (ch. 1). Biogenic and Psychogenic Models of Abnormal Behavior (ch. 2). Behavioral, Cognitive, and Family Systems	
15 - 19	Models of Psychopathology (ch. 3). Assessment and Classification of Abnormal Behavior (ch. 4)	
22 - 29	The Scientific Method in Abnormal Psychology (ch. 5). Anxiety Disorders (ch. 6). Dissociative Disorders and Somatoform Disorders (ch. 7). Psychological Factors Affecting Medical Conditions (ch. 8).	Test 1: Jan. 24
Feb. 2 - 9	Personality Disorders and Impulse Control Disorders (ch. 9)	Midterm Exam: Feb. 12
14 - 16		
21 - 23	Substance-related Disorders (Ch. 10).	
Feb. 26 - Mar. 1	Winter Break	
Mar. 4 - 15	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders (Ch. 11), Mood Disorders (ch. 12). Suicide (ch. 13)	
20 - 29	Schizophrenia: Diagnosis and Symptoms (ch. 14). Schizophrenia: Etiology and Treatment (ch.15). Cognitive Disorders (Ch. 16).	Test 2: March 18
Apr. 1 - 4	Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence and M.R. (Ch.17) Individual and Group Therapy (Ch. 18).	Term Paper Outline due: Mar. 25
8 - 11	Community Psychology (ch.19). Legal and Ethical Issues in Abnormal Psychology (ch. 20).	Term Paper/Project Report Due: Apr.8
15 - 22	Final Exam Period	

Note: Assigned case studies are not included in the final exam.

N.B.: The above dates are approximate and tentative. Any future changes made to this timetable will be announced in class.  
Please read the GPRC calendar regarding your rights and responsibilities as a student.