

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE: PSYCHOLOGY 3390
ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
Winter Semester, 1996-97

INSTRUCTOR: DR. KENDEL TANG
OFFICE NUMBER: C427 OFFICE PHONE NO.: 539-2867
OFFICE HOURS: 10:00 - 11:00 A.M., MWF OR BY APPOINTMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to enable students to achieve a deeper understanding and broader perspective of mental disorders than what general introductory psychology courses usually provide. After a review of the relevant theories of abnormal behaviour and their historical perspective, the course will focus on the following aspects of the field of psychological disorders -- assessment, diagnosis, and various treatment modalities, with emphasis on the multimodal and multicultural approaches based on the tenet 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 some severe 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 behaviour 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 based on the available research evidence.
3. To analyze published actual cases and apply etiologic, diagnostic, and therapeutic criteria derived from the major theoretical perspectives.
4. To acquaint students with the various measures and procedures for assessing and diagnosing 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 this 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. The format of the paper should conform to the guidelines found in the APA publication manual which is available in the college library. Major deviations from the prescribed format will result in a deduction of at most 20 percentage points from 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 towards the end of the semester. The student is expected to take the initiative to search for an appropriate agency where s/he can do volunteer work for at least two hours per week.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

Marks in the course will be weighted as follows:

Average of two tests	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Term paper/Project report	20%
Final exam	30%
Instructor's Evaluation (based on test results, and the quality and extent of involvement in the course, e.g., class discussion)	10%
Total:	100%

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Students will be held accountable for lectures delivered and for announcements and assignments that will be made in class. If a student is unable to attend a particular class, it will be his/her responsibility to find out what was missed by asking any member of his/her support group.

If a student foresees that s/he will be unable to write a test or an exam at a scheduled time because of an emergency or illness, s/he should leave a message on the instructor's answering machine (539-2867), preferably one day in advance, together with a phone number where s/he may be reached to arrange for an alternative date and time to take the test, if feasible. Failure to leave a message without an acceptable reason will result in a grade of zero for the test that was missed.

If a student is unable to write the final exam at the scheduled time for some acceptable reason, s/he should notify the instructor immediately and submit an application to the Registrar's office for permission to write a deferred exam. Students are therefore expected to refrain from making any plans that will interfere with their writing the final exam on the scheduled date.

All students are cordially invited to see the instructor in his office or in the hallway to talk about any concern or just to further discuss the course material and/or the possible topics for their term papers. Appointments may be arranged outside of posted office hours. No appointment is necessary to see the instructor during office hours indicated in this course outline.

Because of the broad range of topics to be covered in this course, it is imperative that each student not miss more than 10% of the scheduled number of classes in order to keep up with the rest of the class.

The prerequisite for this course is Py 2330 (Personality).

Please keep this information sheet for future reference.

STUDENT RECORD OF TEST MARKS

Test 1: _____

Test 2: _____

Midterm Exam: _____

Final Exam: _____

TIMETABLE

PY 3390

TESTS, EXAMS, & TERM PAPER

DATES	TOPICS	TESTS, EXAMS, & TERM PAPER
Jan. / '97 6 - 9	Abnormal Psychology (chapter 1) Biogenic and Psychogenic Models of Abnormal Behavior (ch. 2)	
13 - 17	Continuation of chapter 2 Behavioral, Cognitive, and Family Systems Models of Psychopathology (ch. 3)	
20 - 24	Continuation of chapter 3 Assessment and Classification of Abnormal Behavior (ch. 4)	
27 - 31	The Scientific Method in Abnormal Psychology (ch. 5)	Test 1: Jan. 28 (ch. 1 - 4)
Feb. 3 - 7	Anxiety Disorders (ch. 6) Dissociative Disorders and Somatoform Disorders (ch. 7)	
10 - 14	Continuation of chapter 7 Psychological Factors Affecting Medical Conditions (ch. 8)	
17 - 21	Personality Disorders and Impulse Control Disorders (ch. 9)	Midterm Exam: Feb. 20 (ch. 1 - 8)
24 - 28	(WINTER BREAK)	
Mar. 3 - 7	Substance-related Disorders (ch. 10) Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders (ch. 11)	
10 - 14	Mood Disorders (ch. 12) Suicide (ch. 13)	
17 - 21	Schizophrenia: Diagnosis and Symptoms (ch. 14) Schizophrenia: Etiology and Treatment (ch. 15)	
24 - 28	Cognitive Disorders (ch. 16) Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence and Mental Retardation (ch. 17)	Test 2: Mar 25 (ch. 9 - 13)
Mar. 31 - Apr. 4	Individual and Group Therapy (ch. 18)	Term Paper Outline due: Apr. 1
7 - 10	Community Psychology (ch. 19) Legal and Ethical Issues in Abnormal Psychology (ch. 20)	Term Paper due: Apr. 8 (5% deduction for every day that it is late)
14 - 22	(FINAL EXAM PERIOD)	The date and time for the final exam will be announced by the Registrar's office.

Note: The above dates are approximate and tentative. Any future changes to this timetable will be announced in class.