

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE: PY3390
ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
Winter Semester, 1998-99

INSTRUCTOR: DR. KENDEL TANG
OFFICE NUMBER: C427 OFFICE PHONE NO.: 539-2867
OFFICE HOURS: 2:00 - 3:00 pm, M-T-W-R-F 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. (1997). Understanding Abnormal Behavior (5th 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 for at least 8 weeks.

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%
Class Involvement (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, readings and cases assigned, and for any announcements 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. For optimal learning and readiness for class participation, students are expected to attend class regularly (no less than 80%) and should read the assigned chapters before coming to class on the dates indicated on the timetable, except of course for the first session. Past class records show that very rarely can a grade of 8 be obtained by a student with less than 80% class attendance. Similarly, a grade of 5 can be rarely obtained by a student with less than 50% class attendance.

If a student foresees that he/she will be unable to write an exam or test at a scheduled time due to illness or emergency, he/she should notify the instructor immediately, preferably one day in advance. A message may be left on the instructor's answering machine (539-2867) or e-mail (Tang@gprc.ab.ca) together with the phone number where the student may be reached to arrange for an alternative date to write the test. Failure to notify the instructor 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 and date because of illness or emergency, he/she should notify the instructor immediately and submit an application for permission to write a deferred final exam to the Registrar's office. Students are strongly advised against making any plans that will prevent them from writing the final exam. Failure to write the final exam without justification will automatically result in a grade of 1 as per College policy.

Students are cordially invited to see the instructor after class either in his office, the hallway, or the cafeteria to talk about any concerns or to simply discuss further the course material. Appointments may be arranged outside of posted office hours. No appointment is necessary to see the instructor during posted office hours.

Please keep this course outline for future reference.

Records of Test Marks

Test 1 _____

Midterm Test _____

Test 2 _____

Final Exam _____

TIMETABLE
PY 3390
WINTER SEMESTER, 1998-99

<u>DATES</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>TESTS AND TERM PAPER</u>
Jan., 1999 7	Abnormal Behavior (Chapter 1)	
12-14	Models of Abnormal Behavior (Ch.2)	
19-21	Assessment and Classification of Abnormal Behavior (Ch. 3)	
26-28	The Scientific Method in Abnormal Psychology (Ch. 4)	
Feb. 2-4	Anxiety Disorders (Ch. 5)	Test 1: Feb. 2 (Ch. 1 - 4)
9-11	Dissociative Disorders and Somatoform Disorders (Ch. 6)	
	Psychological Factors Affective Medical Conditions (Ch. 7)	
16-18	Personality Disorders and Impulse Control Disorders (Ch. 8)	
23-25	Winter Break	Midterm Exam: Mar. 2 (Ch. 1 - 8)
Mar. 2-4	Substance-related Disorders (Ch. 9)	
9-11	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders (C. 10)	
	Mood Disorders (Ch. 11)	
16-18	Suicide (Ch. 12)	<i>Test 2: Mar. 23 (Ch. 9-12)</i>
	Schizophrenia: Diagnosis and Symptoms (Ch. 13)	
23-25	Schizophrenia: Etiology and Treatment (Ch. 14)	
	Cognitive Disorders (Ch. 15)	
30-Apr.1	Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence and Mental Retardation (Ch. 16)	Term Paper Outline Due: April 1
Apr. 6-8	Individual and Group Therapy (Ch. 17)	Term Paper Due: Apr. 13
13-15	Legal and Ethical Issues in Abnormal Psychology (Ch. 18)	(Late paper is subject to a 5% deduction per day)
20-28	(Final Exam Period)	Final Exam: (Check the final exam schedule posted by the Registrar's office)

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