

FEB 07 2003

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
COURSE OUTLINE: PY3390
ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
WINTER SEMESTER, 2002-2003

INSTRUCTOR: Kendel Tang, Ph.D.

OFFICE No. : C427

OFFICE PHONE No. : 539-2867

OFFICE HOURS: 1:00 - 2:30 p.m., T-Th.

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COURSE CREDIT HOURS: 3

(UT : all Alberta Universities)

STUDENT CONTACT HOURS: 3/wk.

DELIVERY MODE: Lecture, video & written case analysis, and discussion

COURSE PREREQUISITE:

PY 2330: Personality

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 courses usually provide. After a review of the relevant theories of abnormal behaviour and their historical perspectives, the course will focus on the psychological disorders, their assessment, diagnosis, etiology, 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 anxiety disorders, dissociative and somatoform disorders; those that involve or may involve psychosis such as schizophrenia, paranoia, and mood disorders; and those that involve some violation of legal or social standards such as sexual disorders and dysfunctions, substance-related disorders, impulse control disorders, and personality disorders. Various syndromes and 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, terminologies, 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 etiologies and/or correlates, and identify and evaluate appropriate treatment approaches and techniques.
3. To analyze published 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-TR.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Sue, D., Sue, D., & Sue, S. (2003). Understanding Abnormal Behavior (7th ed.). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Spitzer, R.L. et al. (2002). DSM-IV-TR Casebook. Washington, D.C.: American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. The student of the course is required to write a term paper on a course-relevant topic after consultation with the instructor. This paper should be typewritten (double spaced, font size: 12) and should be about 10 pages in length, excluding the title page. (Please do not use any kind of plastic cover for your paper.) For citation and reference format, follow the APA style as shown in the APA Publications Manual, 5th edition. It is essential to cite references for ideas and sentences that are not one's own to avoid being guilty of plagiarism. (See page 37 of the College calendar for the definition of plagiarism.)
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. It is the student's responsibility to take the initiative to volunteer his/her services to a community agency of his/her choice. A list of these agencies is available from the Volunteer Services Bureau. The instructor, after being informed of the student's self-placement, will subsequently confirm the project with the chosen agency and make further arrangement for student supervision. The student is required to keep a weekly journal of his/her experience which will be subject to inspection by the instructor. At the end of at least a 10-week volunteer period, the student is to submit a written report describing and evaluating the project as well as indicating the relevance of the project to the course.

Note: A deduction of 5% from the paper's grade will be imposed for every day that it is late.

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>
<u>1</u>	<u>Failure</u>	<u>0 - 25</u>

Marks in the course will be weighted as follows:

Average of two tests	20%
Term Paper/Project Report	20%
Instructor's Evaluation (based on all test results, attendance, and quality of class participation)	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
Total:	<u>100%</u>

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

Students will be held accountable for lectures delivered and for announcements and assignments that may be made in class from time to time. If a student is unable to attend a particular class, it will be his/her responsibility to find out what was missed by asking his support group members. All students are highly expected to achieve an attendance rate of at least 80%, excluding absences due to illness or emergencies. Past class records show that rarely can a grade of 5 be obtained by a student with less than 50% class attendance.

If a student foresees that he/she will be unable to write a test or an exam at a scheduled time, for a valid reason, he/she should notify the instructor immediately, preferably one day in advance, by leaving a message on the instructor's voice mail or through email including a phone number where he/she may be reached to arrange an alternative time for writing the test, if feasible. Failure to call without a valid explanation will result in a grade of zero for the test that was missed.

Students are expected to refrain from making any plans that will prevent them from writing the final exam. If an emergency occurs and a student is unable to write the final exam at the scheduled date and time, he/she should notify the instructor immediately and submit an application to the Registrar's office for permission to write a deferred exam. Read the College policy on deferred exam in the College calendar.

All students are invited to talk to the instructor in his office or in the hallway about any concerns or just to further discuss the lecture or course material. Appointments may be arranged outside of posted office hours. No appointment is necessary to see the instructor during his office hours. The instructor strongly believes that he is the students' ally in the learning process.

Please keep this course outline for future reference. It serves as your learning contract for this course.

RECORD OF TEST MARKS

Test 1: _____ Midterm Exam: _____ Test 2: _____ Final Exam: _____

TIMETABLE
PY3390: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
WINTER SEMESTER, 2002-2003

DATES	TOPICS	TESTS, PAPER, AND EXAMS
Jan. 7, 2003	Abnormal Behavior (Chapter 1)	
14	Models of Abnormal Behavior (Ch. 2)	
	Assessment and Classification of Abnormal Behavior (Ch. 3)	
21	The Scientific Method in Abnormal Psychology (Ch. 4)	
	Anxiety Disorders (Ch. 5)	
28	Anxiety Disorders (Ch. 5)	
	Dissociative disorders and Somatoform Disorders (Ch. 6)	
Feb. 4	Continuation of Chapter 6	Test 1: Feb. 4 on Ch. 1 - 4
11	Psychological Factors Affecting Medical Conditions (Ch. 7)	
18	Personality Disorders and Impulse Control Disorders (Ch. 8)	Midterm Exam: Feb. 18 on Chapters 1 - 7
24 - 28	WINTER BREAK	
Mar. 4	Substance-Related Disorders (Ch. 9)	
	Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders (Ch. 10)	
11	Mood Disorders (Ch. 11)	
	Suicide (Ch. 12)	
18	Schizophrenia: Diagnosis and Etiology (Ch. 13)	Test 2: Feb. 18 on Ch. 8 - 12
25	Continuation of Chapter 13	
	Cognitive Disorders (Ch. 14)	
Apr. 1	Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence (Ch. 15)	Paper/Project Outline Due: April 1
	Eating Disorders (Ch. 16)	
8	Psychotherapeutic Interventions (Ch. 17)	
15	Legal and Ethical Issues in Abnormal Psychology (Ch. 18)	Paper/Project Due: April 15
22		Final Exam: April 22 on all chapters covered Place: Same Classroom Time: 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

N.B.: THE COLLEGE CALENDAR STATES THAT EXCESSIVE ABSENCES MAY RESULT IN A STUDENT BEING DENIED PERMISSION TO WRITE THE FINAL EXAM. (SEE PAGE 33.) THIS TIMETABLE IS TENTATIVE. FUTURE CHANGES WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS IN CONSULTATION WITH STUDENTS PRESENT.