

William Paterson University
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Psychology

Syllabus

Course: Psy-3510-81 Abnormal Psychology – Online (3 credits)
Winter Session 2011-2012

Instructor: Ms. Randi Ona
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Office hours – Because this is an online course I will not have regular office hours. However, I would be happy to meet with you. Please feel free to contact me and we can arrange to meet on the WPU campus at a mutually convenient time.

Course Format: This is an online course. Course materials include the textbook, supplemental readings in accordance to the subject matter, discussion questions, and other activities.

We will be using WPU's Blackboard for this course. It would be a good idea to make sure your computer is in good working order and is compatible with the Blackboard system since I cannot make accommodations for computer malfunctions.

Required Textbook: Abnormal Psychology in a Changing World, 9th Ed., Nevid, et al, Pearson. Supplemental readings may be posted online throughout the semester in accordance with the subject matter.

Course Description: This course will introduce descriptions, classifications, characteristics, and treatments of psychological disorders. We will examine the biological, psychological, and sociocultural influences on psychological disorders and explore dysfunction from various psychological perspectives.

Course Objectives: To develop and appreciation and understanding of the basic principles of abnormal psychology. To provide insights into the many ways that psychological disorders impact individuals, families, and society. To develop and understanding of the goals and methods used in treating psychological disorders.

Learning Outcomes: Students will demonstrate their understanding of the material by participating in online discussions, and successfully completing writing assignments and chapter exams.

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. All work submitted in this class must be your own. If you do not do your own work, misrepresent other people's work as your own, or submit purchased assignments, you are cheating. This includes copying material out of a book or website without using quotation

marks and providing an APA style citation. Changing a few words to avoid a direct quote, using similar sentence structure, sharing work with another student, or padding a reference list are considered forms of plagiarism and/or cheating. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty may result in the consequences specific in the WPU Student Handbook. The Student Handbook is available online.

Course Requirements: Students are responsible for and may be tested/quizzed on all information presented as part of the class including, but not limited to, reading assignments, online discussion questions, online course materials, etc.

All assignments and exams will be posted under Assignments. Information about due dates and time limits will be post there also.

You should also check the Announcements section regularly for additional information.

a. There will be an exam for each assigned chapter of the textbook. All exams will be posted on Blackboard and must be completed by the deadline. Once you start the exam you must finish it; you cannot stop and continue later. You must complete the exam within the time limit. Each exam will have 20 questions and you will have 25 minutes to complete it.

b. A discussion board topic will be posted for each chapter assigned. You will be required to post a response to the topic AND respond to at least 3 other students' responses. All postings must be thoughtful and thorough. In other words, saying "I agree" or something of that nature is not thoughtful and thorough. Your initial response along with your responses to others will be worth up to 20 points.

c. An essay question will be assigned each week on one of the chapters that is being covered that week. The essay will be graded on content as well as writing style, grammar, and spelling. Each essay will be worth 20 points.

All discussion board questions and essays will be due by the date and time specified. Late submissions will not be accepted. Make sure you read the assignment postings carefully so that you are fully aware of the due dates.

Grading: Grades are based on a simple point system. Each assignment, discussion, exam, etc. is worth a specific number of points. Your grade will be the number of points you earn as a percentage of the number of points the evaluation is worth. For example, if a writing assignment is worth 20 points, and you earn 18 points, your grade would be an A. If you earn 14 points, your grade would be a C. The following percentages will be used to determine your grade.

A – 90% and above

B+ - 86 – 89%

B – 80-85%

C+ - 76-79%
C - 70 -75%
D - 60-69%
F - 59% and below.

Last but not least:

Sensitive Subjects: During the course of this semester we may deal with some sensitive or controversial issues. These discussions are vital to the learning experience. It is important to remember to treat each other with professional respect.

Personal Responsibility: Because of the nature of the online course, you need to take responsibility for your learning. This means you need to read the assigned chapters in a timely manner, complete assignments on time, and ask questions if there is something you do not understand. Posting your question on the discussion board will give other students the opportunity to learn from your question and the answer – just as if we were in a classroom. If your question is of a more personal nature, please feel free to email me.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 – Dec. 27, 2011 – Jan. 1, 2012

Chapter 1 – Introduction and Methods of Research

Chapter 2 – Contemporary Perspectives on Abnormal Behavior

Chapter 3 – Classification and Assessment of Abnormal Behavior

Chapter 4 – Methods of Treatment

Week 2 – Jan. 2, 2012 – Jan. 8, 2012

Chapter 5 – Stress, Psychological Factors, and Health

Chapter 6 – Anxiety Disorders

Chapter 7 – Dissociative and Somatoform Disorders

Chapter 8 – Mood Disorders and Suicide

Week 3 – Jan. 9, 2012 – Jan. 15, 2012

Chapter 9 – Substance Abuse and Dependence

Chapter 10 – Eating and Sleep Disorders

Chapter 12 – Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders

Chapter 13 – Personality and Impulse Control Disorders

Syllabus may be revised at the instructor's discretion.

