

Course Syllabus

Psyc& 220: Abnormal Psychology 5 Credits

Prerequisite: Psych. 100 (General Psychology)

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| Instructor | Shawn Curtis PsyD Candidate, MA |
| Office | D200A |
| Mailbox | D110 |
| Phone (Voicemail) | (425) 564-2401 (email is a better way to communicate) |
| | (425) 564-2331 (Social Science Division Office) |
| Fax | (425) 564-3108 |
| Address | D110, Bellevue College, 3000 Landerholm Cr. SE, Bellevue, WA 98007 |
| Email | Use the email in Canvas to contact me. My email is shawn.curtis@bellevuecollege.edu |
| Class Hours | Online |
| Office Hours | Online or by Appointment on Campus |

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the online version of Psychology 220. This course is designed to meet the academic needs of a unique group of students who may be unable to attend traditional campus classes and who are motivated and self-disciplined. While the class meets in cyberspace, students can expect a heavy workload outside of class in order to meet the requirements of the course. Check your readiness to take an online course by doing the self-assessment quiz for distance learning at, <http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance/WebAssess/>. It is important that students enrolled in the course are reading at college level, are able to work with less direct instruction, and have time available to complete the reading and assignments. The instructor will provide the structure for the class and act as a "coach" as you proceed through the course. You can leave messages for the instructor at any time by e-mail or phone, and he will respond to you as quickly as possible.

FORMAT:

Students are required to read chapters in the assigned text, participate in a weekly discussion forum, submit assignments, and take exams, all on-line.

Instructions for how to access the on-line portion of the class can be found at:

http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance/Canvas_classroom.asp, or you can just go to: <http://bc.instructure.com> and log in using your BC Student ID number as your username, and your birthdate (mmddyy) as your password.

REQUIRED TEXT: Comer, R. (2014) Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology (7th Edition). New York: Worth. ISBN # 1-4292-9563-5

There is also a web site from the publisher of the textbook with links to related web sites and student aids:

<http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/comerfund7e/default.asp>.

The text may be purchased from the Bellevue College Bookstore or online at <http://bookstore.bellevuecollege.edu/>. However, since the text is needed right away, an in-person purchase is recommended if you haven't already ordered it.

You can also order the loose-leaf version or e-book directly from Worth Publishers:

<http://www.worthpublishers.com/Catalog/content.aspx?Title=247>.

Power points from the text publisher are also available in each unit to help reinforce the text material. textbook with links to related web sites and student aids: <http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/comerfund6e/>

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: After completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Articulate the criteria and controversy regarding the definition of abnormal behavior.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the prevalence and historical/contemporary views of abnormal behavior.
3. Describe current practices of diagnosis, assessment, and research (including DSM) in classifying disorders and determining the need for treatment.
4. Describe the major techniques and theoretical approaches to understanding and treating abnormal behavior.
5. Identify the major diagnostic categories and distinguish among the symptoms, proposed causes, and preferred treatments of each of the following disorders: Anxiety disorders Mind-body disorders Personality disorders Substance abuse disorders Sexual disorders Mood disorders Schizophrenia disorders Organic brain disorders Selected disorders of childhood and adolescence Dissociative disorders Somatoform Disorders

General Education Outcomes This course meets the following General Education outcome: Creative and Critical

Thinking **Course Components**

EXAMS

There will be five exams, each covering 3 chapters. Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions, and will be worth 120 points each.

All exams will be administered on-line as scheduled on the calendar. Students will have 90 minutes to answer 60 questions within that period of time once they log onto the exam.

WEEKLY DISCUSSION FORUM

The discussion forum is the heart of the course. Students will be responding to my questions and responding to other students, just as they would in a "live" discussion. There will be 7 discussion sessions, running from Monday to Sunday every week. Specifically, you are expected to participate in the discussion with at least three posts a week, at least one response to my question and at least two in response to other students' comments. See the "Course Structure and Expectations" for more

details on how the discussion will work. The grade for this portion of the class will be a combination of points for participating and points for the quality of participation at 20 points each.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

| | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Assignment 1: Case Study | 75 points | Due 7/13 |
| Assignment 2: Research on a Theme of Interest | 75 points | Due 7/27 |
| Assignment 3: Field Experience | 75 points | Due 8/14 |

This quarter, you can choose **TWO** out of the three possible assignments. Since the assignments are linked to the course material, they do need to be submitted by specific due dates, so you'll need to decide early in the quarter which one you plan to do. I would suggest choosing project in which you have the most interest and that fits your schedule the best. For Assignment 3, an approved proposal must be posted by Week 5.

Each assignment will be described in detail in the Learning Modules. A grade will be assigned based on criteria for that assignment. It is expected that assignments will be proofread for mechanical errors and will be submitted on time.

Assignments will be accepted **one** day late only and with a five-point deduction.

As part of all assignments, a self reflection post for other students to see what you did and learned from the assignment is required as part of the 75 points.

FIELD EXPERIENCE (Assignment 3)

If you choose to do the field experience for one of your two assignments, you will need to locate and visit a mental health service. This could involve interviewing someone who works in the mental health field, visiting a local mental health clinic, agency, or hospital, observing (with permission) patients or clients in a mental health setting, doing some kind of volunteer work related to mental health, or creating some other experience of your design. The goal of this assignment is that you have some "real-life" exposure to the issues encountered by people and clinicians dealing with psychological disorders. You will be asked to submit a proposal for this project by the end of week 5 (messaged to me through Canvas). It's best to wait until close to the end of the quarter to conduct this experience so you can apply as much of the course content as possible. Further detail on this part of the course will be available when it is assigned, but it's a good idea to be thinking ahead for this one.

GRADING

Grades will be determined as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|-----|
| Exams | 5@ 120 points | 600 |
| Discussions | 7 @ 20 points | 140 |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|-----|
| Assignments | 2 @ 75 | 150 |
| Personal Introduction | | 10 |
| | | |
| Total = | | 900 |

Grades will be determined by adding up scores for the exams and all of the assignments:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| A | 94-100% | 846-900 | C+ | 77-79% | 693-754 |
| A- | 90-93% | 810-845 | C | 74-76% | 666-692 |
| B+ | 87-89% | 783-809 | C- | 70-73% | 630-665 |
| B | 84-86% | 756-782 | D+ | 67-69% | 603-629 |
| B- | 80-83% | 720-755 | D | 64-66% | 576-602 |

Students with special learning needs should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Learning Modules/ Topics

| | |
|----------|---|
| Module 1 | Foundations of Abnormal Psychology (Ch. 1, 2, 3) |
| Module 2 | Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, Trauma and Stress, & Somatic Disorders (Ch. 4, 5, 8) |
| Module 3 | Mood Disorders, Suicide, & Schizophrenia (Ch. 6, 7, 12) |
| Module 4 | Eating, Substance-Related & Sexual Disorders (Ch. 9, 10, 11) |
| Module 5 | Childhood Disorders, Personality Disorders & Legal Issues (Ch. 13, 14, 16) |

Schedule: Specific dates will be posted in the online calendar in Canvas.

Accommodations

If you need course modifications / adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, please let me know as soon as possible. If you have not done so already, you can contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) in B132 or by calling 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110. Information is also available on their website at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/drc/>.

Affirmation of Inclusion: Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination. We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

For technical help with the online part of the class:

Link to Canvas student guides: <http://guides.instructure.com/m/4212>

Link to Student Technical Help Desk: <http://depts.bellevuecollege.edu/helpdesk/students/>

For behavioral and grading guidelines of the Social Science Division:

http://bellevuecollege.edu/socsci/student_policies.asp

I look forward to working with you in this most fascinating class! Shawn Curtis, MA