

# Psyc& 220: Abnormal Psychology

5 Credits Prerequisite: Psych. 100 (General Psychology)

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## 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://distance-ed.bellevuecollege.edu/WebAssess>.

It is important that students enrolled in the course have completed an introductory psychology class, are reading at college level, are able to work with less direct instruction, and have time available to complete the reading and assignments. I'll provide the structure for the class and act as a coach as you proceed through the course. You can leave messages for me at any time by email or on the class site. I'll respond within 24 hours if it is sent during a time when I'm available. I don't work on weekends and holidays or in the late evenings. If you don't receive a response from me within 24 hours and you sent it during a time I'm available, please send it again or post in Ask Dr. M on the class site. The phone number above is a message phone.

## COURSE FOCUS:

Psych 220 is an introductory course on maladaptive behavior and the etiology (causes), description, and treatment of psychological disorders. The course will cover theoretical approaches to abnormal psychology, classification and assessment of major disorders, and therapeutic responses to disorders.

## TEXT:

Comer, R. (2011) Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology (6th Edition). New York: Worth. ISBN #1-4292-1633-6 (Required)

The text may be purchased from the Bellevue Community College Bookstore or online at <http://bcc.collegestoreonline.com/>.

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/comerfund6e>

## FORMAT:

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

## **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 outcomes:

Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Problem Solving  
Research/Information Literacy  
Ethics  
Science and the Natural World

## **Course Components**

### **EXAMS**

There will be five exams, each covering 3 chapters. Each exam will consist of objective (multiple choice and matching) questions, and each will be worth 100 points, or 10% of the grade. Exams will be opened as scheduled on the calendar from 8:00 a.m. on Fridays to 11 p.m. on Saturdays. Students will have 80 minutes within that period of time once they log onto the exam. All unit exams will be administered online. Total possible exam points will be 500, or 50% of the final grade. There are no make-ups for any of the exams.

### **FINAL EXAM**

There will be an online final exam. The final will have 100 objective questions and cover major concepts from the quarter. See the course calendar for the date and time. There is no make-up for this exam.

### **WHAT TO DO IF VISTA CAUSES YOU TO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH AN EXAM**

Email me as soon as it happens and include as much detail (step-by-step if you can) about what happened. As stated below, it is expected that you will have access to a stable internet connection. **Do not use a wireless connection to the internet as these are inherently unstable.**

**WEEKLY DISCUSSION FORUM**

The discussion forum is the heart of the course. Students will be responding to my questions, responding to other students, and asking questions of their own, just as they would in a "live" discussion. In addition to the practice discussion, there will be weekly discussion sessions, running from Monday to Friday every week. Students will choose one question to answer and will be asked to respond to at least two other students each week. Specifically, you are expected to participate in the discussion at least three times a week, at least once in response to my questions and at least twice 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 (20 points per discussion) and points for the quality of participation (30 points to be assigned at the end of the quarter), for a total of 230 points or 23% of the grade. Eight points will be subtracted for missing the reply to your group's question. Six points will be subtracted for each missing student reply. You'll lose 20 points if there are none. See the course expectations in this module for more detail.

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**

There will be two written assignments, submitted as attachments in the assignment tool and then posted for the entire class to see and respond to. The assignments themselves will be posted within each module as noted on the calendar. Assignments and point values are listed below:

Assignment 1: Case Study	75 points
Assignment 2: Field Experience	75 points

Each assignment will be described in detail in the Learning Modules. A grade will be assigned based on criteria for that assignment and your response to at least two other students' postings. It is expected that assignments will be proofread for mechanical errors and will be submitted on time. Five points will be deducted for each day the assignment is late up to the absolute last day to submit. After that, no credit can be earned.

In addition to the formal assignments, you will be asked to post a **personal introduction** (10 points), a **self-assessment** (20 points) at the end of the quarter, and a field experience proposal (included in the Field Experience grade).

**FIELD EXPERIENCE**

For the second assignment, you are to design, carry out, and write up some kind of field experience in the area of abnormal psychology. This could involve interviewing someone who works in the mental health field, visiting a local mental health clinic, agency, or hospital, observing (with permission of the agency and person(s)) patients or clients in a mental health setting, or doing some kind of volunteer work related to mental health. Even if you don't interview someone as the main part of your experience, you will have to talk with someone in charge in order to answer the questions in the assignment write-up. 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 and to relate what you saw to what you learned in the course. You will be asked to submit a proposal for this project in mid-quarter, and to write up your experience near the end of the quarter. This project will also be submitted to the assignment tool and then posted on the discussion site. Further detail on this part of the course will be found in the Learning Modules.

## GRADES

Grades will be determined as follows:

Exams -- 1 in each module	5 @ 100 each	500
Discussion Forums	Discussions 1-10@ 20 points + Closing Discussion @ 20 points	220
Assignments	2 Assignments @ 75	150
Final Exam in Module 5		100
Personal Introduction		10
Self-Assessment		20
Total Points	=	1000

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

A	94-100%	940-1000
A-	90-93%	900-939
B+	87-89%	870-899
B	84-86%	840-869
B-	80-83%	800-839
C+	77-79%	770-799
C	74-76%	740-769
C-	70-73%	700-739
D+	67-69%	670-699
D	60-66%	600-669
F	59%>	599>

## Learning Modules/ Topics

Module 1	Foundations of Abnormal Psychology (Ch. 1, 2, 3)
Module 2	Anxiety, Stress, Somatoform & Dissociative Disorders (Ch. 4, 5, 6)
Module 3	Mood Disorders & Schizophrenia (Ch. 7, 8, 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 are posted in the calendar.

**A note on deadlines:** Losing your internet connection or having problems with your computer will not exempt you from completing any assignment by the deadlines. It is your responsibility to find a computer/internet connection that works. Please make sure you plan enough time before the deadline to move to another computer and complete the assignments if you need to. You are welcome to use the computers in the labs on campus if you're local. Any college in your area should allow you use their computer labs if you explain why you need to.

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

**Go now to Course Structure and Expectations (also in the getting started module) to get more detail on each of the course requirements. Then read the rest of the pages in the getting started module.**

## PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Winter 2010

### Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing\*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services.

### Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

### F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

### Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

### Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

### Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

### Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

### Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and secretaries will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

### Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

*\*If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*