

# Psyc& 220: Abnormal Psychology (formerly Psych. 200)

5 Credits

Prerequisite: Psych. 100 (General Psychology)

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Office Hours	MW 11:30-12:20, TTh 9:30-11:00

## 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 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 email or phone, and she will respond to you as quickly as possible.

## 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. (2008) Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology (5th Edition). New York: Worth. ISBN #0-7167-7376-7 (Required)

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

There is also a website from the publisher of the textbook with links to related websites and student aids.

## **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 and essay 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 an hour and 30 minutes within that period of time once they log onto the exam. All unit exams will be administered on-line. Total possible exam points will be 500, or 50% of the final grade.

## **FINAL EXAM**

There will be an on-line 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.

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 opening week discussion, there will be 10 weekly discussion sessions, running from Monday to Friday every week. Students will be assigned to answer particular questions and will be asked to respond to at least one other student in each half of the week. Specifically, you are expected to participate in the discussion at least four times a week, at least twice 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 (10 points for the opening week discussion and 20 points per weekly discussion) and points for the quality of participation (20 points to be assigned at the end of the quarter), for a total of 230 points or 23% of the grade.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

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

Assignment 1: Case Study	50 points
Assignment 2: Research on a Theme of Interest	50 points
Assignment 3: Field Experience	50 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 one other student's posting. It is expected that assignments will be proofread for mechanical errors and will be submitted on time. Ten points will be deducted for each day the assignment is late.

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

FIELD EXPERIENCE

For the last 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) 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 week 6, and to write up your experience by week 10. 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	5 @ 100 each	500
	Opening week discussion= 10	

Discussion Forums	points, Discussions 1-10@ 20 points + 20 points quality	230
Assignments	3 Assignments	150
Final Exam		100
Personal Introduction		10
Self-Assessment		10
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 & Dissociate 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 will be posted in the calendar.

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

### ONLINE PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

**Revised Spring 2009**

#### Bellevue Community College's Affirmation of Inclusion

Bellevue Community 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 BCC, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

The college's "Affirmation of Inclusion" is in line with the principle of free speech in a free society: we have the right to express unpopular ideas as long as we don't show disrespect for reasonable people who might believe otherwise. In an online course, you

will be expressing ideas through the medium of the course site rather than face to face in the classroom. In that case, these expectations refer to the courtesy with which you communicate with one another through e-mails and e-discussions. Part of this respect involves professional behavior towards the instructor, colleagues, and the class itself.

#### Cheating, Stealing, and Plagiarizing\* and Inappropriate Behavior

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue Community College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: plagiarizing material from the Internet and posting rude or personal attacks in discussions. When you are in doubt about any behavior, please consult your instructor. In addition, you may wish to review the general applicable rules of cyberspace, such as in the [Core Rules of Netiquette](#). The instructor reserves the right to remove posted messages, and downgrade assessments as a result of these types of behaviors. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Vice President of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue Community College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Vice President of Student Services, [link to Student Code](#).

#### Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). It is the student's responsibility for maintaining contact and adhering to the agreed-upon actions. Vista class sites, and material, may not be directly accessible after the end of the quarter so it is important to make arrangements before the quarter ends. The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F"). There is a standard form that instructors have access to in their instructor's grade briefcase.

#### F Grade

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

#### Final Examination Schedule

Final examinations may involve proctored on-campus arranged exams or may be administrated completely online at the discretion of the instructor and in keeping with the stated policies provided in the course syllabus. Please refer to the syllabus at the start of the quarter for additional details and contact the instructor directly for any clarifications. A student who is not in compliance with the scheduled format 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 in compliance with 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 during the standard academic year (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course. Check [Enrollment Calendar Deadlines, Refunds/Withdrawals](#), for additional details. As with most enrollment deadlines, it is the student's responsibility to be aware of these dates and act accordingly.

#### Hardship Withdrawal (HW)

From page 9 of the current course catalog, [2008-2009 online catalog](#), HW indicates a withdrawal request made because of extenuating circumstances after the official withdrawal period is over. The student must contact the instructor to request this withdrawal option, or the faculty member may initiate the contact. No points are calculated into the grade-point average. 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 contact the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) [link to DRC](#). The office is located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110, email [drc@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:drc@bellevuecollege.edu)). Students will need to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter or contact your online instructor directly by email. Students who require accommodation in a course should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

#### Distribution of Grades

Students should access their grades through the BCC Web site. Any returned material should be accessed prior to the end of the quarter. After the end of the quarter, Vista class sites may not be accessible by students. Individual instructors may use non-Vista tools for recording and maintaining the students' progress. Questions about grades assigned should be initially directed to your instructor.

#### Submission and Returning of Papers, Assignments and Assessments:

Specific guidelines for taking exams and submitting assignments are published in the syllabus. Please contact instructor at the start of the quarter for any clarifications.

#### Technical Assistance

Vista-related or technical issues should be referred to Distance Education, [link to Distance Education web resources](#). You may also email them at [landerso@bellevuecollege.edu](mailto:landerso@bellevuecollege.edu) or call 425-564-2438 (1-877-641-2712). Vista tutorial help and basic instructions can be found at <http://bellevuecollege.edu/distance/studentguide/>

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