

Psych. 200: Abnormal Psychology

5 Credits

Prerequisite: Psych. 100 (Introductory)

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Office Hours: TWTh 9:30-11:20

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the online version of Psychology 200. 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.bcc.ctc.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. 200 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)

Student Workbook for the Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology. New York: Worth. (Optional)

These texts 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 (except the last exam, which will be comprehensive). Each exam except the last 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 11p.m on Saturdays. Students will have an hour and 20 minutes within that period of time once they log onto the exam. The last exam will include objective questions only and will cover the entire quarter as well as the last unit. All exams will be administered on-line. Total possible exam points will be 500, or 50% of the final grade.

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. There will be 20 discussion sessions, running from Monday to Wednesday and Thursday to Saturday every week (the first week we'll start on a Thursday). Students will be assigned to groups and asked to respond to their group question and 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 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.

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:

Assignments

Assignment 1: Case Study: Diagnosis	80
Assignment 2: Research on a Theme of Interest	80
Assignment 3: Field Experience Write-Up	90

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
Discussion Forums	20@ 10 points + 30 points quality	230
Assignments	3 Assignments	250
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.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION

Revised Winter 2006

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 Community 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 Community 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 BCC 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 Support Services (DSS) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for

accommodation. The DSS office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DSS 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 Support Services, 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 BCC 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 Community College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (A251), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.