

Course Title: Abnormal Psychology
Course Code: BEH206

Recommended Study Year : 2 or 3
No. of Credits/Term : 3
Mode of Tuition : Lecture/Tutorial
Class Contact Hours : Two hours lecture and one hour tutorial/week

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Category in Major Program:
Discipline : Behavioral Science
Prerequisite(s) : SOC102 or SOC103

Brief Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce the study of human abnormal behaviors and help students to understand those behaviors. Topics include behaviors ranging from functional to dysfunctional, the principles of psychological assessment, and how helping professionals including psychologists who might be involved in the assessment process and the methods they use. The course covers psychological, biological, and psychosocial cultural approaches to understanding human behaviors. The course will cover various common psychological disorders, including mood disorders, eating disorders, personality disorders, sexual dysfunctions and schizophrenia. Psychotherapies and cases on psychopathologies will be discussed.

Objectives

The purpose of this course is to study abnormal human behaviors with the followings:

1. To critically review the concepts and models of mental health and mental disorders.
2. To familiarize with the current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders-Fourth Edition-Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR) classification, the diagnostic assessment procedures and the common intervention strategies of mental disorders.
3. To acquire an in-depth knowledge about common abnormal childhood, adolescents, and adult behaviors.
4. To examine the multi aspects of mental disorders and their implications on human.

Learning Outcomes

The overall aim of this course is to introduce students to the study of abnormal psychology. On completing the course, students may have achieved more than these objectives, but they should at least be able to:

1. Define major psychological problems and disorders as described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders-Fourth Edition-Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR) and explain the rationale behind it.
2. Discuss procedures used to evaluate and diagnose abnormal behavior.
3. Compare, contrast, and integrate biological, psychological, and psychosocial cultural explanations of abnormal behavior.
4. Explain the nature of stress and how that relate to psychopathologies.
5. Discuss the role of psychological, behavioral and psychosocial and cultural factors in the causation of mental health and physical problems.
6. Familiarizing students with the multiple causes of psychopathology as viewed from a variety of different theoretical perspectives
7. Explain the rationale behind psychological intervention.
8. Describe symptoms of common mental disorders.
9. Have some understanding to identify treatments and preventions for mental disorders.
10. Apply what they have learned about the conceptualization, causation, and treatment of mental disorders to case examples presented in class or encountered.

Course Format:

This course will be conducted through lectures, case illustrations, group discussions, and student participations. Films and video material may be used whenever possible. The medium of lecture is in English. There will be additional readings throughout the course, which will be assigned as the semester progresses.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes:

1. Students' comprehension and synthesis of knowledge of psychological disorders, including assessment and treatment will be assessed in term paper (individual work, based on the presentation, normally double-space, 5 pages, about 1500 words) and examinations.
2. Students' ability to articulate critical thinking of empirical research in writing using the publication format of the American Psychological Association (APA) will be assessed through term paper assignment.
3. Students' comprehension of the scientist-practitioner model in psychopathology and their ability to effectively communicate these concepts will be assessed through presentations and tutorial participation.

Assessment:

Continuous Assessment	55%
Group Presentation	15%
Term Paper (due date: Nov. 27th)	20%
Mid-term (Oct. 9th)	15%
Tutorial Participation	5%
Final examination	45%

Class Participation and Attendance

Students are expected to prepare for and attend all classes, to participate actively in class discussions, and to be on time for each class meeting. Students are required to attend all classes and tutorials. Good attendance and participation will help your final grade, particularly if it falls on a margin.

Plagiarism

"With regard to your coursework in particular, you are reminded: You must note the sources of quotations, data and general information in the submitted work. According to Lingnan University and Social Sciences Programme policy, plagiarism is "presentation of another person's work without proper acknowledgment of the source". Plagiarism will be heavily penalized and may attract a zero mark and disciplinary action."

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Chapter
1	4 Sep 2009	Introduction: An overview of abnormal psychology & Understanding of causalities of psychopathologies	Chapter 1 and 3
2	11 Sep 2009	Stress and mental health: PTSD	Chapter 5
3	18 Sep 2009	Panic and anxiety disorders	Chapters 6
4	25 Sep 2009	Mood disorders and suicide II	Chapter 7
5	2 Oct 2009	Eating disorders	Chapter 9
6	9 Oct 2009	Mid-term exam	Cover chapter 1,3,5,6,7 & 9
7	16 Oct 2009	Developmental disorders and childhood problems	Chapter 15
8	23 Oct 2009	Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders	Chapter 13
9	30 Oct 2009	Personality disorders	Chapter 10
10	6 Nov 2009	Substance abuse and addiction disorders	Chapter 11
11	13 Nov 2009	Sexual Abuse and Deviance	Chapter 12
12	20 Nov 2009	Clinical assessment and diagnosis	Chapter 4
13	27 Nov 2009	Psychotherapy Term paper due date	Chapter 16

Required/Essential Readings:

James N. Butcher, Susan Mineka & Jill M. Hooley. (2007). *Abnormal psychology* (14th or 13th Ed) Allyn & Bacon.

Reference Texts:

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (4th ed.). (Text Revision). Washington, DC: Author.