

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 will introduce the bases of clinical psychology through a broad survey of various aspects of abnormal behavior. The course will cover various common psychological disorders, including mood disorders, eating disorders, personality disorders, schizophrenia, etc. Treatment and assessment will also be discussed.

Aims:

The purpose of this course is to study various aspects of abnormal human behavior in everyday life. Specific goals of instruction include:

1. Providing students with an integrative overview of the field of abnormal psychology and major psychological problems and disorders as described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders-Fourth Edition-Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR)
2. Familiarizing students with the multiple causes of psychopathology as viewed from a variety of different theoretical perspectives
3. Discussing intervention and prevention strategies for psychological disorders
4. Encouraging students to advance their knowledge of abnormal psychology through real-world clinical applications

Learning Outcomes:

On completion of this course students should be able to:

1. Understand the most important psychological disorders that are currently validated by clinicians and academicians through the DSM-IV-TR.

2. Understand how clinicians detect, assess, and treat abnormal patterns of behavior and thought.
3. Appreciate the merits of empirical research and the scientist-practitioner model in psychopathology.

Indicative Content:

I. Introduction and Basic Issues in Abnormal Psychology

Course Overview

Different Perspectives in Understanding Abnormal Psychology

II. Different Psychological Disorders

Mood Disorders & Suicide

Anxiety Disorders

Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders

Eating and Sleep Disorders

Addiction Disorders

Cognitive Disorders

Developmental Disorders

Personality Disorders

III. Assessment and Treatment

Teaching Method:

Lectures combined with discussion groups. Students are required to select topics relating to issues pertaining to abnormal psychology for presentation during discussion groups. Audio-visual aides such as videos of actual patients and psychotherapy sessions will supplement primary instruction during both lectures and discussion groups. Additionally, there will be two movie presentations during the course of the semester, which will be shown on designated evenings. Students will be responsible for the information covered in the content of the movies. There will also 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 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 journal critique as well as term paper.
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	50%
Group Presentation	15%
Term Paper	10%
Mid-term	20%
Tutorial Participation	5%
Final examination	50%

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. Attendance will be at 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	21 Jan 2009	Introduction	Chapter 1
2	28 Jan 2009	No Class- Chinese New Year	--
3	4 Feb 2009	Viewpoints for Understanding the Causes of Abnormal Behavior	Chapters 3
4	11 Feb 2009	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 6
5	18 Feb 2009	No Class-Sports Day	--
6	25 Feb 2009	Mood Disorders and Suicide	Chapter 7
7	4 Mar 2009	Eating and Sleep Disorders	Chapter 9
8	11 Mar 2009	Developmental Disorders and Childhood Problems	Chapter 14
9	18 Mar 2009	Mid-term quiz	Coverage: Week 1 to Week 5
10	25 Mar 2009	Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders	Chapter 14
11	1 Apr 2009	Personality Disorders	Chapter 11
12	8 Apr 2009	Addiction Disorders	Chapter 12
13	15 Apr 2009	Cognitive Disorders	Chapter 15
14	22 Apr 2009	Clinical Assessment	Chapter 4
15	29 Apr 2009	Therapy	Chapter 17

Required/Essential Readings:

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

Reference Texts:

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