

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:

PS 4251 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY - LEVEL 6

(Revised Spring 2015)

3/0/3

UK CREDITS: 15

PREREQUISITES:

BI 1000 Introduction to Biology I- Level 4

PS 3130 Biopsychology - Level 5

CATALOG

DESCRIPTION:

Theories of and research in the study of psychopathological development. A scientist-practitioner approach to the study of a variety of psychological disorders, including anxiety, affective and personality disorders. Assessment and treatment approaches.

RATIONALE:

An advanced-level course aimed at familiarizing students with basic clinical concepts, including assessment of psychopathology, different theoretical perspectives and research. For the future clinical, counselling and school psychologist as well as social scientist who wants to gain insight into the dynamics of abnormal psychology.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to:

1. Define “abnormality” according to different theoretical perspectives.
2. Critically evaluate the different theories of personality development and adjustment with information from clinical observation and research.
3. Explain the causes, dynamics, phenomenology, and treatment of abnormal behavior.
4. Analyze and critically discuss case studies.
5. Critically evaluate and use the classification system of psychopathology to arrive at differential diagnoses for cases of psychopathology.
6. Describe the symptoms of the different types of abnormal behavior.

METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:

In congruence with teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used:

- Classes consist of lectures, discussions, in-class activities, and case study discussions.
- Office hours
- Use of Blackboard site

ASSESSMENT:

Case assessment and diagnosis- formative	0%	Phenomenological written case reports to enhance differential diagnosis skills and understanding of the abnormal experience and symptomatology
Critical Review Paper) – summative	50%	Critical review on recent empirical finding on controversial diagnostic and treatment issues of psychopathology (3,000 words).
In-class final examination (2-hour, comprehensive) – summative	50%	Essay questions (choice: 3 out of 5)

The formative assessments relate to learning outcomes 1, 3, 4, 6,

The critical review paper assesses learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 5

The final exam assesses learning outcomes 1-6, with emphasis on 4 & 6

READING LIST:

1. Required Material

Nolen-Hoeksema, S. *Abnormal Psychology*. McGraw-Hill, latest edition.

2. Further Reading: Readings to supplement the basic material covered in the textbook.

American Psychiatric Association(APA). (2000) *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (4th ed.Text Revision) Washington, DC:American Psychiatric Association

Cinkin, H.M., & Iacono, W.G. (2002) Schizophrenia: A neurodevelopmental perspective. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 11, 33-37

Lingiardi, V., McWilliams, N., Bornstein, R.F., Gazzillo, F., Gordon, R.M. (2015). The Psychodynamic Diagnostic Manual Version 2 (PDM-2): Assessing patients for improved clinical practice and research. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 32(1), 94-115

Spitzer R. L, Gibbon,M., Skodol, A.E. Williams, J.V.W, First, M.B. (2002).*DSM-IV-TR Casebook: A Learning Companion to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, Fourth Edition, Text Revision

Meyer, RG, Chapman, K.L. & Weaver, C.M. (2008) *Case Studies in Abnormal Behavior*. Pearson Education.

Pilgrim, D. (2014). Influencing mental health policy and planning: DSM5 as a disciplinary challenge for psychology. *Review of General Psychology*, 18(4), 293-301.

Piper, A., Merskey, H. (2004). The Persistence of Folly: A Critical Examination of Dissociative Identity Disorder. Part I. The Excesses of an Improbable Concept. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 49(9), 592-600.

Schnurr PP, Lunney CA, Sengupta A (2004). Risk factors for the development versus maintenance of posttraumatic stress disorder. *Journal of Trauma and Stress*. 17 (2), 85–95

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**RECOMMENDED
MATERIAL:**

Journal of Abnormal Psychology
Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology
Personality Disorders: Theory, Research and Treatment
Schizophrenia Bulletin
Journal of Affective Disorders

WWW RESOURCES:

National Institute of Mental Health
www.nimh.nih.gov

World Health Organization
www.who.int

- INDICATIVE CONTENT:**
1. Present-day Abnormal Behavior
 2. Historical Background
 3. Biological, Psychosocial and Sociocultural Viewpoints
 4. Research, Assessment and Diagnosis for Abnormality
 5. Anxiety Disorders
 6. Mood Disorders and Suicide
 7. Schizophrenia
 8. Dissociative and Somatoform Disorders
 9. Personality Disorders
 10. Eating Disorders
 11. Sexual Disorders
 12. Substance Use Disorders
 13. Cognitive Disorders
 14. Contemporary Approaches to Treatment