

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE
Social Science Department
Abnormal Psychology Course #10510; K245 – T2
Spring, 2016, **Room E204**
Monday – 6:30 – 9:15 p.m.

Instructor: Pam Kerouack-Warner, M.S., LPC
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COURSE OUTLINE

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to psychopathology and psychotherapy. A study of emotional disturbance includes: neuroses and personality disorders, psychoses, psycho diagnosis, and psychotherapy with an emphasis on how disorders begin and various treatments that are used. Topics in the course are: the nature of neurosis, anxiety reactions, obsessive-compulsive reactions, depressive reactions, hysteria and psycho-physiological reactions, personality disturbance, sexual deviance, addictions, theories of psychosis, forms of psychosis, somatic therapies, psychoanalytic therapies, behavior therapy, client-centered therapy, and group therapies.

Course Objectives: At the completion of this course, students should have accomplished the following major objectives:

- Understand the major forms of psychopathology from a variety of theoretical perspectives.
- Understand the meaning of “abnormal” psychology in terms of symptoms, development, diagnoses and treatment of the major forms of psychopathology. Students will also gain an understanding of cultural influence on the formation of pathology.
- Improve analytical thinking.
- Learn to listen and communicate more effectively.
- Know and be able to speak about two major psychological disorders, including latest theoretical understanding and recognized treatment.
- Gain sensitivity toward people who suffer from psychopathology

Required Text: Abnormal Psychology, 8th Edition, by R. J. Comer, 2014 (ISBN: 9781464137198.)

Grading and Requirements:

Class Participation and Attendance:	15%	
Four exams worth 10% each	40%	
Quizzes		15%
Paper	30%	
Total	100%	

Exams: First three exams will be take home and the last will be in class. Exams may include multiple choice, true/false, essay questions, word matches, etc. Exams are due back at the next class meeting. If you are **not** planning on being at that next class, the exam **must** be placed in my mailbox or delivered to me by email **before** class starts or you will receive a “0” on that exam. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Quizzes: Quizzes will be randomly given at the beginning of class. Please make sure you’re present.

Attendance

Your attendance is expected and your absence will impact your understanding of course material. In addition, due to discussion groups in class, you risk missing important information that may not be in your readings. If you miss more than 2 classes, you risk failure and may want to consider withdrawal from this course. Exams are due on the dates indicated. You **will not** be able to hand in an exam or homework assignment after its due date. If you are not going to be in class, you can put the exam or homework assignment in my mailbox before the end of the class in which it is due. You have my phone number and email should you need to discuss this further. Please don't ask me to make exceptions as this is unfair to all your classmates who are getting their work in on time.

Paper: The goal of this assignment is to strengthen your understanding of the criterion used to identify a disorder and consider which psychotherapeutic approach has proven most effective in treating the identified disorder.

You will choose a movie character and focus on behaviors, thoughts and actions that would be considered "abnormal" and lead you to a diagnosis. You will propose a treatment plan based upon your chosen theoretical framework and explain why you think this is the best treatment option. The paper can be divided into patient (i.e., movie character) background (include gender, age and socioeconomic and environmental information), presentation of thoughts, feelings and behaviors that led you to your diagnosis. Please do not retell the movie but focus on the concerns that led you to the diagnosis. This paper requires you to delve more deeply into a diagnosis of your choosing. Hint: Choose a diagnosis that interests you and then find the movie character. If you need help, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. It is expected that you will fully research your character's diagnosis, using journal resources or acceptable internet sites such as apa.org. In your search for a more thorough understanding of the diagnosis, ask yourself what you have learned that the text did not cover? What treatment appears to offer the best outcome? What are the possible causes of this condition? What theoretical framework do you find the most compelling in terms of treatment options? You will need to cite at least three resources that you used to further your understanding of the disorder. This paper should be at least 5 pages in length, double spaced with a 12 font, **not** including title page, abstract or resource page. Please use APA formatting.

Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism: If I believe that you have copied from another student or other source, you will receive a grade of "0" on that assignment or exam. If a second offense is committed, you will again be given a "zero," which will more than likely cause you to fail the course. Please see our catalogue for additional information.

Disabilities Statement: If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Disabilities Counseling Services at 215-9017. Contact the counselor as soon as possible in order to avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Disabilities Counselor. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Reading/Video Assignments: The majority of reading comes from the text book. Additional readings will be required of you in order to complete your case study. Video and/or DVD assignments will be chosen in relation to your case studies.

Limitations: This is an academic undergraduate course and does not qualify students in clinical practice. We will discuss diagnostic strategies and use the DSM for educational purposes, but actual diagnosing in mental health settings typically requires a graduate degree and license to practice. Do not attempt to diagnose yourself or acquaintances. More on this in class.

STUDENT CONDUCT: All students are expected to behave as responsible and mature adults. This means participating in class discussions in a respectful, prepared, and thoughtful manner. Students will be encouraged to express opinions and beliefs in class. It is important that critical discussions and feedback are conducted in a considerate and scholarly manner. The work of others that is not properly credited is plagiarism. This is unethical and illegal and will result in referral to proper school authorities and/or a

flunking grade for the assignment and/or course. The college recommends we include the following passage taken from the TRCC handbook (2006) "Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor."We will discuss these issues in more detail at the start of the semester. If you have questions about what it means to be considerate and scholarly please be sure to ask questions and clear this up. It is essential that we talk and write about individuals with mental illness as people for whom we have respect. This is true because the tone of these activities influences (or even determines) the reality of the experience of mental illness.

The college requires the following statement be included in all syllabi: "All students are required to maintain a learning portfolio in Digication that uses the (Three Rivers) College Template."

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING REQUIRED</u>
01/25/16	Abnormal Psychology: Past and Present	Chapter 1
02/01/16	Models of Abnormality Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment	Chapter 2 Chapter 4
02/08/16	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 6 & 7
02/15/16	President's Birthdays – No Class	
02/22/16	Disorders of Trauma & Stress Research paper topic due Exam 1 on chapters 1-2, 4-7	Chapter 5
02/29/16	Depressive & Bipolar Disorders and treatment Exam 1 due	Chapters 8 & 9
03/07/16	No Class – Time to develop research paper outline	
03/14/16	Suicide Research paper outline due – Break-out groups to discuss outline	Chapter 10
03/21/16	Spring break	
03/28/16	Eating Disorders Substance User and Addictive Disorders Exam 2 on chapters 8-13	Chapter 12 Chapter 13
04/04/16	Disorders of Sex & Gender Exam 2 due	Chapter 14
04/11/16	Schizophrenia and its treatment	Chapters 15, 16
04/18/16	Personality Disorders Research paper due	Chapter 17
04/25/16	Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms Exam 3 on chapters 14-18	Chapter 18
05/02/16	Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence Exam 3 due	Chapter 19
05/09/16	Disorders of Aging and Cognition Law, Society and the Mental Health Profession (Last day to withdraw from class)	Chapter 20 Chapter 21
05/16/16	Exam 4 (Chapters 19-21)	