

Three Rivers Community College, Summer, 2009

Abnormal Psychology, Psych K245, DL

Professor: Dov Kugelmass, M.A.

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Phone 892-5791

Office: 1st floor, C Wing

Office Hours: To be announced

Class Tutor: TBA

Individual tutoring available online and on ground by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: “This course offers an introduction to psychopathology and psychotherapy. A study of emotional disturbance includes: neuroses and personality disorders, psychoses, psychodiagnosis, 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.” From course descriptions, Three Rivers Community College, Online Catalog. Retrieved 1/04

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: By the end of this course, students should:

- Have a basic knowledge of diagnosis, varieties of psychopathology, their development, and treatment.
- Be able to conceptualize the term “abnormal psychology” in a sophisticated manner including being able to evaluate psychological theories and disorders from multiple perspectives.
- Practice (and improve) writing, critical thinking, and research skills.
- Demonstrate sensitivity and respect for individuals who have a mental illness (or symptoms of a mental illness).

REQUIRED TEXT:

Comer, R.J. (2007). Abnormal Psychology (6th ed.).

New York: Worth Publishers.

- Articles as assigned in class.

Learning Resources:

- Study Guide may be helpful:
- Web Site: www.worthpublishers.com/comer
- Tutoring: TASC hours generally coincide with the LRC hours, but may vary each semester. You can contact the TASC by telephone at:
- Writing Center: TRWritingCenter@trcc.commnet.edu 892-5773 or 892-5769
- Library Services: Rob Walsh is our reference librarian.
- Problems with Blackboard
 - IT (Three Rivers) HELP DESK: (860) 885-2334 (during business hours)

-Conn Community College support For 24/7 after hour support, please call **866.940.1928**

ASSIGNMENTS:

-This is a rigorous, advanced, college level class. Online courses generally take MORE time, not less time than on ground courses. Everyone works at different speeds, but a rule of thumb is that a 6 week, 3 credit class takes 3 hours of class time and 9 hours of prep time (for a weekly total of 24 hours). Some students will need to spend considerably more to be successful in this class. I recommend planning to spend at least that much time on this class.

-Reading assignments (see attached schedule) should be completed as the semester progresses. It is important to complete reading on time so that we can have active discussions. There is a lot of reading and it is important to keep up. *If you're having trouble keeping up, or understanding the material, please speak to/contact me right away.*

-Class Discussions: There will be an ongoing class discussion on the discussion board on Blackboard. Discussions should be thoughtful, informed, and scholarly. This includes proper referencing/source citing in APA format/style. Plagiarism will not be tolerated-see student conduct for details. Discussion topics/questions will progress with class content under a new "thread" in the discussion. Discussions close at the end of each third of the class. Participation should be spread out over the two week section (not merely crammed in at the end), so leave yourself plenty of time to keep up and participate. These discussions will make up the bulk of the class participation grade. Criteria they will be assessed on include regularity of posts, appropriateness and civility, relevance, originality, clarity, accuracy, and logic.

-Diagnostic Essays: There will be Three essays (diagnostic questions based on movie characters) to be submitted as a "assignments". These will be formal and will be graded separately from discussions. Please read the directions carefully and consult the word document on how to write a good diagnostic essay before beginning. Proper referencing/source citing in APA format/style is REQUIRED. Plagiarism will not be tolerated-see student conduct for details. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the required movies. If you do not know how to cite references using APA format, I recommend you contact me right away to discuss ways of/strategies for acquiring this skill/knowledge. Substantial points (as much as 40 points) will be taken off for not including in-text citations accompanied by an accurate reference list.

-Quizzes: There will be three quizzes. Quizzes will consist of Blackboard-based timed multiple choice questions with perhaps some short answer/essay questions. Quizzes are closed book/note and must be completed without assistance from anyone. Makeup quizzes will be given only with immediate notification of emergencies.

-Final Exam: There will be an on-ground, in-person, closed note/book cumulative final exam.

- The final exam will consist of
 - multiple choice questions (based on quizzes) and
 - essays based on the "practice questions" from throughout the semester. Posting answers/participating in the practice question discussions with peers is not required, however it is recommended (and credit towards class participation will be given).
- If you cannot attend the in-class final, you must make alternative arrangements to take a proctored exam either at the TRCC tutoring center or another regionally accredited college or university. Valid picture ID may be required at the Final

Exam. If you plan to take the final exam at another college, please notify instructor and begin making arrangements by the 1st week of classes

-Class participation: Please realize that even though this is a distance learning class, it is still a “class.” **This is NOT an independent study or a correspondence class.** As such, you need to participate regularly. There are no required times to participate (e.g. scheduled “chats”). However, it is your responsibility to maintain a “presence” by actively participating in the ongoing “class discussion”, taking quizzes, turning in essays on time, checking Blackboard Vista regularly for announcements and communications, etc. Optional discussions on “practice questions” are not required (but will be rewarded with credit towards participation grade). I suggest planning to participate three times weekly (or more).

-Late Work: In the instance of emergencies and (some) unavoidable obstacles late work will be allowed. If an extension is needed, please contact me as soon as possible. Also, **late work will likely not be graded until the end of the semester** (or even after the end of the semester during intersession). Please contact me individually by phone or Blackboard Vista email if you need to discuss.

-Extra Credit: Opportunities for extra credit work will consist of investigating and suggesting web based content for this course. Please contact me individually by week six if you are interested in extra credit. All extra credit work **MUST** be submitted by week 10.

GRADING:

Class Participation: 30%
Essays: 30%
Quizzes: 10%
Final exam: 30%
Total: 100%

Numeric Equivalents:

94-100 = A
90-93 = A-
87-89 = B+
83-86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+
73-76 = C
70-72 = C-
67-69 = D+
64-66 = D
60-63 = D-
0-59 = F

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. Citing 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.

SPECIAL NEEDS: If you have any special needs related to the class (e.g. physical or learning challenges), please contact me at the start of the semester. Also, if any difficulties arise that may interfere with your full participation (such as not understanding course material, missed class, etc.), please contact me as soon as possible.

CLASS CANCELLATION: I do not foresee any events that would cause us to “cancel or suspend” class. However, in the event that Blackboard Vista is down for an extended period of time (days), Class will be conducted via email, if it is possible.

REGISTRATION and WITHDRAWAL: It is the responsibility of each student to manage their registration status. If you do not complete the course you must formally withdraw or you will likely receive an “F” final grade.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change):

SECTION I: Weeks 1+2

WEEK #1(starts 6/1): Abnormal Psychology in Context: INTRODUCTION to ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR: overview, ground rules, definitions, methodology.

- Reading for this week; Chapter 1.
- Discussion: Introductions; changes in perception of abnormality
- Practice question (s) what is abnormality?

PERSPECTIVES/MODELS of ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

- Reading for this week; Chapter 3
- Discussion: Is there one model you like best?
- Practice question (s): Argue for three models of abnormality

WEEKS #2 (starts 6/8): ASSESSMENT and RESEARCH in ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY.
Assessment, diagnosis, and treatment:

Reading for these weeks Chapter 4

- Discussions; Most interesting assessment tool.
- Practice question (s): Benefits and harm of diagnosing; validity vs reliability

ANXIETY Disorders

Reading for these weeks; Chapter 5, 6 (pgs 155-159),
Discussion: Check in on quiz and essay
- Practice question (s): Match treatment to disorder
Essay: #1 OCD (movie As Good As It Gets) due end of week 2
Quiz : #1 (chapters 1-5) due before end of week 2

SECTION II Weeks 3+4

WEEK #3 (Starts 6/15) and MOOD DISORDERS

Reading for these weeks; Chapters 8, and 9 (just the sections on UNIPOLAR depression
-Discussion TBA
- Practice question (s): TBA

PERSONALITY DISORDERS

Reading for this week; Chapters 16
Essay: #2 due end week #4 Borderline Personality Disorder and Anti-social Personality Disorder (Movie: Girl Interrupted)
-Discussion: TBA
- Practice question (s): TBA

WEEKS #4 (starts : 6/22) SUBSTANCE RELATED DISORDERS

Reading for this week; Chapter 12.
Discussion: Harm reduction model
- Practice question (s): TBA
-Quiz #2 (Chapters TBA)
-Essay #2

SECTION III Weeks 5+6

WEEK #5 (starts 6/29): Major Mental Disorders: Schizophrenia, Pervasive Developmental Disorders, Dementia and Delirium

-Diagnostic Essay #3: Schizophrenia (movie: Pi), Dementia (movie: The Notebook) or Autism Spectrum Disorders (movie Rainman or Mozart and the Whale) due by 7/10
-Reading for this week; Chapter 14 & 15 , pgs 542-553, and 515-522.
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-Discussion: TBA
- Practice question (s):

WEEK #6 (Starts 7/6) Developmental Psychopathology DISORDERS of CHILDHOOD and ADOLESCENCE;

Reading for this week; Chapter 17 + 18
-Discussion: TBA
- Practice question (s): TBA
Student Choice: Other mental disorders OR special contextual considerations (e.g. law, ?, Etc)
Reading for this week; TBA
Discussion: What did you hope to cover that we didn't?
Quiz #3 due by 7/10 (Chapters TBA)

Abnormal Psychology in context (reconsidered)

-Discussions; TBA

-- Practice question (s): TBA

-FINAL EXAM Wednesday, 7/8, 6pm room B214

-All discussions, essays, quizzes close 7/10/2009 @ 5pm

SYLLABUS/SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.