

Three Rivers Community College, Spring 2014
Abnormal Psychology, Psych K245, OLCR

Professor: Dov Kugelmass, Ph.D.

dkugelmass@trcc.commnet.edu

Phone 860 215-9446

Office:C164

Office Hours: Mondays; 1pm-2:15pm, 9:15pm-10pm

Wednesday 9:30am-10am, 11:50am-12:20pm

On ground meetings: Orientation is 1/23 5:30-7:30pm, E116; Final Exam 5/15 5:30-7:30pm, D215

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 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, OUTCOMES:

The goals and objectives for Abnormal Psychology are integrated with the college’s general education goals. After completing this course, the successful student will have the following knowledge and skills.

Critical Thinking: Utilize Critical thinking skills to analyze theories and research pertaining to abnormal psychology

- Develop the ability to critically analyze the major models/theories used to explain abnormal behavior and psychopathology.
- Develop knowledge of how historical and modern psychiatric nosologies are constructed and applied.
- Develop the ability to apply knowledge of contemporary major models/theories of abnormality to selected examples of abnormality .

Cultures and Society: Understand how social institutions, historical trends, and cultural context impact the conceptualizations of abnormality and psychopathology.

- Demonstrate an understanding of how cultural and economic factors generally influence the definition and conceptualizations of normalcy, abnormality, psychopathology, and what constitutes appropriate mental health treatment.
- Demonstrate knowledge of cross cultural/ethnic differences in incidence, manifestation, and/or treatment of selected mental disorders.
- Develop an understanding of culturally competent models of mental health services.

Communication: Understand and express ideas about abnormal psychology through reading and writing:

- Demonstrate the ability to comprehend and interpret written passages.
- Develop the ability to accurately use the nomenclature of abnormal psychology and associated fields.

- Develop the ability to describe individuals with mental disorders in a way that is respectful and in keeping with best professional practices.
- Produce college level writing including grammar/spelling, content, and appropriate source citation strategies.

Systematic Inquiry: Understand how social science research methods are used in abnormal psychology:

- Acquire knowledge about academic inquiry appropriate to the field of abnormal psychology.
- Develop an understanding of how scientific methodology is applied to the understanding of abnormal psychology (including incidence, etiology, and treatment of mental disorders).
- Acquire knowledge about men and women whose research and/or theories have made significant contributions to the field of abnormal psychology.

Limitations: This is an academic undergraduate course and does not qualify students in clinical practice.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Comer, R.J. (2013). *Abnormal Psychology, DSM-5 updated* (8th ed.).
New York: Worth Publishers.

OR

Comer, R.J. (2010). *Abnormal Psychology* (7th ed.).
New York: Worth Publishers.

OR

Comer, R.J. (2007). *Abnormal Psychology* (6th ed.).
New York: Worth Publishers.

-You will need access to a DSM-IV-TR and choose ONE movie to obtain and view: *As Good As It Gets*; *Girl Interrupted*, *Pi*; *The Notebook*; *Rainman*; *Mozart and the Whale*.

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.comnet.edu 892-5773 or 892-5769

-Library Services: Will have limited hours during Winter session. Call for hours.

-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 3 credit class takes 3 hours of class time and 9 hours of prep time (for a weekly total of 12 hours). I recommend planning to spend at least that much time on this class. Summer course (6 weeks) students should plan on at least double that amount (24 hours a week) and Winter Intersession (3 weeks) students should plan on at least 36 hours per week.

-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 are academically focused (not personal sharing) 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 approximately five week (two for summer sessions, 1 week for Winter session) section and 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 (timeliness), relating to other posts, appropriateness and civility, relevance, originality, clarity, accuracy, and logic.

-Diagnostic Essays: You will write ONE (ONLY!) "Diagnostic Essay", but you will have several to choose from. There will be diagnostic questions based on movie characters to be submitted as an "assignment". 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 (both IN-TEXT and REFERENCE list) is REQUIRED (-20 points for each missing-will not be credited if rewritten). Plagiarism will not be tolerated-see student conduct for details. It is the student's responsibility to obtain the required movies.

-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 discussions essays from throughout the semester.

- If you cannot attend the on ground 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 end of 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. During Wintersession I suggest planning to participate five times weekly (or more), three or more times weekly for Summer, and two or more times weekly during the regular semester.

-Late Work: I try to be extra flexible about due dates, but students should make all attempts to complete work on time. Essays may be turned in after the section content focuses on officially ends, however, no rewrites will be allowed at that time (and many students choose to rewrite essays). **Discussion posts will not be accepted late** because they will not contribute to the class “discussion/dialogue”. Students should complete all quizzes on time, but in the case of emergency, exceptions will be allowed.

-Extra Credit: There are NO EXTRA CREDIT opportunities in this class.

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

Digication statement: The college requires the following statement:

“All students are required to maintain an online learning portfolio in Digiication that uses the college template” (Faculty Resource Handbook for General Education, AY 13-14, pg 30).

It is unclear to me at the time of this writing what this will entail, but I will share information as it becomes available to me.

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.

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES

If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

TRCC Disabilities Service Providers Counseling & Advising Office Room A-119	
Matt Liscum (860) 215-9265	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Disabilities• Sensory Disabilities• Medical Disabilities• Mental Health Disabilities

<p>Chris Scarborough (860) 215-9285</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Disabilities • ADD/ADHD • Autism Spectrum
--	--

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 (1/23/14-2/24/14)

Section #1a: 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

Section #1b: PERSPECTIVES/MODELS of ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR

Reading for this week; Chapter 3

-Discussion: Is there one model you like best?

Section #1c: ASSESSMENT and RESEARCH in ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY.

Assessment, diagnosis, and treatment:

Reading for these weeks Chapter 4

-Discussions; Most interesting assessment tool.

Section #1d ANXIETY Disorders

Reading for these weeks; Chapter 5 and part of 6 (pgs153-158 in the 8th edition (dsm-5 updated), 163-167in the 7th edition) or (pgs 155-172 in the 6th edition)

Discussion: Check in on quiz and essay

Essay: Option #1 OCD (movie As Good As It Gets) due before 2/24

Quiz : #1 (chapters 1-6) due before Monday 2/24

SECTION II (2/24-4/7/2014)

Spring Break: 3/14-3/24

Section #2a MOOD DISORDERS

Reading for these weeks; Chapters 8, and 9 (just the sections on UNIPOLAR depression (pgs 225-244 and 257-277 in the 8th edition,)

-Discussion TBA

Section #2b PERSONALITY DISORDERS

Reading for this week; Chapters 16

Essay: Option #2 due end section 2 Borderline Personality Disorder and Anti-social Personality Disorder (Movie: Girl Interrupted)

-Discussion: TBA

Section #2c: SUBSTANCE RELATED DISORDERS

Reading for this week; Chapter 12.

Discussion: Harm reduction models;

-Quiz #2 (Chapters 8 & 9 (parts on unipolar depression), 16, 12) due by (4/7/2014)

SECTION III (4/7/2014-5/19/2014)

Section #3a: 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 5/5/2014 5am for option to rewrite/resubmit.**

-Reading for this section; Chapters 14, 15, 17, and 18.

- Discussion: TBA

Section #3b Developmental Psychopathology

DISORDERS of CHILDHOOD and ADOLESCENCE;

Reading for this week; Chapter 17 + 18

-Discussion: TBA

Section #3c Student Choice: Other mental disorders OR special contextual considerations (e.g. law, ?, Etc)

Reading for this week; chapter 19 and/or other material not covered.

Discussion: What did you hope to learn about that we didn't cover?

Quiz #3 due by 5/19 5am (Chapters 14, 15, 17, 18)

Section #3d Abnormal Psychology in context (reconsidered)

-Discussions; TBA

-FINAL EXAM onground, cumulative, closed note/closed book. 50% essay, 50% multiple choice. 5/15, 5:30-7:30 pm, D215

SYLLABUS/SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.