

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Social Science Department
Abnormal Psychology K245-T1
Spring, 2011
Friday 2:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Instructor: Pam Kerouack-Warner, M.S., LPC
Office Hours by appointment
Room D211
E-mail: pkwarner@charter.net
Cell phone: 860-465-7926

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Description: A study of the principal forms of psychopathology and its circumstances with reference to psychodynamic, social, learning, physiologic and genetic dimensions. A primary goal is to increase knowledge of the symptoms and developmental aspects of disorders and maladjusted behavior in addition to broadening student understanding of various approaches to psychotherapy and the prevention of psychopathology.

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, 7th Edition, by R. J. Comer, 2010. Companion website: www.worthpublishers.com/comer

Grading and Requirements:

Class Participation and Attendance:	15%
Three Exams worth 10% each	30%
First case study	15%
Second case study and paper	25%
Oral presentation	15%
Total	100%

Exams: All exams will be take-home and include multiple choice, true/false and essay questions. Exams are due back at the next class meeting. If you are not planning on being at that next class, the exam must be emailed to me before class starts. If the exam is not given to me by the class period in which it is due, you will receive a “0” on that exam. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Case Studies: The goals of these assignments are to strengthen your understanding of the criterion used to identify a disorder, encourage you to think about appropriate treatment interventions, and to practice case development and presentation.

First case study: You must choose a character in popular film or literature. Include supportive arguments for diagnosis and offer a proposed treatment plan based upon your chosen theoretical framework. Include pertinent intellectual and behavioral character presentation that support your diagnosis. The paper can be divided into patient background (include gender, age and socioeconomic and environmental information); presentation of thought, feelings and behaviors that led you to your diagnosis; diagnostic presentation (DSM IV-TR Axis I through V); and proposed treatment plan (including form of treatment, length of treatment and recommendations for on-going care and support.)

Second case study: This case study will mirror the first. I expect that you will have in-depth knowledge about this disorder which goes beyond what we have been able to cover in class. Your task will be to present a case study based on the character chosen. Include a section regarding what may be atypical of this diagnosis. You will also need to cite at least three references which you have used to further your understanding of the disorder.

The first case study can be 2 to 4 pages in length (double spaced and using a 12 font). The second case study should be at least 4 pages. You will choose one of your case studies to present to class. You may use any presentation material that you think will help (i.e., powerpoint, posters, hand-outs, snippets from the movie.) You will be randomly assigned a day for your presentation. Your presence is expected at each class—even during times you are not presenting. If you miss a presentation day, points will be deducted from your presentation grade. In order to avoid redundancies, no student will present on the same movie or literary character. So, you may wish to tell me early which character you plan on presenting.

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 892-5751. 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.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING REQUIRED</u>
01/21/11	Abnormal Psychology: Past and Present	Chapter 1
01/28/11	Models of Abnormality Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
02/04/11	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 5
02/11/11	Stress Disorders Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
	Take home exam I	

02/18/11	Mood Disorders Treatment for Mood Disorders Exam 1 due	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
02/25/11	Suicide Eating Disorders	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
03/04/11	Substance-Related Disorders Take home exam 2 Case study 1 due	Chapter 12
03/11/11	Sexual Disorders and Gender Identity Disorder Exam 2 due	Chapter 13
03/18/11	No Class	
03/25/11	Schizophrenia Treatment for Schizophrenia	Chapter 14 Chapter 15
04/01/11	Personality Disorders	Chapter 16
04/08/11	Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence	Chapter 17
04/15/11	Disorders of Aging and Cognition Law, Society, and the Mental Health Profession Take home exam 3 Case study 2 due	Chapter 18 Chapter 19
04/22/11	No Class	
04/29/11	Presentations Exam 3 due	
05/06/11	Presentations	
05/13/11	Presentations	