

THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Social Science Department
Abnormal Psychology K245
Fall, 2012
Thursday 6:30 – 9:15 p.m.

Instructor: Pam Kerouack-Warner, M.S., LPC
Office Hours: Monday's 1:00 – 3:00; Thursday's 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. or by appointment
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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, 10th Edition, by R. J. Comer, 2010. Companion website: www.worthpublishers.com/comer

Grading and Requirements:

Class Participation and Attendance:	15% (one point for each class attended)
Four exams worth 10% each	40%
First case study	15%
Paper	20%
Oral presentation	10%
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 placed in my mailbox or delivered to my office **before** class starts or you will receive a “0” on that exam. There will be **no exceptions** to this policy.

Case Study and paper: The goals of these assignments are 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.

Case study: I will provide you with a choice of four characters from popular film. You will watch the film, focusing on the assigned character. Your job will be to present this character as if it were a case study, focusing on behaviors, thoughts and actions that lead you to your chosen diagnosis. You will propose a treatment based upon your chosen theoretical framework. 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.) This case study should be 2 to 4 pages in length (double spaced with a 12 font.)

Paper: This paper mirrors the first but is more in-depth and you get to choose the movie character. Hint: Choose a diagnosis that interests you and then find the movie character that supports this. If you need help, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. In this assignment, I expect you to more fully research your character's diagnosis. You will later present your findings to the class. Ask yourself, what have you 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.)

You'll present your paper in class using any presentation materials you wish (including 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 fellow students presentation day, 5 points will be deducted from your presentation grade. If you miss your presentation day, you'll receive a "0" for the assignment. In order to avoid redundancies, no student will present on the same movie. 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>
08/30/12	Abnormal Psychology: Past and Present	Chapter 1
09/06/12	Models of Abnormality Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment	Chapter 3 Chapter 4
09/13/12	Anxiety Disorders	Chapter 5

Exam 1
Provide me with the name of your chosen movie for your paper/presentation

09/20/12	Stress Disorders Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders Exam 1 due	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
09/27/12	Mood Disorders Treatment for Mood Disorders	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
10/04/12	Suicide Eating Disorders Exam 2	Chapter 10 Chapter 11
10/11/12	Substance-Related Disorders Exam 2 due Case study 1 due	Chapter 12
10/18/12	Sexual Disorders and Gender Identity Disorder	Chapter 13
10/25/12	Schizophrenia Treatment for Schizophrenia Exam 3	Chapters 14, 15
11/01/12	Personality Disorders Exam 3 due	Chapter 16
11/08/12	Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence	Chapter 17
11/15/12	Disorders of Aging and Cognition Society and Mental Health Professions Exam 4	Chapter 18 Chapter 19
11/22/12	No Class	
11/29/12	Presentations Exam 4 due All case studies due	
12/06/12	Presentations	
12/13/12	Presentations	