

**Common Course Outline**  
**PSYC 201**  
**Abnormal Psychology**  
**3 Semester Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

Abnormal psychology

Examines the causes, diagnosis, assessment, symptoms, treatment, and possible prevention of mental disorders; includes historical and current theoretical perspectives, classification systems, cultural perspectives and legal/ethical issues.

Prerequisite: PSYC 101 or PSYC 105.

**Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate they have learned the fundamental theoretical perspectives, principles, concepts, vocabulary and methodology for each of the topics listed in the "Major Topics" section of this syllabus.
2. Compare and contrast the major theoretical perspectives found in abnormal psychology.
3. Apply data derived from abnormal psychology research when evaluating alternatives and making personal decisions pertaining to mental health issues for themselves or others.
4. Critically analyze and evaluate information pertaining to abnormal psychology found in film, television, radio, print, and information technology resources.
5. Apply concepts derived from abnormal psychology to one's own experiences and a culturally diverse community.
6. Communicate an understanding of abnormal psychology concepts in written, oral, and/or signed format.
7. Describe the relevance of ethnicity, gender, religion, age and race to understanding differences in such areas of abnormal psychology as incidence of disorders, prognosis, treatment choices, and other topic areas.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of informational technology tools for accessing interpreting and expressing knowledge of abnormal psychology issues in a rapidly changing world.
9. Recognize psychological information in the field of abnormal psychology is continually evolving requiring the pursuit of lifelong learning both independently and collaboratively.
10. Increase effectiveness in working as part of a cooperative learning group.
11. Discuss the philosophical issues related to "normality" and "abnormality"

**Major Topics**

1. Models applied to psychological disorders over the years.
2. Philosophical issues of “normal” and “abnormal”
3. Current theoretical perspectives in understanding psychological disorders.
4. Experimental techniques used to investigate abnormality
5. Issues and techniques of diagnosis and assessment.
6. Distinguishing characteristics of:
  - a. disorders usually first diagnosed in infancy, childhood or adolescence
  - b. delirium, dementia, and amnesic and other cognitive disorders
  - c. mental disorders due to a general medical condition
  - d. substance-related disorders
  - e. schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders
  - f. mood disorders
  - g. anxiety disorders
  - h. somatoform disorders
  - i. factitious disorders
  - j. dissociative disorders
  - k. sexual and gender identity disorders
  - l. eating disorders
  - m. sleep disorders
  - n. impulse disorders not elsewhere classified
  - o. adjustment disorders
  - p. personality disorders
  - q. other conditions that may be the focus of clinical attention
5. Treatment approaches.
6. Prevention strategies.
7. Legal and ethical issues.

### **Course Requirements**

Evaluation and student feedback in this course will combine several of the following formats:

1. Tests/Quizzes
2. Research papers
3. Oral presentations
4. Cooperative learning group assignments
5. Written analysis of case studies
6. Classroom participation
7. Service learning
8. Project using the Psychology Abstracts

### **Other Course Information**

This course is an elective.