

Common Course Outline
PSYC 201
Abnormal Psychology
3 Credits
The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

PSYC 201 – 3 credits – Abnormal Psychology examines the causes, diagnosis, assessment, symptoms, treatment and prevention of mental disorders; includes historical and current theoretical perspectives, classification systems, cultural perspectives, and legal/ethical issues.

3 Credits

Prerequisite: PSYC 101

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. describe in written, oral, or signed formats the fundamental theoretical perspectives, principles, concepts, vocabulary, and relevant research methodologies for each of the major topics listed below;
2. compare and contrast the major theoretical perspectives in abnormal psychology;
3. articulate the biopsychosocial nature of psychopathology and argue against commonly held attitudes of stereotypes and stigma that negatively impact individuals living with mental disorders;
4. describe ways in which they can be informed consumers of behavioral health services should the need arise for themselves or loved ones;
5. critically analyze and evaluate information pertaining to abnormal psychology found in film, television, radio, print, and information technology resources;
6. describe the relevance of diversity (defined as including, but not limited to, ethnicity, race, sex, gender, culture, religion, age, socioeconomic status, and sexual orientation) to incidence of disorders, prognosis, treatment choices, research, and diagnostic bias, and other topic areas;
7. utilize and assess information technology resources for accessing, interpreting, and expressing knowledge of abnormal psychology issues in a rapidly changing world;
8. discuss cultural issues related to our understanding of "normality" and "abnormality";
9. apply treatment approaches to the various diagnostic categories in the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders; and
10. distinguish between serious scientific research in abnormal psychology and pseudoscientific claims in popular culture.

Major Topics

- I. Abnormal Psychology Past and Present
- II. Research Methods
- III. Models of Abnormality
- IV. The Role of Diversity in Assessment, Diagnosis, Prevention, and Treatment in Abnormal Psychology.
- V. Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, Prevention and Treatment of Major Classifications of Mental Disorders, Including but not Limited to:
 - A. Anxiety, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Related Disorders
 - B. Disorders of Trauma and Stress
 - C. Disorders of Mood
 - D. Suicide
 - E. Disorders Featuring Somatic Symptoms
 - F. Dissociative Disorders
 - G. Eating Disorders
 - H. Sleep Disorders
 - I. Substance Use and Addictive Disorders
 - J. Disorders of Sexuality and Gender
 - K. Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders
 - L. Personality Disorders
 - M. Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence
 - N. Disorders of Aging and Cognition
- VI. Law, Society, and the Mental Health Profession
- VII. Information Literacy in Abnormal Psychology

Course Requirements

Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

1. A minimum of two examinations
2. A research assignment integrating information technology and information literacy
3. Written or oral analysis of two or more case studies

Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is an elective.

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