

PSYC 350 Abnormal Psychology (3 Credit Hours)

The School of Behavioral Sciences

Cincinnati Christian University

Spring: 2019

Instructor: C. Martin Justice, MA, LMHC, LCAC

E-mail: martin.justice@ccuniversity.edu

Phone: 812-226-4558

Course Description:

Introduction to the definition, cause, and treatment of mental disorders from various theoretical perspectives. Classification will be explored according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Prerequisite: GPS 110.

Rationale

The problem of suffering as it relates those created in the image of God in a Genesis 3 world requires an understanding of how to think about and treat categories of mental disorders. What is abnormal? Who are we? These questions are fundamental as we consider ministry in the helping professions. The goal is practical theology. We want answers that will inspire, instruct, guide and provide direction for our face-to-face ministry.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course the student who has applied himself should be able to. . .

1. Understand abnormality historically and research methods used to define categories of abnormality
2. Categorize mental disorders and match appropriate treatment modalities according to different treatment perspectives
3. Identify assessment tools/processes
4. Define and differentiate specific mental disorders
5. Explain ethical and legal issues related to the clinician's treatment of clients

Required Text:

Halgin, R.P., and Whitbourne, S.K. (2016). *Abnormal Psychology: Clinical Perspectives on Psychological Disorders with DSM 5 Update, Eighth Edition*. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

Additional articles/readings/handouts may be distributed in class.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Book Review (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4) – **Due Feb. 1**

Identify and read a book approved by the instructor that addresses treatment of mental disorders and a) define the author's understanding of abnormality, b) provide an overview of treatment modalities and assessment modalities utilized, c) pick one mental disorder referenced and write a case study of an individual with the disorder, d) reaction to the book. This assignment is worth 10% of your grade. The paper should be a 4-6 pages.

Focused Research Assignment (Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4) – **Due Mar. 1**

- 1) Choose a diagnosable mental disorder (not just a general class of mental disorders) that particularly interests you. It may, for instance, be one with which you already have personal experience, or a disorder to which you are expecting to have significant exposure in your future career. It may be a disorder that fascinates or intrigues you for some other reason.
- 2) Research the disorder thoroughly. Your research should be broad-based in nature. While your research may include general resources on abnormal psychology, it should also include resources specific to the disorder, such as books, journal articles, videos, newspaper and/or magazine articles, scientifically reputable web sites, personal interviews with psychotherapists or other treatment personnel who work with persons who have the disorder, and/or personal interviews with person(s) who have the disorder, or those who are close in some other way (e.g., family members) to person(s) who have the disorder. You are also invited to include spiritual perspectives on the disorder, including the role, if any, of the church in reference to persons impacted by the disorder.
- 3) Write an extensive paper that demonstrates and documents your study of the disorder. You should carefully cover at minimum the disorder's etiology, prevalence, chief and related elements and characteristics, assessment, course,

prognosis, and modes of treatment and/or management. The better papers will include aspects such as prevention of the disorder, the disorder's cultural and economic impact, perspectives of persons with the disorder and therapists or others who treat or help manage the disorder, and perspectives of those who otherwise interact with persons with the disorder. The final section of your paper should include personal reflections speaking to how you have been impacted by your study of the disorder, and how you expect/hope to apply what you have learned. Such a final section should not make up the major part of your paper. Your presentation should clearly reference all sources. Any direct quotes from sources should be appropriately and specifically credited.

Your research paper should include a bibliography consistent with APA style. Your paper must be typed and double-spaced written in 12-point Times New Roman with 1" margins. All spelling and grammar usage in your paper should reflect college-level work. Your paper should average between 8-12 pages in length.

Exams

There will be a total of three in class quizzes and one comprehensive final test.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

Classroom Participation	10%
Quizzes (15% each)	30%
Test	20%
Book Review	10%
APA-style Research Report	30%

Academic Accommodations

Students who require academic accommodations due to any documented physical, psychological, or learning disability should request assistance from the Academic Support Director, Marie Reeves, within the first two weeks of class. The Academic Support Office is located in the lower level of the Worship and Ministry Building (room 153). You may also contact the office by phone (244-8420).

Attendance and Classroom Participation

Ten percent of your grade will be comprised from attendance and class engagement. If a class is missed, the student is responsible for obtaining notes from missed lectures from another student and is expected to turn in any homework on time to receive credit. Missing more than four hours of class will result in Failure Due to Absences (FA). Leaving class early or leaving early without notifying the professor before that class will be counted as an hour missed.

Late work: Late work will not be accepted. Any work not turned in on the assigned date will be counted as a zero. The final must be taken on the date scheduled by the school.

Academic Honesty: See student handbook for a full explanation. Plagiarism, cheating, and dishonesty will not be tolerated. Penalties for such behavior include automatic failure of the assignment for the first offense, failure of the course for the second offense, and expulsion or loss of all academic credit for the semester for the third offense.

Disclaimer The course instructor may alter assignments and dates as the need arises and always in the interests of the student.

Date Topics/Activities

Day 1 Introduction to class; Syllabus Review
Chapter 1: Understanding Abnormality: A Look at History and Research Methods
Chapter 2: Classifications and Treatment Plans
Chapter 3: Assessment and Treatment Planning (Group Break out time)
Chapter 4: Theoretical Perspectives

Day 2 **Quiz: Chapters 1-4**
Chapter 5: Introduction to Anxiety Disorders

Chapter 6: Somatoform Disorder

Chapter 7: Sexual Disorders

Day 3 **Quiz: Chapters 5-7**

Chapter 8: Mood Disorders; Suicide case studies

Chapter 9: Schizophrenia and related disorders; January

Chapter 10: Personality Disorders; Group break out time

Day 4 **Quiz: Chapter 8-10**

Chapter 11: Development-Related Disorders;

Chapter 12: Aging-Related and Cognitive Disorders; Young at Heart

Chapter 13: Substance-Related Disorders; speaker on Friday

Chapter 14: Eating Disorders and Impulse-Control Disorders

Day 5 Chapter 15: Ethical and Legal Issues

Test: Chapters 1-10