

PSYC& 220: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

Winter Quarter 2012
Shoreline Community College
Prerequisite: Psychology 100

Basic Information

Instructor: Dr. Don S. Christensen
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Phone: (206) 546-5885
E-mail: dchriste@shoreline.edu
Office Hours: Mondays 12:30 – 3:00
Tuesday 12:30 – 2:00
Wednesdays 12:30 – 1:00
Thursdays 12:30 – 2:00
And by appointment
Class Location: 1102
Meeting Time: 10:30 – 11:20

Textbooks & Course Materials

Comer, R.J. (2011). *Fundamentals of abnormal psychology (6th Ed.)*. Worth Publishers: New York. (Required)

Web Sites

Blackboard Course Site: <https://shoreline.blackboard.com/webapps/login/>
Class Web Site: <http://shoreline.edu/dchris/psych220/>

Technology Expectations

Students need to have access to the Internet and have the ability to stream audio and video files.

General Education Outcomes

During their time at Shoreline Community College, degree recipients are expected to demonstrate measurable learning in the six following areas: Quantitative Reasoning, Communication, Multicultural Understanding, Information Literacy, General Intellectual Abilities, and Global Awareness (for a detailed description of each of these areas, please review the Shoreline Community College Course Catalog which is available at <http://www.shoreline.edu/shoreline/catgenedcore.html>)

Learning Outcomes

The content of this course is intended to support students as they attempt to master the following course outcomes:

- Describe, contrast, and critique different historical and contemporary ways of defining abnormal behavior, including the maladaptive definition utilized by the DSM; outline potential risks associated with labeling people as “abnormal.”
- Compare and contrast the core elements of major psychological perspectives and use these perspectives to conceptualize and explain the causes of psychological problems.
- Define and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various clinical assessment methods.
- Explain the core elements of the DSM multi-axial assessment approach and use these elements to categorize various case history details.
- Specify the core symptoms needed to qualify for significant DSM diagnoses and critically evaluate theories of and treatments for these disorders.

- Discuss areas of significant overlap between the fields of clinical psychopathology and the law, emphasizing concepts such as involuntary commitment, deinstitutionalization, various major insanity defense rules, the Tarasoff ruling, and confidentiality.

Course Description & Overview

This course is designed to provide an overview of the field of abnormal psychology and will focus on the etiology, symptoms, presumed theoretical causes, and treatments of the major psychological disorders. Topics covered include schizophrenia, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, personality disorders, psychosomatic disorders, sexual deviation, and the process of adjustment to stress. Attention is given to biosocial, cognitive, and cultural factors and their role in mental health. The lectures will have correspondence to the readings in the textbook, but I will present additional material designed to deepen your understanding and appreciation of the perspectives covered in the book. Thus, “just reading the book” will not be enough to do well in this course.

Special Note for Students Transferring to the UW in Psychology

The following is presented to help you to make an informed decision about whether to take this course at Shoreline or the UW. The University of Washington has an Abnormal Psychology course (Psychology 305) but our course (Psyc& 220) does not count as the UW’s version of the class. Instead, our course at Shoreline transfers to the UW as Psych 2XX (generic 200-level psychology course). So please note, Shoreline’s version of this course **does** transfer to the UW and **will count** towards generic units needed to meet the UW’s general university graduation requirements. In addition, students transferring to the UW who major in psychology can choose to count Psyc& 220 towards the 4-6 elective units in psychology that is in both the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. The UW requires all psychology majors to take 3 classes from the following list of 7 courses (all courses on this list are offered for 5 units and refer to UW course names and numbers):

One course from the following list (List A)

- 300 Animal Behavior
- 333 Sensory and Perceptual Processes
- 355 Survey of Cognitive Psychology

One course from the following list (List B)

- 303 Personality
- 305 Abnormal Psychology
- 306 Developmental Psychology
- 345 Social Psychology

One additional course from either List A or List B

Thus, if you take abnormal psychology here at Shoreline and don’t wish to repeat it at the UW, then you would have one less course option available for this requirement. At this point in time, if you wanted abnormal psychology to count towards this particular UW psychology requirement, you would have to take it at the UW. If you have additional questions about transferring to the UW in psychology, please feel free to ask me or check out the UW Psychology Department Undergraduate Advising web site: <http://www.psych.uw.edu/psych.php#p=330>.

Grading

Exams & Final (150 points): There will be 3 unit exams and an **optional** cumulative final in this course. Each test is worth 50 points. Your highest 3 test scores will count towards your grade. If you choose to take the optional final, your score on the final will be compared to your lowest regular exam score and the final will only count in calculating your grade if it is better than your lowest regular exam score. If your final score is worse than your lowest regular exam score, then your final score will simply be thrown out. Thus, your score on the final can never hurt your grade.

If you are satisfied with your grade after taking all three exams, you need not take the final. **Exams taken late will be penalized 20% and thus will have a maximum possible score of 80% or 40/50. If you know that you will be unable to take a scheduled exam, please contact me prior to the date of that exam to discuss taking it at a different time. Under certain legitimate circumstances, I may waive the late penalty.**

Assignments (60 points): There are several additional assignments in this class. There is a brief quiz on student's knowledge of the syllabus that is worth 2 points. There are two short (2-3 pages) required papers, worth 30 points total. The first is the Research Paper and it is worth 20 points. It involves finding some academic articles related to a psychological disorder and writing a brief research paper. The second paper is the Movie Paper and it is worth 10 points. It involves watching a popular movie of your choosing that addresses some aspect of abnormal behavior and commenting on how accurately the movie portrayed the abnormal behavior. **All quizzes must be submitted to Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on the days they are due and papers submitted after this time will be penalized 2 points per day late.**

There are also chapter quizzes for each of the 14 textbook chapters we will cover this quarter and these are worth 28 points. Quizzes will be taken in our Blackboard online classroom. Successful completion of each quiz is worth 2 points. **All quizzes must be completed in Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on the days they are due. Late chapter quizzes will not be accepted.**

Discussion Boards (15 points): This course will ask students to participate in three required online discussion board activities. Each of these electronic discussions will involve discussing personal reactions to an article related to abnormal psychology that students read ahead of time. Successful participation in a discussion board activity is worth 5 points. **All discussion board posts must be made in Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on the days they are assigned. Late discussion board posts will not be accepted.**

Optional Assignments (0-15 points): There are also three optional reaction papers. Each reaction paper is worth a maximum of 5 points and will involve an article addressing some aspect of abnormal psychology and these articles will be available on the course web site. **All optional assignments must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on the days they are due. Late optional assignments will not be accepted.** For each article, students are expected to write a short 2-3 page paper that includes the following (Note: these papers are similar to the Research Paper assignment that is required of all students):

1. A brief summary of the article. Write a 1-2 paragraph summary of the article. Don't go into extensive detail. Just write something that indicates to me that you in fact read it.
2. Your personal reaction to what you read. This is an open-ended part of the paper where you can share whatever you like, as long as it related to the topic of the article. Did you agree or disagree with its conclusions? Can you relate the material to the class or your life in any way?

Course Grade and Grading Scale: The final grade you receive for the course will be based on the number of points you earn. In other words, there is no automatic curve grading. Listed below is the grading scale that I will use to assign final course grades. If you achieve a given percentage, then your course grade cannot be any lower than the grade on the scale. I am including the grading scale in this syllabus so that you will know exactly how well you have to do in order to receive a particular final grade.

GRADING SCALE

%	Course Grade	%	Course Grade	%	Course Grade
96%	4.0 (A)	81%	2.8	69%	1.6
94%	3.9	80%	2.7	68%	1.5
92%	3.8	70%	2.6	67%	1.4
90%	3.7	78%	2.5	66%	1.3
89%	3.6	77%	2.4	65%	1.2
88%	3.5	76%	2.3	64%	1.1
87%	3.4	75%	2.2	60%	1.0 (D)
86%	3.3	74%	2.1	Below 60%	0.0 (F)
85%	3.2	73%	2.0 (C)		
84%	3.1	72%	1.9		
83%	3.0 (B)	71%	1.8		
82%	2.9	70%	1.7		

Appeal Procedure: If your answer to an exam question is marked as being incorrect but you feel that it is correct, you may write a justification as to why you feel it is correct based upon the material presented in the textbook or in class. In other words, don't merely state your personal opinion; rather, specifically justify your answer based on course material. Any appeals should be handed in to me within 1 week after the official exam grades are posted. I will review your appeal and if I think it justifies your answer, you will receive credit. If not, I'll explain why.

Incompletes and Make-ups: If you feel that you are unable to complete all the coursework this quarter you must see me in advance so that I can decide whether to assign a grade of Incomplete. As a rule, incompletes must be made up by the end of the following quarter. Because I may not teach this course every quarter, you may have to complete the course with different instructor.

Similarly, if justifiable and uncontrollable circumstances will prevent you from taking an exam at the scheduled time, see me in advance if at all possible so that we can discuss the possibility of a make-up exam. If you are facing circumstances (e.g., personal or family illness or crisis) that you feel will significantly impair your performance, see me ahead of time and then we can discuss what to do about it. If you go ahead and take an exam or quiz, or turn in an assignment, and then tell me after-the-fact that some personal circumstance affected your performance, it will be too late. If you are having difficulty with the course material, please see me as soon as possible. I'm here to help you learn.

Student Responsibilities and Ethics: These remarks aren't meant to offend anyone's sense of honesty, but I believe it's best to discuss ethics up front. It is the official policy of Shoreline Community College that cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and other forms of academic misconduct are grounds for disciplinary action. Cheating is an act of deception by which a student misrepresents that he or she has mastered information on an academic exercise which in fact has not been mastered. Examples of cheating include copying the work of another student during an exam, quiz, or paper, or receiving unauthorized outside assistance. Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's words, ideas, or data as one's own work. Examples of plagiarism include such things as copying sentences from texts or the Internet. Ways to avoid plagiarism are to use quotation marks when including other people's actual words in your papers and to properly acknowledge the source(s) of your information. It is also extremely helpful to use your own words when writing a paper. If cheating or plagiarism occurs, a grade of zero will be given for that piece of work. I will also notify the appropriate administrative official and disciplinary action may follow. Cheating and plagiarism are both serious offenses that can have substantial consequences, including being expelled from school so I strongly encourage you to be aware of and avoid these potential student conduct problems.

(The following paragraph is from the SCC Student Guide, which can be accessed at the following web address: <http://www.shoreline.edu/shorelinepdfs/studentguide.pdf>) College Policy 5030, the Student Code of Conduct and Discipline, outlines general expectations for student behavior and procedures for resolving issues of student conduct and discipline. College Policy 5033, Dishonesty in Academics, describes behavior that is unacceptable in the classroom

and procedures for resolving situations involving academic dishonesty. College Policy 5035, Student Grievance Procedures—Academic Evaluation, provides procedures for resolving disputes that arise between students and faculty members regarding grades. A complete list of student standards of conduct, as well as campus rules and procedures, is printed in the College Policy Manual, which is available in the Ray W. Howard Library/Media Center, the Student Programs Office, the Student Government Office and other administrative offices.

Additional Campus Resources

Some campus resources you may wish to utilize are The Writing & Learning Studio (206 546-4308, Room 1501) and Services for Students with Disabilities Program (206 546-5832, TDD 206 546-4520, FOSS Building, Room 5241, <http://www.shoreline.edu/twls/>). If you are a student with a disability and believe you are entitled to accommodations on exams and homework assignments or to particular services such as note taking, I need a formal letter from the Services for Students with Disabilities office in order to honor your request(s). Students are responsible for contacting this office themselves.

Topics & Reading Assignments

UNIT 1	Topics	Assignments
1/9-2/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction Models of Abnormality Assessment Overview The DSM-IV & Diagnoses Theoretical Perspectives Treatments Overview Anxiety Disorders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Syllabus quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Read Comer Chapter 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Chapter 1 quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Turn in Optional Reaction Paper #1 <input type="checkbox"/> Read Comer Chapter 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Chapter 2 quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Read Comer Chapter 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Chapter 3 quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Read “On Being Sane in Insane Places” article by David Rosenhan <input type="checkbox"/> Create 1st post in “On Being Sane in Insane Places” discussion board <input type="checkbox"/> Read Comer Chapter 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Chapter 4 quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Read Comer Chapter 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Chapter 5 quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Turn in Research Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Complete “On Being Sane in Insane Places” discussion board <input type="checkbox"/> Take Unit 1 Exam
UNIT 2		
2/3-2/27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mood Disorders Schizophrenia Dissociative Disorders Somatoform Disorders Personality Disorders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Turn in Optional Reaction Paper #2 <input type="checkbox"/> Read “Book of Woe” article by Gary Greenberg <input type="checkbox"/> Create 1st post in “Book of Woe” discussion board <input type="checkbox"/> Read Comer Chapter 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Chapter 7 quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Complete “Book of Woe” discussion board <input type="checkbox"/> Read Comer Chapter 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Chapter 12 quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Read Comer Chapter 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Chapter 6 quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Read Comer Chapter 13 <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Chapter 13 quiz <input type="checkbox"/> Take Unit 2 Exam

UNIT 3

2/28-3/22

Childhood Disorders
Eating Disorders
Sexual Disorders
Substance Related Disorders
Psychology & the Law

- Turn in Optional Reaction Paper #3
- Read Comer Chapter 14
- Complete Chapter 14 quiz
- Read “Orchids & Dandelions” article by David Dobbs
- Create 1st post in “Orchids & Dandelions” discussion board
- Read Comer Chapter 9
- Complete Chapter 9 quiz
- Read Comer Chapter 11
- Complete Chapter 11 quiz
- Turn in Movie Paper
- Complete “Orchids & Dandelions” discussion board
- Read Comer Chapter 10
- Complete Chapter 10 quiz
- Read Comer Chapter 16
- Complete Chapter 16 quiz
- Take Unit 3 Exam
- Take Optional Final

Tentative Course Calendar

Please Note: Late exams will be penalized 20%; late required papers will be penalized 2 points per day late; late optional papers, quizzes, and discussion board posts will not be accepted.

Week	Winter 2012	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	January 9-13		Read syllabus	Take syllabus quiz	Read Comer Ch. 1	Take Ch. 1 quiz Turn in Optional Reaction Paper 1
2	January 16- 20	NO CLASS MLK DAY	Read Comer Ch. 2	Take Ch. 2 quiz	Read Comer Ch. 3	Take Ch. 3 quiz
3	January 23-27	Read Rosenhan article & post to discussion board	Read Comer Ch. 4	Take Ch. 4 quiz	Read Comer Ch. 5	Take Ch.5 quiz Turn in Research Paper
4	January 30- February 3	Complete Rosenhan discussion board		Unit 1 Exam	Unit 1 Exam Extra-Credit Session	Turn in Optional Reaction Paper 2
5	February 6-10	Read Book of Woe article and post to discussion board	Read Comer Ch. 7	Take Ch. 7 quiz		
6	February 13-17	Complete Book of Woe discussion board	Read Comer Ch. 12	Take Ch. 12 quiz	Read Comer Ch. 6	Take Ch. 6 quiz
7	February 20-24	NO CLASS PRESIDENT'S DAY	Read Comer Ch. 13	Take Ch. 13 quiz (Last day to drop class with a W)		Unit 2 Exam
8	February 27- March 2	Unit 2 Exam Extra-Credit Session	Turn in optional reaction paper 3		Read Comer Ch. 14	Take Ch. 14 quiz
9	March 5-9	Read Orchid's & Dandelions article & post to dis. board	Read Comer Ch. 9	Take Ch. 9 quiz	Read Comer Ch. 11	Take Ch. 11 quiz Turn in Movie Paper
10	March 12-16	Complete Orchids & Dandelions dis. board	Read Comer Ch. 10	Take Ch. 10 quiz	Read Comer Ch. 16	Take Ch. 16 quiz
11	March 19-23	Unit 3 Exam			Optional Final (9:30)	