

# Anoka-Ramsey Community College

## PSYC 2250: Abnormal Psychology

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites:

This course requires either of these prerequisites

PSYC 1110 - General Psychology (Minimum grade: 2.0 GPA Equivalent)

A score of 3 on test Advanced Placement Psychology

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

(MnTC Goals 5 and 9)

Prerequisites (must have a grade of C or better): PSYC 1110

Abnormal Psychology studies the diagnosis, cause, and treatment of psychological disorders. The course includes discussion of historical foundations, theoretical approaches, and research methodology related to psychopathology, with a focus on biological and psychological foundations. The course also covers important social and ethical issues such as labeling, confidentiality, civil commitment, and clinical decision making.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 06/01/1998 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. HISTORICAL AND THEORETICAL INFLUENCES
  - a. Conceptualization of normality, abnormality, and wellness
  - b. History of attitudes, conceptions, and treatment of psychological disorders
  - c. Contemporary models of abnormal behavior, including biological and psychological foundations
  - d. Scientific methodology in the study of abnormal behavior
  - e. Historical and contemporary practice of diagnosis
2. FORMS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL DISORDERS
  - a. Anxiety, obsessive-compulsive, and trauma- and stressor-related disorders
  - b. Depressive and bipolar disorders
  - c. Schizophrenic spectrum and other psychotic disorders
  - d. Somatic symptom disorders
  - e. Dissociative disorders
  - f. Sexual dysfunctions and paraphilic disorders
  - g. Substance-related and addictive disorders
  - e. Feeding and eating disorders
  - f. Personality disorders
  - g. Neurodevelopmental disorders
  - h. Disruptive, impulse-control and conduct disorders
  - i. Other specific disorders (e.g. neurocognitive, sleep-wake disorders) as time allows
3. ETHICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES
  - a. Professional ethics
  - b. Legal/ethical issues: Confidentiality, commitment, patient rights, competency, insanity
  - c. Social/ethical issues: Labeling, discrimination, mental health policy
  - d. Ethical decision making

## **D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)**

1. Articulate a definition of abnormality that incorporates social, functional, objective, subjective, and ethical factors
2. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the scientific approach in psychopathology
3. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the historical perspective of mental illness and treatment of the mentally ill, including social influences that have led to change
4. Evaluate the ethics and morality of past and present treatment approaches
5. Critically evaluate the major theoretical paradigms for understanding and treating psychological disorders
6. Critically evaluate the practice of diagnosis using standards of reliability, validity, and ethicality
7. Recognize and evaluate important ethical and legal issues in abnormal psychology including criminal commitment, civil commitment, insanity, prediction of dangerousness, patient rights, deinstitutionalization, professional ethics, and ethical dilemmas
8. Describe the diagnostic and statistical features associated with specific psychological disorders
9. Demonstrate an understanding of etiology and treatment for specific psychological disorders as viewed from a variety of theoretical perspectives, including a focus on prevention and wellness
10. Apply knowledge of psychological disorders to case examples using multiple theoretical perspectives and an informed ethical perspective

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 05 - Hist/Soc/Behav Sci

1. Employ the methods and data that historians and social and behavioral scientists use to investigate the human condition.
2. Examine social institutions and processes across a range of historical periods and cultures.
3. Use and critique alternative explanatory systems or theories.
4. Develop and communicate alternative explanations or solutions for contemporary social issues.

### Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp

1. Examine, articulate, and apply their own ethical views.
2. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
3. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
4. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted