

Anoka-Ramsey Community College

PSYC 1135: Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 2

Lecture Hours/Week: 2

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 02 - Critical Thinking, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

(MnTC Goals 2 and 7)

Recommended Skills, Abilities, or Coursework: PSYC 1110 OR PSYC 2235

This course will serve as an introduction to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Content covered will include common characteristics, assessment and diagnoses, theories of causes, and an overview of treatments and interventions. Society's response toward neurodiversity will be examined. Family dynamics related to Autism Spectrum Disorders will also be explored.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 10/29/2015 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. History of Autism Spectrum Disorders
2. Diagnostic criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorders and the range of characteristics and comorbid conditions that may be present
3. Early developmental warning signs and screening and assessment tools used to identify Autism Spectrum Disorders
4. Theories and research related to the etiology of Autism Spectrum Disorders
5. Evidence-based treatments for Autism Spectrum Disorders and evaluation of the efficacy of alternative methodologies
6. Family dynamics related to Autism Spectrum Disorders
7. Neurodiversity

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the history of diagnosing Autism Spectrum Disorders and an overview of how the disorder is diagnosed today
2. Understand the prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders across time and cite potential reasons for perception of an "autism epidemic"
3. Analyze the myths and stereotypes of Autism and the controversy over "neurodiversity vs. disability"
4. Understand the defining features of Autism Spectrum Disorder in the social, communicational, and behavioral domains and other frequently associated characteristics and co-existing neurological and medical conditions
5. Describe the continuum of Autism Spectrum Disorders and diversity within the spectrum, including the range of characteristics, functioning, intellectual abilities, strengths, and unique learning needs that may be present
6. Understand how differences in thinking can facilitate differences in behavior and how behavior is often a function of communication
7. Understand early developmental warning signs of Autism Spectrum Disorders in comparison to "typical" development and the importance of early diagnosis and intervention
8. Understand commonly used screening and assessment tools to identify individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder
9. Evaluate different theories related to potential causes of Autism Spectrum Disorders
10. Understand "evidence-based practice" and apply this to the critical evaluation of different approaches to treating Autism Spectrum Disorders
11. Understand the experience of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in the lives of families throughout the lifespan (including common family dynamics and sibling and caregiver challenges)

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

Goal 02 - Critical Thinking

1. Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2. Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3. Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim; generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4. Recognize and articulate the value assumptions which underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by ourselves and others.

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
3. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
4. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted