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OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays/Thursdays: 2:05 to 4:25PM  
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines the major categories of mental disorders. Diagnostic criteria, treatment methods, cultural factors, public attitudes, community resources, ethical issues and legislation applicable to individuals with mental disorders are studied. The impacts of mental disorders on individuals, families and society are discussed.

COURSE COMPETENCIES provide information regarding the scope, capacity, and content of this course, skills to be developed, and materials by which the student will be evaluated. The course competencies for this course include:

Competency 1: DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY BY:  
   a. defining the term abnormal behavior as used in the  
   b. science of psychology.

Contents of syllabus and course schedule are subject to change under the discretion of the professor.
c. describing the major historical views of abnormal behavior from ancient times to the modern era.

e. contrasting cultural beliefs and attitudes about abnormal behavior.

Competency 2: EXPLAIN THE CLASSIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR BY:

a. explaining the purpose and structure of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

b. describing reliability, validity and sociocultural factors in the assessment of abnormal behavior.

c. contrasting the relative merits of the standard modes of assessing abnormal behavior.

d. explaining the effects of culture and language on the assessment of abnormal behavior.

Competency 3: DEMONSTRATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE PRIMARY, FORMAL CATEGORIES OF ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR BY:

a. listing the major disorders including: generalized anxiety disorders and phobias; panic disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorders, and stress disorders; mood disorders; psychosocial factors in physical disorders; eating disorders; substance related disorders; sexual disorders and gender identity disorder; schizophrenia; disorders of memory and other cognitive functions; personality disorders; and disorders of childhood and old age.

b. describing the defining characteristics of each listed disorder.

Competency 4: REVIEW THE THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES TO THE ORIGINS OF THE MAJOR CATEGORIES OF ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR BASED ON CURRENT RESEARCH BY:

a. explaining the psychodynamic perspective.

b. explaining learning perspectives.

c. explaining cognitive perspectives.

d. explaining biological perspectives.

e. explaining sociocultural perspectives.

Competency 5: INVESTIGATE PRIMARY MODES OF TREATING ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR BY:

a. listing the common modalities used in treatment.

b. describing the central premise behind each mode of treatment.

c. contrasting the relative merits of the various treatment approaches.

Competency 6: EXAMINE ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR IN A SOCIAL CONTEXT BY:

a. discussing behavior that might constitute a danger to others.

b. contrasting the rights of an individual and the protection of society.

c. exploring an individual's right to treatment as well as a right to refuse treatment.

d. describing the Baker Act, the Meyer’s Act and the concept of deinstitutionalization.

e. explaining the issues relating to the insanity defense.

f. describing the impact of mental disorders on individuals, family and society.
Competency 7: BE ABLE TO APPLY KNOWLEDGE OF ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY BY:

a. relating course content to personal and family experience.
b. demonstrating an understanding of the role the caregiver.
c. relating the course content to the workplace and employee assistance programs.
d. relevant current events from the perspective of abnormal psychology.
e. examining relevant historical events and historical figures from the perspective of abnormal psychology.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Six Examinations
   a. Covering the text’s chapters, class discussions and lectures.
   b. Tests will be administered in a multiple choice, short answer, and essay format.
   c. Each exam will account for **12.5% of your final grade (total=75%).**
      - Exam 1: Chapters 1-4
      - Exam 2: Chapters 5-7
      - Exam 3: Chapters 8-10
      - Exam 4: Chapters 11-13
      - Exam 5: Chapters 14 & 15
      - Exam 6: Chapters 16-18

2. Participation/Diagnostics
   credit will be given based on student’s professionalism, participation in class discussion, attendance, and preparedness for class regarding reading assignments when the student is selected.

   a. As a part of your grade you will be asked on several occasions to use the
      information you have learned in class and apply to situations provided by Dr.
      Davis-Brantley. In this course you will become familiar with components of the
      criteria Clinical Psychologists use to diagnose the clients/patients.

   b. Participation credit is earned through completion of a variety of task which
      include but are not limited to
      i. Participation in class discussion
      ii. Contribution to online discussions/postings
      iii. Reaction/Reflection/Position writings
      iv. In-class assignments
   c. Participation will count for **25% of your final grade.**

COURSE GRADING SCALE

Contents of syllabus and course schedule are subject to change under the discretion of the professor.
ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT  MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE, NORTH CAMPUS

A: 90-100%  B: 80-89%  C: 70-79%  D: 60-69  F: 59% and below

COURSE SCHEDULE
*Please locate your course calendar in the ANGEL Learning System. All details regarding course schedule will be located in this calendar. Please check the calendar for updates periodically. *Calendar contents are subject to change.

GRADING GUIDELINES

- Any class session missed reduces the opportunity for learning and will possibly be reflected in your grade. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class and students who enter the class after attendance is taken or five minutes after class begins will be penalized.
- Tardiness will not be accepted. Two late arrivals to class will result in an unexcused absence.
- Three absences will result in your final grade being lowered by one letter grade.
- Consecutive absences will result in your being dropped from the class.
- You may be informed of your academic progress at any time during this semester by contacting the professor.
- Extra credit assignments may be available at the professor’s discretion. For the most part, your final grade will be based on the above stated requirements.
- Assignments are due on time and assignments turned in after assignment due date will not be accepted.
- There will not be an opportunity to make-up missed tests.

NON PENALIZED ABSENCES

There shall be no penalty for a student who is absent from academic activities because of religious holy day observances in his/her faith, the student’s serious illness, death in the immediate family (death in the immediate family is interpreted to mean mother, father, spouse, child, sibling, grandchildren, and grandparents), or attendance to statutory governmental responsibilities. The student shall notify the professor in advance of such absences when practical under the circumstances. If a non-penalized absence occurs the first day of class, the student shall notify the instructor of the reason for his/her absence at the next class meeting. The student will present documentation for non-penalized absences. The student will be responsible for the material covered in his/her absence and shall be granted reasonable amount of time to make up any work or test missed for non-penalized absences.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Contents of syllabus and course schedule are subject to change under the discretion of the professor. 4
Appropriate classroom behavior and professionalism is expected and required during class. This means that there are to be no personal/private conversations, sharpening of pencils when class has started, sleeping during class, and cell phones will be turned off. These interruptions are disrespectful and disruptive to the learning environment and will not be tolerated. Any use of cell phones, web surfing, text messaging, etc. will not be tolerated. Engaging in this inappropriate behavior will result in severe deductions in your final grade in that 5 points will be deducted from your final grade due to each violation of expected etiquette.

INTERNET AND WEB PROTOCOL

- The internet is a very important tool in this course. The web page provided [http://faculty.mdc.edu/mdavisbr](http://faculty.mdc.edu/mdavisbr) and the ANGEL LMS will include a wealth of valuable information regarding class announcements, upcoming events, assignments and your course notes. Please use the provided tools and information provided on this page on your class webpage.

- You may email me with course related information and questions and can expect a response within 12-48 hours on weekdays and 72 hours on weekends.

- TURNITIN.COM will be used to submit all written work in this course. You will need to log in and create an account so that I may access your submitted work. Instructions for this will be provided throughout the course.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND RESPONSIBILITY

Miami Dade College expects its students to be honest in all of their course work and activities. Breaches of academic honesty include cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation, bribery, and the unauthorized possession of examinations, papers or other class materials that have not been formally released by the instructor. A student’s academic work must be the result of his or her own thought, research, or self-expression.

Breaches of Miami Dade College’s policy may result in academic penalties and/or disciplinary action. At the discretion of the instructor academic penalties may include, but are not limited to, a failing grade for the particular assignment or grade for the course. In addition the instructor, or another MDC employee may refer a student to the Dean of Student Affairs for student disciplinary action accordance with the Miami Dade College Handbook. Such disciplinary action may include suspension or expulsion from the college.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES

As graduates of Miami Dade College, students will be able to:

1. Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills.
2. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data.
3. Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning.
4. Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures, including global and historical perspectives.
6. Create strategies that can be used to fulfill personal, civic, and social responsibilities.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of ethical thinking and its application to issues in society.
8. Use computer and emerging technologies effectively.
9. Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities.
10. Describe how natural systems function and recognize the impact of humans on the environment.

*Please note that not all of the above General Education Outcomes will be addressed in this course*