

COURSE SYLLABUS**PSYCHOLOGY 219 –Abnormal Psychology**

Winter 2013

MW 2:00 – 3:20 P.M. NSH208

Instructor Gregory Jones, Ph.D.
Office: SSH 205
Phone: (541) 917-4549
E-Mail: jonesg@linnbenton.edu
Office Hours: MW 1:00 – 1:50 P.M.
 TTR 10:00 – 10:50 A.M.

Required Materials

- Comer, R.J., 2011. Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology. 6th ed. Worth Publishers, NY.

Prerequisites

There are no required prerequisites for this course. However, this course will require college-level reading, and writing skills. Student placement at or above the following courses is *strongly recommended* for success in this course:

- Reading 115
- Writing 121
- *Introductory Psychology 203*

Course Description

Abnormal Psychology is an introduction to the study of psychological disorders including both assessment and treatment approaches. Topics include models of abnormality; assessment, diagnosis, and treatment; overview of the major disorders; and implications of the disorders for laws and society.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should be able to meet the following outcomes:

- Critically analyze the relationships between humans and the natural world
- Recognize and articulate the interplay between social and/or natural forces and individuals
- Use analytical and scientific thinking to draw reasonable conclusions
- Synthesize diverse perspectives and express them in a coherent and applicable manner

Grading: *Grades do not reflect intelligence. They reflect how intelligently you studied.*

1. Exam	=	25 pts
2. Quizzes -10 pts each (5 minus 1) and Clinical Rounds – 4 pts each	=	56 pts
3. Short Answer Essay (2) 9 pts each	=	18 pts
4. Forensic Issues	=	20 pts
5. Final	=	<u>50 pts</u>
	Total	169 pts

A	=	152+ pts
B	=	135+ pts
C	=	115+ pts
D	=	100+ pts

Requirements: *Learning is a voluntary act.*

This is an active learning course. Students will demonstrate both a mastery of the material in the text, as well as the application of that material in classroom discussion and group projects. Students are expected to come to class having read the assigned pages for that day and prepared to discuss the issues.

Exam: 25 multiple choice questions covering Chapters 1 - 3

Quizzes: There will be 5 multiple-choice quizzes, worth 10 points each, given at the conclusion of each chapter of the book. Students will have 8 minutes to complete the quiz without the benefit of any notes or study aids.

Clinical Rounds: At the conclusion of each diagnostic chapter, students will be presented a case example. They will have two minutes to confer with each other and to ask pertinent questions about the case. Then, working independently, they will have two minutes to complete the “clinical rounds” sheet. Each sheet is worth a maximum of 4 points. The lowest score of the combined quizzes and clinical rounds will be dropped.

Social Issues: Short Answer Essay: Students will complete 2 short answer essays, worth 9 points each, on social issues. See “Social Issues” in syllabus. Answers require reading both assigned text and supplemental resources.

Forensic Issues:

Research paper: Students will select one of five alleged criminals for researching the insanity defense. They will prepare a 3-5 page paper that answers the questions posed in the Addendum. Papers will be judged for quality of research (4 pts), argument (6 pts), recommendation (6 pts), and writing (4 pts).

Final: Cumulative, 50 questions, multiple choice.

Class Policies: *IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, read this first. It will save you and the instructor time and frustration.*

Late Assignments: A premium is placed on completing assignments on time. Assignments are due at the beginning of class. Late assignments are penalized 20% per class period regardless of validity of excuse. Assignments more than one week late will not be accepted.

*****The exam may be made up if missed. See the instructor immediately.*****

*****There are no make-up Quizzes. A missed Quiz counts as your lowest score and will be dropped.*****

***** The final may not be dropped.*****

Attendance is mandatory the first week. After that it is strongly encouraged, but ultimately is the student's responsibility. As a rule of thumb, students who miss more than three classes should consider withdrawing and taking the course at a more convenient time. Instructor's lecture notes are not available to students who miss class.

Courtesy and Classroom Decorum: Please be mindful everyone is here to learn. Remember to turn off your cell phones, arrive on time for class, and avoid anything disruptive to the class. Differences of opinion are encouraged in class as long as they are presented in a constructive and courteous way.

Email/Written Requests: Messages are checked during business hours. Include your full name, course number, section number (MWF or TTH), and date. Phone messages are unreliable. Speak clearly, slowly, and repeat vital information. I acknowledge all messages that are received - usually within 1 business day. If you haven't heard from me, it means I didn't get it.

Returned Work: Most student work, submitted on time, is returned the following class period (except papers of 300 words or more.) Any work not collected when it is returned is filed in my office. Students must come to my office to collect it. Work submitted out of sequence is returned as my schedule permits.

Posting Grades: Grades will be posted every three weeks at the instructor's webpage grade book. Students must enter their name in the grade book prior to the posting to receive their grade-points. This is an option for students who wish to know their grades before coming to class.

Know Your Syllabus: Questions requesting clarification of information in the syllabus are welcomed. Questions referring to information covered in the syllabus will be referred back to the syllabus.

College Policies

Cheating/Plagiarism: Using someone else's work (i.e., outline, class projects, etc.) or using information not authorized by the instructor on exams can lead to failing the assignment, test, and/or class.

Diversity: The LBCC community is enriched by diversity. Everyone has the right to think, learn and work together in an environment of respect, tolerance, and goodwill. We will work toward creating a community without prejudice, intimidation, or discrimination. (Board Policy #1015)

Students with Disabilities: You should meet with your instructor during the first week of class if:

- You have a documented disability and need accommodations,
- Your instructor needs to know medical information about you, or
- You need special arrangements in the event of an emergency.

If you have not accessed services and think you may need them, please contact Disability Services, 917-4789. If you have documented your disability, remember that you must complete a Request for Accommodations form every term in order to receive accommodations.

Waitlist Policy: If our class is full, registered student not attending class during the first day of the term will be withdrawn, and waitlisted students who are attending class will be admitted to the class on a space available basis.

Incomplete Grades: You may be eligible for an 'Incomplete' grade if you have finished 75% of the class work. If you have an 'Incomplete,' all coursework must be finished by the end of the next term. **You must contact me before the end of the term to receive an Incomplete.**

Social Issues: Short Answer Essay #1

Commitment

1. Is any mental illness sufficient for commitment? Describe the specific conditions necessary for commitment.
2. What is the procedure for commitment? Why is the court involved?
3. What is a “hold order” (a.k.a. temporary hold)? Who implements this?
4. What is the right to treatment and why is it important? What is the right to refuse treatment and why is it controversial?
5. How dangerous are the mentally ill and how accurate are psychologists at predicting dangerousness?
6. What is the duty to warn? What makes it controversial?

Deinstitutionalization

7. What is meant by the policy of deinstitutionalization? What are its goals and why?

8. How effective is deinstitutionalization at present? What are its short-comings and what would you do to remedy it?

9. What is the policy of “housing first” and how does it differ from transitional living?

Social Issues: Short Answer Essay #2

Forensics

1. What is the concept of competency to stand trial and what criterion are generally applied to its determination?
2. What is the concept of NGRI and what criterion are generally applied to its determination? Does any mental disorder qualify? What does Dr. Jones think is crucial to a successful NGRI defense?
3. How does NGRI differ from GBMI and what have been the effects of utilizing GBMI? What are the effects of abolishing NGRI altogether?
4. What is Megan's Law?
5. What did the Supreme Court find in its 1997 Kansas v. Hendricks ruling?

Health Care Reform

6. What is meant by the phrase “managed health care”? Describe the controversy over present-day managed health care (i.e. what’s wrong with it?)

7. How has managed health care impacted the delivery of mental health services?

8. What is novel about Massachusetts’ new health care policy? What is meant by the term “mandated”.

9. List 3 ways President Obama’s health care plan proposes to remedy the health care crisis.

Forensic Issues: Research Paper *Mad versus Bad*

1. Choose **one** of the following five subjects:

Andrea Yates, Jeffrey Dahmer, John Hinckley, Seung-Hui Cho, Lee Malvo

2. Familiarize yourself with their backgrounds by reading Wikipedia, then research specifics of their case by reading at least two other credible sources.

3. Assume you are the expert witness (psychologist) called to assist the court. Answer the following three questions in the body of your paper:

1) What diagnosis would you assign your subject? Based on what specific symptoms, including examples of behavior?

2) Do your findings support an insanity plea (NGRI) or do you find the subject sane? Do not use GBMI.

Based on the facts you've collected, marshal an argument that supports your position, including a critical examination of any findings that might contradict your position.

3) What specific recommendations would you make to the court regarding the subject's ongoing need for treatment and/or confinement? Note, most subjects will need elements of both treatment and confinement but the dimensions and goals will vary depending on the environment you're recommending.

Tips:

- The court is already aware of the general background of your subject so use only the background information that is pertinent to your case.

- Provide a bibliography and cite references in the text of your paper.

- Be sure to use the Writing Desk in the Learning Center if your writing skills need polishing.

Papers should be 3-5 pages, typed and double-spaced.

COURSE SCHEDULE:**PSYCHOLOGY 219 – Abnormal Psychology**
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MW: 2:00 - 3:20 P.M. NSH 208

Jan	7	Introduction & Chapter 1	1-18	
	9	Chapter 2	31-50	
	14	Chapter 2/3	50-81	
	16	Chapter 3	81-93	Exam
	21	No Class		
	23	Chapter 4	95-121	
	28	Chapter 4/5	121-129; 136-148	Quiz 1
	30	Chapter 7	193-218	
Feb	4	Chapter 7/8	218-236	Quiz 2
	6	Chapter 6	163-181	
	11	Chapter 6	181-191	Quiz 3
	13	Chapter 12	357-373	
	18	No Class		
	20	Chapter 12	373-390	Quiz 4
	25	Chapter 13	393-416	
	27	Chapter 13	416-425	Quiz 5
March	4	Chapter 10/11	285-287; 305-317; 339-353	
	6	Chapter 16	491-516	SAE 1
	11			SAE 2
	13			Forensic Paper

Final Exam: Monday, March 18th, 3:00-4:50 PM

Name: _____

Date: _____

Clinical Rounds

Symptoms:

Dx (Diagnosis):

Axis I

II

III

IV

V

Rx (Treatment):