

PSYC 5 Course Outline as of Summer 2025**CATALOG INFORMATION**

Dept and Nbr: PSYC 5 Title: ABNORMAL PSYCH

Full Title: Abnormal Psychology

Last Reviewed: 12/9/2019

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	4	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade Only

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly: PSYCH 5

Catalog Description:

This course examines the biological, psychological, and social science of abnormal psychology. Major areas of examination will include theoretical orientations, important psychotherapeutic methods, current issues in abnormal psychology and selected disorders such as depression, schizophrenia, and psychosomatic disorders.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:**Recommended Preparation:**

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:**Schedule of Classes Information:**

Description: This course examines the biological, psychological, and social science of abnormal psychology. Major areas of examination will include theoretical orientations, important psychotherapeutic methods, current issues in abnormal psychology and selected disorders such as depression, schizophrenia, and psychosomatic disorders. (Grade Only)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	D	Social and Behavioral Sciences	Fall 1993	
CSU GE:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	D	Social Science	Fall 1994	
	D9	Psychology		
IGETC:	Transfer Area		Effective:	Inactive:
	4	Social and Behavioral Science	Fall 1995	
	4I	Psychology		
CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1993	Inactive:
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1993	Inactive:

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Both Certificate and Major Applicable

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Assess and diagnose a psychological profile with a major psychological disorder.
2. Describe the symptoms of major psychological disorders and suggest the most effective treatment currently used.

Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss criteria used to define abnormal behavior, and various methods used to study abnormal behavior, including the naturalistic, observation method, the correlation method, the experimental method, kinship studies, the epidemiological method, and the case-study methods.
2. Distinguish among the following contemporary perspectives on abnormal behavioral: biological, psychodynamic, learning based, humanistic, cognitive, and sociocultural.
3. Describe approaches used by investigators to demonstrate the reliability and validity of classification and methods of assessment.
4. Summarize the findings of research into the effectiveness of psychotherapy in general and specific therapeutic approaches in particular.
5. Explain the significance of stress factors in health and illness, and discuss some of the psychological factors that moderate stress.

6. Define and describe generalized anxiety disorder, and be able to identify various treatment approaches.
7. Describe the major features of the dissociative and somatoform disorders and recount various theoretical perspectives for both.
8. Distinguish between normal and abnormally depressed moods, define the term "mood disorder" and discuss the incidence of suicide and theoretical perspectives on its causes.
9. Compare and contrast the three research clusters of personality disorders: paranoid, schizoid, and schizotypal personality disorder.
10. Differentiate between psychological and physiological dependence and describe the physical and psychological effects of depressants, stimulants, and hallucinogens.
11. Describe the diagnostic features of anorexia, bulimia, obesity, and sleep disorders; and discuss the prevalence and treatment for each.
12. Describe sociocultural factors involved in classifying sexual behaviors as normal or abnormal.
13. Discuss theoretical perspectives and schizophrenia, including the psychodynamic learning, biological, and family theories in the development of schizophrenia.
14. Identify ways of determining what is "normal" and what is "abnormal" in childhood and adolescent development.
15. Discuss developmental types, theoretical perspectives, and interventions for learning disorders.
16. Discuss the basic features of dementia and the relationship between dementia and normal aging.
17. Differentiate among biological, social-cognitive, and socioculture perspectives in explaining human aggression.
18. Outline the legal procedures for psychiatric commitment and the safeguards to prevent abuse of psychiatric commitment.

Topics and Scope:

- I. Introduction and Research Methods
- II. Contemporary Perspectives on Abnormal Behavior
- III. Classification and Assessment of Abnormal Behavior
- IV. Methods of Treatment
- V. Stress, Psychological Factors and Health
- VI. Anxiety Disorders
- VII. Dissociate and Somatoform Disorders
- VIII. Mood Disorders and Suicide
- IX. Personality Disorders
- X. Substance Abuse and Dependence
- XI. Eating Disorders, Obesity, and Sleep Disorders
- XII. Gender Identity Disorder, Paraphilia, and Sexual Dysfunctions
- XIII. Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders
- XIV. Abnormal Behavior
 - A. Childhood
 - B. Adolescence
- XV. Cognitive Disorders and Disorders Relating to Aging
- XVI. Violence and Abuse
- XVII. Abnormal Psychology and Society

Assignment:

1. Read approximately 35 pages per week
2. Writing assignment that may include research, experiential, response, or project for a minimum of 1,250 words
3. Quizzes, exams, and a final
4. Oral presentation and/or group project may be assigned

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Research, experiential, response, or project paper

Writing
30 - 60%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving
0 - 0%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations
0 - 0%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Quizzes, Exams, and a Final

Exams
40 - 60%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Oral presentation and/or group project

Other Category
0 - 10%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology. 9th ed. Comer, Ronald. Macmillan Learning. 2019

Sue, David, Sue, Derald, Sue, Diane, Sue, Stanley. Essentials of Understanding Abnormal Behavior. Sue, David and Sue, Derald and Sue, Diane and Sue, Stanley. Cengage. 2017

Abnormal Psychology. 2nd ed. Ray, William. Sage. 2018