



UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK IN TIRANA
Course Syllabus

Course: Abnormal Psychology

Instructor: Neli Demi

Office Hours: Friday 17:00 – 20:00,

Phone: 0692088460

**E-mail: ndemi@unyt.edu.al
nelidemi@yahoo.com**

Catalog Description

This course will help students differentiate “normal” from “abnormal” behavior and understand how these concepts relate to mental disorders, developmental disorders and psychopathology. Psychological disorders will be discussed in terms of their etiology, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment.

Course Purpose

This course enables the student to learn about the history of influences of the theories, research, clinical management and the social implication of abnormal behavior. The student is led into the rough problematic of mental illness and abnormal behavior and its management. This course will aim to fuse theoretical and practical concerns trying to give a picture of the difficulties, problems and challenges in working with individuals suffering from abnormal behavior and mental illness.

Required Readings, Text

Sue, D., Sue, D., & Sue, S. (2003) 7th edition.

“Understanding Abnormal Behavior”. MA: Houghton Mifflin Company

Required Additional Materials

During the classes, students will be assigned certain tasks and newspapers and magazines which they will be required to follow on a daily basis. Therefore, internet access is *essential*.

Teaching methods

Lectures, readings, case studies, video presentations and other active learning methods will be used. It is expected that students **complete the assigned readings before they come to class** in order to participate in class discussions which are crucial for this course. **Class lectures may not necessarily repeat information from the course textbook. It is student’s responsibility to read the assigned material and ask clarification questions in class.**

Course Objectives

This course will emphasize the molar aspects of abnormal behavior and its problematic for users, society and especially professionals. Particular emphasis will be placed on those aspects of theories of abnormality, diagnoses and different types of intervention in working with severe mentally ill people.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the definitions of “abnormal behavior”; Differentiate between “normal” and “abnormal” behaviors.
2. Recognize that “abnormal behavior” is part of everyday life.
3. Understand and discuss basic approaches to assessing, classifying and treating abnormal behavior.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of specific psychopathologies discussed in this course.

Course content & outline

No.	Chapter	Reading Assignment	Date
1	Chapter 1	Course Introduction, "What is abnormality?"	26/10/2007
2	Chapter 2	Models of Abnormal Behavior	02/11/2007
3	Chapter 3	Assessing and Classification	09/11/2007
4	Chapter 5	Anxiety Disorders	16/11/2007
5	Chapter 11	Mood Disorders + midterm exam	23/11/2007
6	Chapter 11, 12	Mood Disorders / Suicide	30/11/2007
7	Chapter 8	Personality Disorders	07/12/2007
8	Chapter 13	Schizophrenia	14/12/2007
9	Chapter 6	Dissociative & Somatoform +film analysis due	21/12/2007
10	Chapter 10	Sexual, Gender Identity Disorders	11/01/2008
11	Chapter 15, 16	Children Disorders & Eating Disorders	18/01/2008
12	Chapter 9	Substance-Related Disorders + essay due	25/01/2008
13	Chapter 17	Psychotherapeutic Interventions	Spread through the course
14		Final Exam	01/02/2008

Course Requirements

Participation:

"Participation extends beyond mere attendance".

Classes will be structured in such a way that each student will have the possibility to express the knowledge gained. Each class will last 3 hours :

1. 20 minutes testing last class knowledge
2. 10 minutes review last class theory
3. 30 minutes group exercises and/or discussions
4. 90 minutes new lesson

In this way the instructor will be able to keep track contribution of students to class discussion.

Students will NOT be allowed into the classroom after the class has started. They SHOULD enter the classroom only after the break. If they will not be able to join after the first break, students will be registered as "Absent" the whole duration of the lecture"

PDA's, electronic dictionaries and other electronic assistance devices other than those required by the disabled are NOT permitted during the exams.

Note: Students are expected to attend all classes. If there are serious reasons for a student to miss a class, he/she is expected to notify the instructor in advance. The limit of hourly

absences per semester is 9, if you exceed this number there is ground for failing the class (F). Remember that absences reduce your class participation and attendance grade!

Essay submission

You are going to submit a paper that reviews and critically analyzes current research within a specialized domain of abnormality of human behaviour or abnormal psychology. Your work should be integrative (drawing conclusions across research domains and studies) and critical (evaluating what is good and bad about the research and theories involved).

The paper should:

- define and clarify the problem or question of interest
- summarize the methods and significant findings as well as any shortcomings or limitations of the studies integrate the findings by contrasting the results, identifying relations and / or describing what insight or additional information is provided by studies
- identify relations, breakthroughs, contradictions and loopholes in the literature in order to integrate the material

The paper itself should include

- The outline (abstract) summarizing research in 200 words or less
- The text with logical subheadings
- A complete reference section (A minimum of 5 references from recent professional journals or books is required)

Appr. No. of words: 1500-1800

Paper format: Typed and double spaced Paper. APA

Deadline: see Course Outline & Calendar

Attention: Any work included in the text other than your own, **MUST** be cited. Plagiarism is **UNEXCEPTABLE**

Film (character) Analysis

Students will be watching a movie (instructor choice) and answer a list of questions regarding one character. A list of questions you will answer will be distributed in class. Papers should be typed (12, times new roman), double spaced and follow the procedures and format of APA writing. At least 4 references are required to support and/or discuss your view points regarding the character's symptoms. Film analyses is due to be submitted on **December 21, 2007**. (5 pages)

Exams

Two examinations will be taken, one **midterm exam** during week seven of the course covering the class 1-5, and a **final exam** covering the classes 6-13. Test format may combine a mixture of short answer, true/false, matching, sort answer.

Note: *In the event of illness or emergency, contact your instructor IN ADVANCE to determine whether special arrangements are possible. The University's rules on academic dishonesty (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the STUDENT HONOUR CODE, or ask your instructor for clarification.*

Criteria for Determination of Grade, including Evaluation Methods

Midterm Exam	25%
Final exam	30%
Essay	25%
Class participation & attendance	20%

The grading scale listed below is the official UNYT grading scale for all courses taught at UNYT

Letter Grade	Percent (%)	Generally Accepted Meaning
A	96-100	Outstanding work
A-	90-95	
B+	87-89	Good work, distinctly above average
B	83-86	
B-	80-82	
C+	77-79	Acceptable work
C	73-76	
C-	70-72	
D+	67-69	Work that is significantly below average
D	63-66	
D-	60-62	
F	0-59	Work that does not meet minimum standards for passing the course

26th October 2007

Instructor Abnormal Psychology: Neli Demi, M.D.