

PSYC 201

Abnormal Psychology

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County Common Course Outline

Description

PSYC 201 – Abnormal Psychology: examines the causes, diagnosis, assessment, symptoms, treatment, and prevention of mental disorders. Topics include historical and current theoretical perspectives, classification systems, cultural perspectives, and legal/ethical issues.

Pre-requisites: PSYC 101

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. describe in written, oral, or signed formats the fundamental theoretical perspectives, principles, concepts, vocabulary, and relevant research methodologies for each of the major topics listed below;
2. compare and contrast the major theoretical perspectives in abnormal psychology;
3. articulate the biopsychosocial nature of psychopathology;
4. evaluate commonly held attitudes of stereotypes and stigma that have a negative impact on individuals living with mental disorders;
5. describe ways in which they can be informed consumers of behavioral health services should the need arise for themselves or loved ones;
6. critically analyze information pertaining to abnormal psychology found in film, television, radio, print, and information technology resources;
7. explain the ethical considerations that govern psychological research with humans and animals;
8. evaluate research pertaining to psychology topics;
9. discuss cultural issues related to our understanding of "normality" and "abnormality";
10. explain the purpose and diagnostic system of the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM);
11. examine treatment approaches to the various diagnostic categories in the DSM; and
12. distinguish between serious scientific research in abnormal psychology and pseudoscientific claims in popular culture.

Major Topics

- I. Abnormal psychology past and present
- II. Research methods
- III. Models of abnormality

- IV. The role of diversity in assessment, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment in abnormal psychology
- V. Clinical assessment, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of major classifications of mental disorders, including but not limited to:
 - A. Anxiety, obsessive-compulsive, and related disorders
 - B. Disorders of trauma and stress
 - C. Disorders of mood
 - D. Suicide
 - E. Disorders featuring somatic symptoms
 - F. Dissociative disorders
 - G. Eating disorders
 - H. Substance use and addictive disorders
 - I. Disorders of sexuality and gender
 - J. Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders
 - K. Personality disorders
 - L. Disorders of childhood and adolescence
 - M. Disorders of aging and cognition
- VI. Law, society, and the mental health profession
- VII. Information literacy in abnormal psychology

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- A. Two assessments
- B. A research assignment integrating information technology and information literacy
- C. Two written assignments which may include the analysis of case studies

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

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