



PSY 212 – Abnormal Psychology
Social & Behavioral Sciences Department

Semester: Summer 2009

Catalog Course Description: This course is a study of the nature and development of behavioral disorders, including the investigation of contemporary treatment procedures. In depth review of the etiology, diagnosis and treatment of psychological disorders; the psychological, biological and sociocultural perspective on these disorders; and the efficacy of various treatment approaches is included.

Prerequisite(s): PSY 201 with a “C” or better; ENG 100 or ESL 110

Credit Hours: 3

Departmental Website: <http://www.midlandstech.edu/sbs/>

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Departmental Assistant: Jayne Harris (822-3292)

Department Chair: Cindy Roof (todd_roof@midlandstech.edu)

Class Schedule: Section A01, Tuesday, Thursday 10:05am-12:00pm, Congaree Hall, Rm. 111

Office Hours: M/W 12:05-1:05pm; T/TH 8:00-10:00am

Textbook(s): [Abnormal Psychology](#) by Ronald J. Comer (Worth, 6th edition, 2007); Student Workbook is also required.

General Education Core Competency Statement: This course is designed to meet the college’s general education core competency for Individual or Social Behavior, which states: “Graduates should understand factors which influence behavior. They should recognize the complex and dynamic nature of human actions and experiences.”

This course also meets the college’s general education core competency for Scientific Reasoning: “Graduates should understand and be able to use scientific methodology and principles.”

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Explain why some behavior patterns are classified as “abnormal.”
2. Contrast contemporary theoretical perspectives on, and their approaches to the treatment of abnormal behavior.
3. Contrast the various research strategies for scientifically evaluating abnormal behavior.
4. Define the concept of diagnosis and discuss the merits and potential drawbacks of [DSM-IV](#).
5. Describe the clinical assessment strategies and their rationales.
6. Cite specific examples of Anxiety Disorders, Eating Disorders, Substance-Related Disorders and Dissociative Disorders, noting appropriate therapeutic interventions for each.

7. Identify the major symptoms of the various Mood Disorders and the Schizophrenias, noting appropriate therapeutic interventions for each.
8. Discuss the recent impact of therapeutic drugs on both our understanding and treatment of Anxiety Disorders, Mood Disorders, and the Schizophrenias.
9. Describe the role of psychosocial factors in physical disease.
10. Identify the general features of the three categories of Personality Disorders.

Course Outcomes and Competencies:

Intended Course Outcome: Students will understand the major features of the psychological disorders as defined by the DSM-IV TR.

Course Competency: Students will demonstrate knowledge of and the ability to distinguish between the key diagnostic criteria for the psychological disorders listed in the DSM-IV TR, including anxiety disorders, mood disorders, psychotic disorders, eating disorders, substance related disorders, dissociative disorders, somatoform disorders and personality disorders.

Performance Measurement Instrument: An assessment instrument requiring students to differentiate between key symptoms of a comprehensive sampling of psychological disorders from the categories described in the course competency will be administered.

Course Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes and are responsible for all class work, lectures, and assignments whether they are present or not.

All students are required to attend a minimum of 85% of their regularly scheduled classes. The maximum number of allowable absences for a class meeting two days per week over the summer semester is three (3). Absences are counted from the first day of class. All absences are counted. There is **NO** such thing as excused absence. All students are expected to attend class on time and to remain present for the scheduled class time. Any student arriving late for class, or leaving before the end of class will be counted as tardy. During the spring session, the maximum number of allowable tardies for a class that meets two times per week is three (3). When the allowable number of tardies is exceeded all future tardies will be counted as absences.

Withdrawal: Should the maximum allowable absences be exceeded prior to midterm, a "W" will be submitted to the registrar to be recorded on the student's transcript. Should the maximum allowable absences be exceeded after midterm, a "W" will be submitted to the registrar if the student was passing the course at the time of withdrawal OR a "WF" will be submitted if the student was failing the course at the time of withdrawal.

Course Requirements:

Exams: There will be a total of six "non-cumulative" unit tests consisting of objective multiple choice questions. There will also be a cumulative final exam. No test grades will be dropped. Each test is worth 100 points, for a total of 700 points. Students are required to be present for all scheduled examinations. No student has a right to a makeup test. Makeup tests will be provided only in those exceptional cases where the student is able to provide clear, convincing and documented evidence of a severe illness or emergency. The burden of proof rests with the student requesting the makeup test, and the final decision is within the instructor's discretion.

Workbook Assignments: Every student is required to complete assigned sections of the student workbook. Chapters due are listed in the class schedule and closely follow the textbook reading assignments. It is strongly recommended that students read the assigned text first, then immediately complete the workbook assignment. This method will maximize the integration and learning of the material. Workbook assignments are due in class on the day indicated. All assignment pages should be removed from the workbook and turned in using a folder. The workbook assignments for each unit will be worth 50 points, for a combined total of 300 points for all six units. Any late workbook assignments will have 10 points deducted. Any incomplete assignments will receive only half credit (25 points).

Research Summary: Every student is required to complete one research summary during the semester. This

paper will provide a thorough summary and review of research in abnormal psychology reported in a professional journal. Research and writing guidelines are on the class website. The research summary will not be accepted if turned in by email. All summaries are to be written following the APA style guidelines. Papers must be also be stapled. The research summary is worth 100 points, and is due as indicated on the class schedule. Any research summary turned in after class on the due date will have 20 points deducted.

Course Grading:	Six Unit Exams	600 points
	Student Workbook	300 points
	Research Summary	100 points
	<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100 points</u>
	Total:	1,100 points

Grading Scale:	990-1100 points (90-100%)	A	Superior Work
	880-989 points (80-89%)	B	Good Work
	770-879 points (70-79%)	C	Average Work
	660-669 points (60-69%)	D	Below Average Work
	0-659 points (Below 60%)	F	Unsatisfactory Work

Classroom Rules/Other: Abnormal Psychology focuses on topics designed to help us understand our own experience, as well as that of others. Because the nature of the course is to deal with matters that often relate to personal experience, it is imperative that courteous and respectful interactions occur between students and with the instructor. Remember, each person brings to class a unique set of perspectives and ideas, all of which are valuable and deserving of respect. By raising questions, making observations, being involved in discussions and learning from each other, students can make the most of what this course has to offer.

Course Topic Outline/Course Calendar

Date	Topics Covered	Reading	Assignments Due
	Unit I: The Science of Psychology		
May 19	Orientation/ Defining Abnormal Psychology/ Historical Perspectives	Ch. 1	
21	Models of Abnormality	Ch. 3	
26	Unit I: Exam Anxiety Disorders	Ch. 5	Workbook Ch. 1,3 Due
28	Anxiety: GAD & Phobias	Ch. 5	
June 2	Anxiety: Panic & OCD	Ch. 5	
4	Anxiety: OCD & Stress Disorders	Ch. 5, 6 (pgs. 155-173)	
9	Unit II: Exam Mood Disorders	Ch. 8	Workbook Ch. 5, 6 Due
11	Mood Disorders: Unipolar	Ch. 8	
16	Mood Disorders: Bipolar	Ch. 8	
18	Mood Disorders: Unipolar Treatment	Ch. 9	
23	Mood Disorders: Bipolar Treatment Eating Disorders	Ch. 9 Ch. 11	
25	Unit III: Exam Eating Disorders	Ch. 11	Workbook Ch. 8, 9 Due
30	Eating Disorders Substance Related Disorders	Ch. 11 Ch. 12	Research Summary Due
July 2	Unit IV: Exam Schizophrenia	Ch. 14	Workbook Ch. 11, 12 Due
7	Schizophrenia: Symptoms & Theories	Ch. 14	
9	Schizophrenia Treatments	Ch. 15	
14	Unit V: Test Somatoform Disorders	Ch. 7	Workbook Ch. 14, 15 Due Extra Credit Due Last day for late work
16	Dissociative Disorders Personality Disorders	Ch. 7 Ch. 16	
21	Personality Disorders	Ch. 16	
23	Unit VI: Exam		Workbook Ch. 7, 16 Due
Aug 5	Final Exam	8:00am	10-11am

PLEASE NOTE: Should change become necessary, the instructor reserves the right to adjust the requirements, pace, or scheduling of this course. Any change will be announced in class before it becomes effective.



Students are expected to read the student handbook and abide by its policies. Copies of the handbook may be obtained at various locations on campus and is located on the web: <http://www.midlandstech.edu/planner/>

Academic Dishonesty: The Student Code addresses what constitutes academic dishonesty. All forms of dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on tests, plagiarism, collusion and falsification, will call for discipline.

CHEATING ON TESTS includes:

- Copying from another student's paper.
- Using materials during a test not authorized by the person giving the test.
- Collaborating with any other person during a test without permission.
- Knowingly obtaining, using, buying, selling, transporting, or soliciting in whole or part the contents of any un-administered test.
- Bribing any other person to obtain information about tests.
- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself.

PLAGIARISM is the appropriation of any other person's work and unacknowledged incorporation of that work in one's own work offered for credit.

Campus Emergency Protocol: Students and employees are asked to report safety concerns or suspicious activities to Campus Security at 7199 (on campus) or 738-7199 (cell phone or off campus). In the event of an emergency, employees and/or students should immediately call Campus Security or local 911. If an emergency occurs, the college will use a variety of methods to communicate additional information and instructions including the MTC Information Centers, campus loud speakers, MTC Alerts! (http://www.midlandstech.edu/Phone_Alert.htm), voice mail, email, college Intranet, and the MTC website homepage.

Inclement Weather Policy: In the event weather conditions or other emergencies cause the closing or a delayed start of Midlands Technical College, announcements will be made over local radio and TV stations, on the MTC Web site, and on the college's information line (803-738-8324). Notices will be sent to students via Campus Cruiser Mail when applicable. Separate announcements may be made for day and evening classes as weather conditions change during the day.

If the college closing or reopening means that there is at least 30 minutes of a class remaining, plan to attend that class. For example, if the college opens at 10:00 a.m. in TTH, classes that normally meet at 8:00 a.m. will not meet, but classes beginning at 9:30 a.m. will meet. If the college closes at 8:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. classes will meet for their regular time, but 7:35 p.m. classes will not meet since there are fewer than 30 minutes remaining in class.

Student E-Mail Accounts: All MTC students are assigned a college e-mail account upon admission to the college. This account is called "Campus Cruiser Mail." Campus Cruiser Mail is the primary mode by which the college communicates with students. Students are responsible for checking their college e-mail on a regular basis for important information and announcements about registration, financial aid, cancelled classes, emergency announcements and other notices. Students can use their college e-mail accounts to communicate with faculty, staff, fellow students, and others, in support of their educational pursuits. In addition to e-mail, students will also have access to maintaining personal calendars and "tasks lists" through their Campus Cruiser e-mail account.

Student Evaluation of Instruction: Students have the opportunity to evaluate this course. The confidential evaluation process is conducted through MTC Online using the individual student's username and password. Announcements will be made during the term concerning how and when to complete the online evaluation. Students are encouraged to participate in this process.

Students Requiring Special Accommodations: If special accommodations are needed for a student with a disability, the student should go to Counseling Services on Beltline or Airport Campus for assistance. Documentation regarding a specific disability is required in order for special arrangements to be made. Confidentiality of information received will be maintained.