

MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Title: PSY 581 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

II. Catalog Description: “Introduction to the definition, classification, causes and treatment of abnormal behavior. Research methodologies and findings received emphasis equal to that of “clinical” or applied considerations.”

III. Course Purpose & Objective: to help students develop understanding of the definitions, the causes, the paradigms, and the research pertaining to abnormal behaviors. The current psychiatric diagnostic classification system will be used as well as some alternative methods.

IV. Instructional Activities: Primarily lecture, case studies, and group discussions.

V. Resources and Field, Clinical &/or Laboratory Experiences: None

VI. Grading Procedures:

There will be four exams and two case studies. Each exam is worth 60 points and each case study is worth 30 points for a total available of 300 points. Final grades will be based on the following scale:

A = 271-300 total points

B = 240-270 total points

C = 210-239 total points

D = 180-209 total points

E = less than 180 total points

Students enrolled for graduate credit will be required to fulfill additional requirements.

Exams: Exams will include multiple choice, short answer and essay questions and will be given on the dates below. Only one make-up exam will be given. All make-up exams will be administered immediately upon completion of Exam 4. You must have permission to make up this exam. There will be no make-up for the final exam. No exceptions will be made.

Case Studies: The case studies are worth 30 points each for a total of 60 points. Your grades will be based on written assignments concerning the cases. The score will be decreased one letter grade each day it is late. No exceptions will be made.

The cases will be descriptions of real (with all identifying information modified) or apocryphal clients who have sought treatment for various psychological problems. Each case will be followed by a list of questions about the case, including questions that must be researched in the library or on the Internet. The information covered by the cases will be cumulative. Therefore, the psychological disorder (s) of the clients may be any of the disorders previously discussed. The case study must be type written.

It is important to keep in mind that although you will practice making diagnosis, upon completion of this class you will not be adequately trained in the art of diagnosing psychological disorders. It takes years of advanced training to learn to reliably diagnose these disorders.

VII. Attendance Policy: This course adheres to the policy published in the MSU Undergraduate Bulletin.

VIII. Academic Honesty Policy: Cheating, plagiarism (submitting another person's material as one's own), or doing work for another person which will receive academic credit are all impermissible. This includes the use of unauthorized books, notebooks, or other sources in order to secure or give help during an examination, the unauthorized copying of examinations, assignments, reports, or term papers, or the presentation of unacknowledged material as if it were the student's own work. Disciplinary action may be taken beyond the academic discipline administered by the faculty member who teaches the course in which the cheating took place.

NOTE: *Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any examination or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the examination has been compromised.*

VIII. Required Text Nevid, J.S., Rathus, S.A. & Green, B (2000). *Abnormal Psychology in a Changing World: Fourth Edition*. Prentice Hall: Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Optional Text: Study guide to accompany text.

IX. Prerequisite: PSY 180 and at least junior standing.