**Psychology 16/ Abnormal Psychology**

Reedley Community College

Fall 2015

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Course Information: Abnormal Psychology, Psychology 16, Code: 58015

Reedley Community College, Web



Required Text: Essentials of Understanding Abnormal Behavior. 2nd edition.

**David Sue**, Western Washington University

**Derald Wing Sue**, Teachers College, Columbia University

**Diane Sue**, Private Practice

**Stanley Sue**, Palo Alto University

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**All students are required to use Blackboard this Semester** [**www.blackboard.scccd.edu**](http://www.blackboard.scccd.edu)**. Your student ID number is used for both username and password. Here you will find assignments, your grades and other class-based information.**

**Blackboard help email –** [**bbhelp@fresnocitycollege.edu**](mailto:bbhelp@fresnocitycollege.edu)

**Blackboard help desk – 265-5760**

**Course Format**: The course will include assigned readings in your textbooks and Power Points that correspond to each chapter. The entire course will be facilitated through the online environment**.**

Advisories: Psychology 2, eligibility for English 125 or 126  
  
**Course Description:**   
This course introduces the scientific study of psychopathology and atypical behaviors, broadly defined. Students investigate abnormal behavior from a variety of perspectives including biological, psychological, and sociocultural approaches. An integrative survey of theory and research in abnormal behavior, and intervention and prevention strategies for psychological disorders are also introduced.  
**Course Outcomes***:*   
***Specify the learning skills the student demonstrates through completing the course and link critical thinking skills to specific course content and objectives.)***Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:   
I. describe characteristics of major disorder classifications using basic biological and psychological terminology.  
II. compare major theoretical paradigms used to understand psychopathology and atypical behaviors.  
III. analyze research in terms of quantitative and qualitative evidence, and evaluate the limitations and ethical considerations of research methods used in the field of psychopathology.  
IV. demonstrate knowledge related to the process of assessing & diagnosing mental disorders.  
V. demonstrate knowledge of the etiology & risk factors related to the development of major mental disorders.  
VI. demonstrate and apply knowledge related to effective treatment interventions for major mental disorders.  
VII. apply knowledge of individual differences related to biology, psychology, and sociocultural considerations in the analysis of mental disorders.  
VIII. demonstrate knowledge of the overlap between the health care system and the legal system in the management of major mental disorders.  
  
**Course Objectives:  
*(Specify major objectives in terms of the observable knowledge and/or skills to be attained.)***In the process of completing this course, students will be able to:  
I. Define and use basic biological and psychological terminology to describe psychopathology and atypical behavior and mental processes.  
II. Compare and contrast the various theoretical perspectives on etiology and implications for treatment of various psychological disorders.  
III. Summarize the major disorder classifications and give concrete examples using appropriate diagnostic terminology (i.e., DSM).  
IV. Explain specific research methods and the ethical principles for the study and treatment of psychopathology. At the end of the course, the student will be able to pursue advanced study of psychopathology, psychotherapy as well as psychopharmacology.

**Lecture and Exam Schedule**

# Week 1 Aug 17 Chapter 1 Introduction Abnormal Behavior

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# Week 2 24 Chapter 2 Models of Abnormal Behavior

Week 3 29 Chapter 3 Clinical Research, Assessment, and Diagnosis in

Abnormal Psychology

Week 4 Sep 7 Chapter 4 Anxiety and Obsessive-Compulsive and Related

Disorders

Week 5 14 Chapter 5 Trauma and Stress-Related Disorders

Week 6 21 Chapter 6 Somatic Symptom and Dissociative Disorders

Week 7 28 Chapter 7 Depressive and Bipolar Disorders

Week 8 Oct 5 Chapter 7 (continued)

Week 9 12 Chapter 8 Suicide

Week 10 19 Chapter 9 Eating Disorders

Week 11 26 Chapter 10 Substance Abuse Disorders

Week 12 Nov 2 Chapter 11 Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders

Week 13 9 Chapter 12 Neurocognitive Disorders

Week 14 16 Chapter 13 Sexual Dysfunction, Gender Dysphoria and

Paraphilic Disorders

Week 15 23 Chapter 14 Personality Psychopathology

Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 16 30 Chapter 15 Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence

Week 17 Dec 7 Chapter 16 Law and Ethics in Abnormal Psychology

Week 18 14 **Finals Week**

**Quizzes\***

There will be a quiz for each chapter covered. Generally, each quiz will consist of 20 multiple/choice and true-false questions worth three points each. Quizzes will be posted the week the chapters are scheduled. There will be two to three chapters covered weekly. Typically, quizzes will be posted from Monday at 8:00 A.M. until Sunday at 6:00 P.M. There are absolutely no make-ups allowed in this course.

***ATTENDANCE/CLASS PARTICIPATION***

Attendance is absolutely necessary for success in this course. Those students not responding to Discussion Questions in the first week will be dropped.

**Assignments**

In this folder you will find the Weekly Discussion Questions and any participation Assignments. Each week **discussion questions** will be posted that relate to the chapters we are discussing. You are required to answer the posted discussion question as this will be how your **attendance is recorded**. Failure to respond will result in an absence for that week. Discussion questions are posted on Monday’s at 8:00AM and are available until Sunday at 6:00PM

**\*\*\*\*\*\*There are absolutely no make-ups or tests/assignments that will be allowed in this course.** \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

# *GRADING*

This class is quite fun and informative, but can be rather daunting at times. If you want to be successful, please keep up with the reading. Also, there may be random participation assignments offered throughout the course that cannot be made up.

Quizzes (16 @ 60 points) 960

Discussion Questions (17@10 pts) 170

Participation (estimated) 30

Approximate Class Total  **1160**

Grades will be assigned on a standard scale of 90-100%=A; 80-89=B; 70-79= C; 60-69%=D and 0-59= F.

**Grading**

**\*\*Should a student be within 5 points of the next grade at the end of the semester, I will raise the score providing: 1) 95 percent of attendance points were earned 2) all assignments were completed 3) extra credit was completed**

**If this does not apply to you, please do NOT ask to have your grade improved*.***

***In the last few weeks of class, I will be posting a cumulative test for extra credit. Any questions you answer correctly will be added to your points but the test itself will not be counted in the total points. This is to compensate for any technical issues that you may experience throughout the class where you could have lost points.***

*This professor will make every attempt to accommodate those students with verified disabilities. It is the student’s responsibility to notify me within a reasonable amount of time for testing accommodations*

ADA Statement

"If you have a verified need for an academic accommodation or materials in alternate media (ie: Braille, large print, electronic text, etc.) per the American With Disabilities Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation act please contact your instructor as soon as possible."

*THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER THIS SYLLABUS AS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS ARE MAKING ADEQUATE PROGRESS OR IN CASE OF UNFORSEEABE CIRCUMSTANCES*

All students at the Reedley Community College have internet access in the various computer labs on campus. You are welcome to complete the assignments elsewhere you have computer access as well.