**Abnormal Psychology**

**Fall, 2016**

**What:**       Psychology 16 (online)

**Who:**         John Terrell, Ph.D.

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**Why:**   **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.

**Text:** Nolen-Hoeksema, S. (2014) Abnormal Psychology (6th Ed.) New York:  McGraw-Hill.

                  ISBN:  9781259806827

McGraw-Hill Online Learning System: Connect

             McGraw-Hill’s Connect is a web-based assignment and assessment solution required for this course. Connect is designed to assist you with your coursework based on your needs. As outlined in this syllabus, assignments on Connect will make up a significant portion of your overall course grade.

**Access  for Canvas:** Here’s a video about that explains Connect and the registration process:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUF5lKvqWAY

**What, again:**

                        Course Requirements: There will be three midterms and a final.  All exams will be worth 100 points, and will be a combination of multiple choice and fill-in questions.  Additionally, 200 points will be available in the form of online quizzes and assignments.

**Connect Learnsmart Assignments**

Students will complete the practice exams at the end of the chapters.  They fulfill two functions: they give you an estimate of your level of understanding of the material and send you back to the topic in the text if you're not sure about it, and also prepare you for the quizzes and exams. You'll receive 10 points for successfully completing the assignment, for a total of 160 points through the semester. You can take them at any time, but they need to be **completed by 11:59 PM on the day they are due.** (For example, Chapter 1 is due by 11:59 PM on 8/27.)

**Quizzes**

There will be two quizzes randomly administered during the semester. They will include multiple choice and short answer questions, and will be worth 20 points. There will be no time limit on the quizzes, though they will have to be completed by 11:59 PM on the day they are due.

**Exams**

There will be three midterms and a final.  All exams will be worth 100 points, and will be a combination of 50 multiple choice and fill-in questions. **The lowest of your midterm exam scores will be dropped, but all students must take the final exam and that score will not be dropped in the final point total.** All exams will be administered at 4:00 PM on the dates below, and students will have 1 hour to complete the tests. You'll have to be **flexible** if the scheduled time is inconvenient for you. Because of the nature of an online course, no make-up exams will be allowed.

Class Etiquette:

**IMPORTANT WARNING!** Online learning is not for everyone.  You need to be a very self-directed and personally responsible student to be successful in online courses.  Online you do not see your instructor twice a week, reminding you of what’s due next class, or discussing other projects.  Therefore, you need to seriously consider your motivation and skills before you embark on this course.

Computer problems, electrical shortages, and other malfunctions do occur and it is your

responsibility to complete work by the deadline regardless of any of these problems.  Please do not write to me to ask for extensions because your computer crashed or you were unable to ‘get online’ to complete the work. You are given several days to complete an assignment, therefore, if your technology fails on the last day the assignment is due, you will not be excused from the deadline.

To clarify:  Under no circumstance will late work be accepted at any time in the term!

I recommend you always complete your work before the deadline to prevent any type of

problem of this sort.  It is recommended for students to have a DSL hookup for this

class because wireless connections can fail at any given time. Wireless users are

responsible for any individual problems that occur related to class deadlines.

**The “P” Word**

Please note that plagiarism is a violation of Reedley College policy.  Anyone deemed to have submitted plagiarized work will automatically receive a failing grade.  Plagiarism may include, but is not limited to, failing to provide complete citations and references for all work that draws on the ideas, words, or work of others, failing to identify the contributors to work done in collaboration, submitting duplicate work to be evaluated in different classes without the knowledge and consent of the instructors involved, or failing to observe computer security systems and software copyrights. Again, all assignments, tests, and quizzes are to be completed on an individual basis; collaboration with other classmates or anyone else is **not allowed** unless instructed otherwise.

**Grades**: The following scale will decide final grades. There will be a total of 500 points possible from the three 100-point midterms, the 100-point final, and 200 points available from the other activities (remember, your lowest midterm test score will be dropped):

         500-465            A           (93%)                        384-365            C        (73%)

         464-450            A-          (90%)                        364-350            C-       (70%)

         449-435            B+         (87%)                        349-335            D+      (67%)

         434-415            B           (83%)                        334-315            D        (63%)

         414-400            B-          (80%)                        314-300            D-       (60%)

         399-385            C+         (77%)                        Below 300         Don’t go here!

**When:**

**Topic                                                  Readings**

**Week 1     (8/15)                  Sample Quiz**

**Week 2     (8/22)** Looking at Abnormality                   Chapter 1

**Week 3     (8/29)** Theories and Treatment                  Chapter 2

**Week 4     (9/5)** Assessment and Diagnosis               Chapter 3

**Week 5     (9/12)** The Research Endeavor                   Chapter 4

**9/17 (4 PM)**        **Exam 1- (Chaps. 1-4)**

**Week 6     (9/19)** Anxiety Disorders                             Chapter 5

**Week 7     (9/26)** Dissociative Disorders                     Chapter 6

**Week 8     (10/3)** Mood Disorders and Suicide           Chapter 7

**Week 9     (10/10)** The Schizophrenia Spectrum           Chapter 8

**10/15 (4 PM)     Exam 2- (Chaps. 5-8)**

**Week 10   (10/17)** Personality Disorders                      Chapter  9

**Week 11   (10/24)**                Neurodevelopmental  Disorders    Chapter 10

**Week 12   (10/31)** Conduct Disorders                            Chapter 11

**Week 13**   **(11/7)**                  Eating Disorders                               Chapter 12

**11/12 (4 PM)     Exam 3- (Chaps. 10-13)**

**Week 14**   **(11/14)**                Sexual Disorders                               Chapter 13

**Week 15**   **(11/21)**                Substance abuse                               Chapter 14

**Week 16**   **(11/28)**                Health Psychology                            Chapter 15

**Week 17**   **(12/4)**                  Mental Health and the Law              Chapter 16

**Week 18**   **(12/11)**                **Final Exam- (Chaps. 14-17)**         

**Thursday, 12/15 (4 PM)**

**This syllabus is subject to (very probable) change and/or revision during the academic term.**

**Have a GREAT SEMESTER-If you have any questions, just ask!**