

PSYC 2043 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
NorthWest Arkansas Community College
SYLLABUS
Spring Semester 2005

Class time: Tues. & Thurs.. 7:45 – 9:00 a.m. **Instructor:** Lyndall Dean-Weir
Location: Burns Hall Room 2418 **E-mail:** ldeanwei@nwacc.edu
NWACC voicemail: 479-986-6750
Statement regarding office time: Please speak with instructor before or after class, other times may be scheduled upon request as available.

Course Description and Credit:

This is a full semester, 16 week course worth 3 credit hours when successfully completed. It is an introduction to the causes and treatment of psychological disorders and to the determination process for identifying abnormal behavior.

Textbook and other course materials:

Abnormal Psychology in a Changing World, 5th edition, by Jeffrey S. Nevis, Spencer A. Rathus, and Beverly Greene, will be used for this course. Purchase of the Study Guide is optional and left to the discretion of the student. An online resource is available for the textbook at www.prenhall.com/nevid. Scantrons, form 882-E, will be needed for the exams and may be purchased from the NWACC bookstore. Scantrons are not necessary for the quizzes.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of the course, students should have experience in:

Using critical thinking skills to determine what types of behavior are normal versus abnormal behavior
Exploring diagnostic classification, biological and behavioral features of the major disorders emphasized
Looking at different psychological perspectives on behavior and mental processes considered psychologically abnormal
Considering how cultural influences and expectations can influence our perceptions of what behavior may be deemed abnormal
Exploring treatments for various types of psychological disorders
Focusing attention on characteristics of criminal behavior and its impact on society

Disability Services:

Any conditions affecting your ability to apply yourself to studying and completing the course requiring special classroom or testing accommodations must be documented through Dr. Mike Kirk, Director, Learning Development Center, phone number 479-619-4384. Information on making application may be accessed online on the ODS webpage at <http://www.nwacc.edu/student-services/disabili.php>.

Course Requirements:

Regular class attendance is expected as well as reading the textbook as assigned. Material may also be presented from time to time which is not available in the text for which the student will be responsible for on exams (in addition to information from the text).

Written homework assignments will be required as well as a semester project; instruction sheets will be given both for the homework assignments and the semester project. For the semester project there is a choice between doing either a research paper or service learning. Occasional participation in small group activities will also be required during class time.

Some textbook material will be covered in an exploratory manner during class time, requiring some type of student participation as well as homework assignments; material addressed in this way will not be formally tested over, but will be assessed through student participation and the homework assignments instead. A one-half point bonus will be added to the semester test average for each homework assignment and the semester project for each of these items turned in at the beginning of class on the date due; no bonus will be added for assignments turned in after class time. To qualify for the time bonus, assignments turned in electronically must be sent prior to the class time the work is due. Also, in order to qualify for the bonus on the homework and the project, the assignments **must be complete** with no missing information or documentation, that is, reference sources must be listed, documentation must be attached, etc.

Exams:

Three major exams will be given, exams will not be comprehensive (the instructor maintains the right to change the number of exams). The tests will be primarily objective (multiple choice) with a few essay questions. Also there will be some chapter quizzes in addition to the major exams. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester and the remaining quiz grades will be averaged and treated as an additional exam grade when computing the semester test average.

Grading:

90-100 = A 80-89 = B 70-79 = C 60-69 = D 0-59 = F

Student grades for the semester will be computed as follows:

Exams.....	50%
Homework & Semester Project.....	25%
Attendance & Participation in group discussion.....	25%

Attendance:

Regular class attendance is expected and recommended. Students are expected to sign the roster sheet each morning to provide a record of class attendance. Two class absences will be allowed without grade penalty; one group activity may be missed before formal grade deductions apply.

Important Semester Dates: Spring 2005

Jan. 18 Class begins

Mar. 21-- 26	Spring Break
Apr. 08 week	Last day to withdraw with a “W “on transcript from 16
	Course
May 03	Last day regular class
May 14	Final exam

Make Up Exams:

For students suffering unavoidable emergencies a make up exam for one of the major exams may be taken at the Testing Center in Burns Hall Lobby, Room 1019 (479-619-4317). Requests for make ups must first be made to the instructor. No make ups will be given for the quizzes. The two lowest quiz grades will be dropped, so that if a quiz must be missed, the “0” for the missed quiz may count as one of the dropped scores.

Communicating with Instructor:

In the event of difficulty in communication or perceived problems with this instructor, the first step in resolving the problem should be to talk with me directly about your concerns. If for some reason speaking with me was unsatisfactory, the next step would be to contact Dr. Conrad Krauft (phone: 479-619-4268; e-mail: ckrauft@nwacc.edu, office # BH 2022).

Bad Weather Policy:

The student information line for the college is 479-619-4376, and information on class closings due to hazardous weather conditions, etc., will be available at this number. Online information may be accessed on the college website at www.nwacc.edu/pr.

Schedule:

Please note that adjustments may have to be made in the following timetable and stay in touch with any necessary changes to the schedule. Given dates for quizzes and exams should be viewed as tentative; it is possible that changes will need to be made. Not all group activities have been listed, and group activities are also subject to changes as needed.

Jan. 18	Introduction
Jan. 20	Determining abnormal from normal behavior, Begin Chap.1
Jan. 25	Continue Chap.1
Jan. 27	<u>Assignment #1</u> due, Exploration of violence, Chap. 16
Feb. 01	Chap. 2
Feb. 03	Quiz Chap. 1, Chap. 2
Feb. 08	Chap.2

Feb. 10	<u>Assignment #2</u> due, Exploration of psychotic disorders, Chap. 13
Feb. 15	Quiz Chap. 2
Feb. 17	Lecture on Chap. 3
Feb. 22	Chap. 3
Feb. 24	<u>Assignment #3</u> due, Exploration of substance abuse, Chap. 10
Mar. 01	Finish up, Begin Chap. 4
Mar. 03	Exam I (Tentative date) Chaps. 1, 2, & 3 & Lecture notes
Mar. 08	Chap. 4
Mar. 10	<u>Assignment #4</u> due, Project homework, Chap. 4
Mar. 15	Chap. 4
Mar. 17	Quiz Chap. 4, Begin Chap. 5
Mar. 22	No Class, Spring Break
Mar. 24	No Class, Spring Break
Mar. 29	Chap. 5
Mar. 31	<u>Assignment #5</u> due, Exploration of dissociative disorders, Chap. 7
Apr. 05	Chap. 5, Group
Apr. 07	Quiz Chap. 5, Begin Chap. 6
Apr. 12	Chap. 6
Apr. 14	Projects due , Finish Chap. 6, Begin Chap. 8
Apr. 19	Exam II , (Tentative date) Chaps. 4, 5, & 6 & Lecture Notes
Apr. 21	Chap. 8
Apr. 26	Chapter 8
Apr. 28	Chapter 9, <u>Assignment #6</u> due, Exploration of Disorders of Childhood & Adolescence, Chap. 14
May 03	Quiz Chap. 8, Chap. 9
May 05	Last day regular class, Portions of Chap. 11 & Chap. 15

May 12

Final (Exam III)