

VALENCIA COLLEGE

CLP2140 – Abnormal Psychology Course Syllabus – 3 Credit Hours Fall, 2009

Prerequisite: PSY 1012

Location: Building 11, Room 999 (11-999)

Meeting Times: DAY & DAY, 00:00am – 00:00pm

Professor: Sean P. Jennings, Psy.D.

Phone: Valencia (407) 582-1072

Email: sjennings6@mail.valenciacollege.edu

Office: Building 11 Room 103E

Communication:

Students are strongly encouraged to check their Atlas email accounts regularly, as this system will be utilized to distribute abrupt changes, as well as for notification of pertinent information to individuals. Students are encouraged to routinely check the course's Blackboard site, as assignments, handouts, quizzes, and take home examinations will be posted on the site throughout the semester. Students are encouraged to use office hours or employ email as a means of communicating with the professor concerning any questions or comments they may have regarding this course. Face to face meetings with the professor on campus may occur during the posted office hours, though if a more lengthy discussion is anticipated an appointment is suggested. Alternative meetings with the professor outside office hours may be arranged via telephonic conferences and/or email with advance notice and approval.

Please be aware, college level students are expected to be able to communicate in a professional manner with professors. Emails that do not include the professor's name, student's name, course information (i.e. General Psych T&R 8-11:10), and use proper English (no texting abbreviations, slang, etc.) may be ignored. If a student does not ask a specific question, the email may not receive a response. Please do not ask general questions that may be better answered by peers, such as "I was absent today, did I miss anything?" or "What did you talk about today? I wasn't there".

Course Description:

The Abnormal Psychology course is: "Psychological abnormality discussed with reference to symptom patterns, causation and treatment approaches" (Valencia College Online Catalog 2008-2009, Course Description).

Text:

Required

Halgin, R. P., and Whitbourne, S. K., (2010). *Abnormal Psychology: Clinical Perspectives on Psychological Disorders*, (6th ed). New York, NY: McGraw Hill Companies.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to provide an overview of abnormal psychology and explore the varieties of mental disorders. The material will cover research, theories, and applications of a wide range of psychological concepts. Lectures, reading assignments, and activities are designed to assist the introduction and reinforcement of the CLAST and Valencia skills and competencies.

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The Valencia Student Core Competencies:

Valencia has identified four core competencies believed to be crucial to individual success in a variety of contexts. These competencies are instrumental in course design and implementation.

1. **Think:** Think clearly, critically, and creatively. Analyze, synthesize, integrate, and evaluate in many domains of human inquiry.
2. **Value:** Make reasoned value judgments and responsible commitments.
3. **Communicate:** Communicate with different audiences using varied means.
4. **Act:** Act purposefully, reflectively, and responsibly.

Evaluation:

Examinations

Each Examination will include an in-class examination (multiple choice, matching, fill-in-the-blank), and possibly a multiple choice on-line examination will be provided for selected material not addressed in class lecture. If an on-line examination is provided, the in-class examination and the on-line examination will be combined to create the total exam score. Examination items will cover text readings and any class discussion material. Students are expected to take examinations at the specified time. Students are expected to be on time for examinations, but a 5 minute grace period will be employed. Students who arrive more than 5 minutes late will not be given an examination. The on-line portion cannot be made up if missed. The in-class portion can be made up. All make up examinations will be held during the final examination period. **For missed examinations, the examination grade will be a '0' until the examination is completed.**

Research Paper

Students will be required to review two or more professional articles in psychology and write a comprehensive research paper related to Abnormal Psychology. The articles will be provided to the students by the professor. The paper must be written in APA Style. **Late papers will not be accepted and papers may not be emailed. Papers must be submitted to SafeAssign prior to the beginning of class on the day the assignment is due.**

Term Paper

Throughout the semester, students will be learning about a variety of mental disorders. Students will be required to write a comprehensive term paper using the Diagnostic Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 4th Edition, Text Revision (DMR-IV-TR) and a minimum of four (4) other professionally accepted resources, not including the textbook or internet sources, on a specific disorder. **Late papers will not be accepted and papers may not be emailed. Papers must be submitted to SafeAssign prior to the beginning of class on the day the assignment is due.**

Grading

Examinations	60%
Term Paper	15%
Research Paper	10%
Attendance/participation	15%

Grading Scale:

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

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Attendance/Participation

More than 4 hours of absences in this course will significantly affect the student's grade. If a student arrives late, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in order to be counted as present. Please make an effort to be on time and prepared for class. Since tardiness is disruptive to the class, it is advisable to enter the classroom as quietly as possible. Preparation for class involves reading portions of the text prior to class discussion, as well as turning in required assignments on time. Arriving late or leaving early will not be counted in real time minutes, but rather rounded up to the nearest half-hour increment. **Texting, sleeping, reading non-course related material, or other behavior not related to learning the concepts of this course will be considered as not present behavior and the student will be marked as absent.**

Classroom Behavior:

Appropriate classroom behavior is expected, and students are expected to adhere to the classroom behavior standards outlines in the Student Handbook. As the student body is mainly comprised of individuals in the early adulthood to middle adulthood developmental stages, behavior is expected to fall within developmental norms within a classroom context, for these age groups. Disruptive and disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated and include, but not limited to, excessive tardiness, leaving early, side conversations during class, disrespectful behavior towards other students, or electronic disruptions (pagers, cell phones). Students are expected to adhere to standards related to cheating and plagiarism.

Academic Dishonesty:

Students are expected to abide by the college rules governing academic dishonesty. All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited by Valencia College. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, furnishing false information, forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, misconduct during a test situation, and misuse of identification with intent to defraud or deceive. It is the students' responsibility to be knowledgeable of the policy (See the Student Handbook for complete policy). The Student Handbook states "Any student determined by the professor to have been responsible for engaging in an act of academic dishonesty shall be subject to a range of academic penalties (apart from any sanctions that may be imposed pursuant to the Code) as determined by the professor which may include, but not be limited to, one or more of the following: loss of credit for an assignment, examination, or project; a reduction in the course grade; or a grade of "F" in the course".

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Withdrawal Procedures:

The last day to withdraw from class and receive a "W" is November 4, 2011. If a student does not withdraw from the course and stops attending class meetings, the student will receive a letter grade (i.e. D, F) and it will be calculated at the end of the semester with 0's for all missed assignments, examinations, quizzes, and attendance & participation. Students can still be withdrawn, after the withdrawal deadline, by the college for violations of the college's code of conduct policies or for violation of a professor's attendance policy. Any student who withdraws or is withdrawn from a class during a third or subsequent attempt in the same course will be assigned a grade of "F."

ASSIGNMENTS CALENDAR - ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Jennings

Disclaimer: Please be aware that the class schedule is tentative.

Week	Date	Topic/Assignments
Week 1	Tues 08/30	Course Introduction/Syllabus Review, Chapter 1
	Thur 09/01	Chapter 1
Week 2	Tues 09/06	Chapter 1
	Thur 09/08	Chapter 2
Week 3	Tues 09/13	Chapter 2
	Thur 09/15	Chapter 3
Week 4	Tues 09/20	Chapter 3
	Thur 09/22	Chapter 4
Week 5	Tues 09/27	Chapter 4
	Thur 09/29	EXAMINATION 1
Week 6	Tues 10/04	Chapter 5
	Thur 10/06	NO CLASS - COLLEGE NIGHT
Week 7	Tues 10/11	Chapter 5, Research Paper Due
	Thur 10/13	Chapter 8
Week 8	Tues 10/18	Chapter 8
	Thur 10/20	Chapter 9
Week 9	Tues 10/25	Chapter 9
	Thur 10/27	EXAMINATION 2
Week 10	Tues 11/01	Chapter 10
	Thur 11/03	Chapter 10
Week 11	Tues 11/08	Chapter 7
	Thur 11/10	Chapter 6
Week 12	Tues 11/15	EXAMINATION 3
	Thur 11/17	Chapters 13 & 14
Week 13	Tues 11/22	Chapters 13 & 14
	Thur 11/24	NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING
Week 14	Tues 11/29	Chapter 15, Term Paper Due
	Thur 12/01	Chapter 11
Week 15	Tues 12/06	Chapter 12
	Thur 12/08	EXAMINATION 4
Week 16	Thur 12/15	Make up Examination day - *10:00am*