Abnormal Psychology*
PSY 397
ID 01561

Fall 2009
Instructor: Dr. Mahinur A. Mamatova
Office: Main Building of AUCA, 320 room
Office phone: 66-33-09 (ext. 247)
Email: mamatova@mail.auca.kg
Prerequisites: PSY 101, 104; PSY 102 or PSY 105
Course Status: required
Credits: 3
Language of teaching: English
Classes: M. 12:45 pm; 2:10 pm (1st group); T. 12:45 pm; 2:10 pm (2nd group)
Consultations: M., T. 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm (by previous appointment)

Text:

Extra-text:

Recourses:
Library of the American University - Central Asia

Internet, international e-mail contacts

Database EBSCO

JSTORE

Course Description
This course is an introduction to basic phenomena and organizational principles of psychology that is characterized by maladjusted, self-defeating, emotionally and cognitively disturbed behavior. The course will survey basic models of mental abnormality with the descriptive focus on major mental disorders. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (4th Edition, Text Revised) will be applied.

Course Objectives:
At the successful completion of this course student should be able to:
1. Define and evaluate criteria for abnormal behavior;
2. Identify major psychological disorders according to DSM IV-TR;
3. Understand basic models of mental abnormality;
4. Outline core principles of treatments for major psychological disorders.
Course Requirements

**Attendance:** Classroom attendance is obligatory – **30 points.** To be in class on time is expected. Late students will NOT be admitted into the class. Please finish up your personal businesses before class begins. Student is expected to be on class over all time with no early leaving. Poor attendance may become a serious reason to administrative drop (see below my policy to grade “X”).

**In-class work:** Active participation is strongly expected – **30 points.** Student is required to attend class having textbook’s chapter read and well thought out. Extra - readings are highly encouraged. Students are expected to develop their critical skills. **Group discussions** of case studies, presentations and essential clashing views readings provided by core text and additional bibliography constitute significant part of classes. There will be ten (10) team activities each worth 5 points. **50 points** total. Each session scheduled for this type of teamwork students will be provided with a discussion questions handout that must be completed prior to class. Disregard to this requirement automatically results in the loss of 4 points.

**Quizzes:** Five quizzes will be given during the semester. Quizzes will encompass the information surveyed the core text chapters, discussions, case examples, video and other illustrative material. The format of quizzes is short essay questions, multiple choice and/or true-false. Each quiz will be running over first 30 minutes of class. Quiz is worth **10 points** each. **50 points** at total.

**Argumentative Essay:** Each student is required to write two short essays. The topic of first essay is “The problem of normalcy and abnormality in clinical science”. The question to be considered is “Are there precise boundaries of abnormal behavior?” Elaborate your ideas guided by original source texts and articles. The text of essay should consist of 5 pages bibliography list inclusive. Essay #1 due date and time is **October 20; 5:00 pm.** The late papers will NOT be accepted for any reason. The topic of the second essay is up to your choice. However it is required to be in compliance with thematic content of the course. The text should consist of 5-6 pages bibliography list inclusive. You are encouraged to take my individual consultation to clarify this assignment. Deadline to submission the second paper is **December 11; 5:00 pm.** The late essays will NOT be accepted for any reason. Essays as well as any written assignments must follow APA (American Psychological Association) style**. Please follow APA Student Writer’s Manual (1999) for detail. Essays should be all printed out. Appraisal for the essay is **25 points** each.

**Grading Criteria for Essay**

- Thesis Statement: **5 points**
- Arguments/Counterarguments (organization, logic and clarity): **5 points**
- Integration of Material/References: **6 points**
- Analysis and Conclusion: **6 points**
- Format/Literacy: **3 points**

**Presentation:** Each student will be required to elaborate thematic presentation on topics listed below (see Class Schedule). This is your right to perform team-presentation. Creativity in performance of original idea is strongly encouraged. Please see the instructor to discuss topic of presentation and other relevant issues ahead of time. This assignment is worth **30 points**.

**Grading Criteria for Presentation**

- Content: **5 points**
- Understanding: **6 points**
- Criticism: **6 points**
- Clarity of statements: **3 points**
- Ability to Answer Questions: **5 points**
- Performance: **5 points**

**30 points possible**
**Final Exam:** The final will be given during the session time (see Class Schedule below). This exam will cover all factual materials of the course plus the information from class presentations. No excuse is necessary to miss a scheduled examination. If you miss a scheduled exam, you must hold an oral make up exam with the instructor within three (3) days of the exam. Failure to do so will result in a score of 0 on the missed exam. The exam will be multiple choice, analysis of study cases, and short answers. The exam will be worth 50 points.

**Facilitation:** This type of assignments is not required but expected and strongly encouraged. Please inform the instructor about your intension to facilitate class not less than one week before. Feel free to apply to the instructor to consult about this assignment in terms of organizational and issues of content. Extra credits up to 25 points will be given for facilitation.

**Grading Scale**

1. Attendance  30 points possible
2. In-class work  30 points possible
3. Group Discussions****  50 points possible
4. Quizzes***  50 points possible
5. Essays******  50 points possible
6. Presentation  30 points possible
7. Final Exam*****  50 points possible

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Bonus (upto 15 points) will be given for creativity, originality, and independence of thinking.

Don’t ask the instructor to grade you “X”. The grade “X” is an exclusive right of the teacher to dismiss student from the course in order to systematical violation the AUCA attendance policy. 8 classes missed will be considered as a serious basis to grade “X”.

The grade “I” (Incomplete) is under the general AUCA regulations (see AUCA Catalog).

**Course Cheating Policy**

AUCA Academic Honesty Regulations 2009 will be applicable to proven cases of academic misconduct. Please see AUCA electronic resources for detail. To prevent any cases of academic dishonesty get accurate with references. Follow APA Student Writer’s Manual (1999) to document bibliography sources properly.

**Course Conduct Policy**

Norms and rules of academic conduct are common for everyone on-campus. Politeness and intelligence of personal behavior are unconditionally expected. Recurrent cases of misconduct will be a reason to administrative drop from the course. Please turn off your cells, beepers and other ring sounders. If you are waiting for important call set the cell on regime “vibration”. Finish up your breakfast or taking a snack before coming to class. Don’t chat on the class. It interrupts my attention and attention of your classmates.

**Class Schedule:**

8/24; 8/25  Introductory section.

**Group Discussion 1:** Psychological Normality and Abnormality: Views on Abnormal Psychology. The Case of Ernest H.


The cognitive model. The humanistic-existential model. The socio-cultural model. Research methods in Abnormal and Clinical Psychology

9/7; 9/8 Clinical assessment, diagnosis and treatment. The classification systems of mental disorders. DSM-4 and ICD-10.

**Group Discussion 2:** Do Diagnostic Labels Hinder Treatment?

**Quiz # 1**


**Group Discussion 3:** Therapies for Panic Disorders and Agoraphobia. Case example analysis.

9/21; 9/22 Obsessive -Compulsive Disorder. Generalized Anxiety Disorder


**Group Discussion 4:** Stress in the War Zone: is the Gulf War Syndrome Real?

**Quiz # 2**

Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders: Conversion Disorder. Somatization Disorder.


10/12; 10/13 Dissociative Identity Disorder (Multiple Personality Disorder). Depersonalization Disorder

**Group Discussion 5:** Multiple Personality

**Quiz # 3**

Eating Disorders

**10/20 First Essay Due**

10/26; 10/27 Mood Disorders. General Characteristics of Depression and Mania. Unipolar Mood Disorder. Bipolar Mood Disorders: Bipolar I Disorder/ Bipolar II Disorder

**Group Discussion 6:** Biochemical vs. Psychological Theories: An Either/Or?


11/9; 11/10 Schizophrenia Subtypes and Course Specifiers

**Group Discussion 7:** Is Schizophrenia a Disease?

11/16; 11/17 Schizophrenia Subtypes and Course Specifiers

**Quiz 4**
Personality Disorders: Clusters, Categories, and Problems. Paranoid Personality Disorder. Schizoid Personality Disorder. Schizotypal Personality Disorder


**Group Discussion 8: Sociopathy**


Sexual Disorders. Gender Identity Disorder. Psychosexual Dysfunction.

**Group Discussion 9: Is Sex Addiction a Myth?**

12/7; 12/8 Substance Use Disorders. Alcohol Use Disorders. Drug Abuse

**Group Discussion 10: Mental Health Professions Legal and Ethical Issues**

Quiz 5.

12/11 Second Essay Due

12/14; 12/16 Final Exam

* The syllabus is developed at the School of Social Sciences of the Indiana University Southeast. Teaching materials, including original syllabi, and teaching thoughts of Dr. Robin Morgan and Dr. Diane Wille have been taken to writing this syllabus.


****** The instruction to writing an argumentative essay is taken from Teachers Manual Individual and Society, AKHP 2004.
Abnormal psychology and psychopathology refer to two very much related concepts though there is a difference between them. In the field of psychology, there are a number of subfields. Abnormal Psychology is one such field. In abnormal psychology, the psychologists pay attention to behavior that are considered as abnormal. These patterns of behavior are maladaptive and disrupt the life of the individual. Psychopathology, on the other hand, refers to the study of mental illnesses. Abnormal psychology is the branch of psychology focused on abnormal behavior and psychopathology, covering a broad range of psychological disorders. Kendra Cherry, MS, is an author, educational consultant, and speaker focused on helping students learn about psychology. Learn about our editorial process. Kendra Cherry.