CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
PSYC 2340-N1 Abnormal Psychology

Semester/Year: Summer 2016
Lecture Hours: 3  Lab Hours: 0  Credit Hours: 3
Class Time: NET  Days: NET  Room: NET

Instructor’s Name: John Ordiway, MS, LPC, LAT, CBIST

Instructor's Contact Information: Office Phone: 307-268-2281  Email: jordiway@caspercollege.edu

Office Hours: Please contact me via email if you need anything. Please allow 24 hours for a response, maybe longer on the weekends.

Course Description: A general study of abnormal behaviors including types, etiology, and treatment approaches.

Statement of Prerequisites: Seven hours of psychology or PSYC 1000 and four credits of biology.

Goal: Students will demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of general abnormal behaviors, clinical diagnosis and basic methods of treatment. Student will also become familiar with current, relevant research in abnormal psychology. Students will use problem solving to differentiate between the various psychological disorders and identify ways multicultural issues intersect with accurate and inaccurate diagnosis.

Casper College General Education Outcomes: This course’s objectives link to outcomes 1, 3, 4, and 6.

1. Demonstrate effective oral and written communication
2. Use the scientific method
3. Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity
4. Demonstrate knowledge of diverse cultures and historical perspectives
5. Appreciate aesthetic and creative activities
6. Use appropriate technology and information to conduct research
7. Describe the value of personal, civic, and social responsibilities
8. Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data

Course Objectives: Successful students in this course will be able to:

1. Identify various psychological disorders through recognition of specific symptoms. (Gen Ed Outcome #3)
2. Demonstrate the use of DSM-5 in the diagnosis of mental disorders. (Gen Ed Outcome #3)
3. Solve problems using critical thinking and creativity in the diagnosis of various mental disorders. (Gen Ed Outcome #3)
4. Identify and apply various psychological theories to etiologies of mental disorders.
5. Identify the effective treatment of various psychological disorders from multiple psychological and psychiatric perspectives. (Gen Ed Outcome #3)
6. Identify ways multicultural issues intersect with the diagnosis of mental disorders. (Gen Ed Outcome #4)
7. Demonstrate effective written communication in weekly forum responses and a written research paper in APA style. (Gen Ed Outcome #1)
8. Use appropriate library databases and other reputable resources to conduct research in the area of abnormal psychology. (Gen Ed Outcome #6)


1. Goal 1 Knowledge Base
2. Goal 2 Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking
3. Goal 3 Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World
4. Goal 4 Communication
5. Goal 5 Professional Development

Casper College Graduates with an Associates Psychology degree will demonstrate competency in the following Foundation Areas. Goals, Outcomes and Foundation Indicators are quoted directly from The American Psychology Association [APA] Guidelines for the Undergraduate Psychology Major Version 2.0 published August 2013.

Methodology: This course will be delivered using a distance learning format. Students are expected to read their textbooks, read and participate with online materials, including videos, discussions and quizzes. This is not a self-paced course. There are deadlines that must be met or a loss of credit will be imposed on the assignment.

Evaluation Criteria: No assignments will be accepted after July 29th at 5 pm. All late assignments are subject to a 10% if submitted within 1 week from their original due date. Assignments past 1 week overdue will NOT be accepted and a 0 will be issued for that grade.

Weekly Assignment – the weekly assignment will take various forms, discussion boards, journal entries, and case presentations. Each weekly assignment is worth 20 points and must be completed by the designated due dates. Please follow the directions for each week.

Quizzes – Quizzes will be held each week covering the reading materials for the week. Each quiz is 20 questions. You will have 40 minutes per quiz. Each quiz will close at the end of each week (Sundays) with the exception of the final week when the quiz will close on Friday July 29th at 5 pm.

Chart of Disorders – Complete the information required in the chart of disorders form and submit it for the disorder identified. Each submission is worth 30 points.
Final Paper – Your final paper will be a literature review of between 5-7 pages in APA format (not including title page and references). It is broken down into 3 milestone assignments that will culminate into your final research paper. The total points for all part of this assignment are nearly 50% of your grade. More instructions will be included for each milestone the week they are due. Please review the information on http://libguides.stthomas.edu/c.php?g=88771&p=574040 for guidance on the sections of a literature review.

- Milestone 1 – Introduction – You will select a disorder or topic related to abnormal psychology that you will complete your research paper on. (50 points)
- Milestone 2 – Body – This is a summary of the research articles that you will be using as references for your final paper. (50 points)
- Milestone 3 – Conclusion – Summarizes the major conclusions of the current research. (50 pts)
- Final Paper – Final Paper - consolidate feedback from milestones to polish your final submission. (200 pts.)

740 Possible Points for this course
666-740 = A
592-665 = B
518-591 = C
444-517 = D
Below 443 = F

Casper College may collect samples of student work demonstrating achievement of the above outcomes. Any personally identifying information will be removed from student work.

Required Text, Readings, and Materials:
Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology 8th Edition
Ronald Comer
Worth Publishing
ISBN: 978-1-319-06075-6

Class Policies: Last Date to Change to Audit Status or to Withdraw with a W Grade: Last day to withdraw from class is July 6, 2016.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: Please refer to the Casper College Student Conduct and Judicial Code for information concerning your rights and responsibilities as a Casper College Student.

Chain of Command: If you have any problems with this class, you should first contact the instructor to attempt to solve the problem. If you are not satisfied with the solution offered by the instructor, you should then take the matter through the appropriate chain of command starting with the Department Head/Program Director, the Dean, and lastly the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Academic Dishonesty: (Cheating & Plagiarism) Casper College demands intellectual honesty. Proven plagiarism or any form of dishonesty associated with the academic process can result in the offender failing the course in which the offense was committed or expulsion from school. See the Casper College Student Code of Conduct for more information on this topic.

Official Means of Communication: Casper College faculty and staff will employ the student's assigned Casper College email account as a primary method of communication. Students are responsible to check their account regularly. This is also, where you will find course evaluation links during course evaluation periods.
ADA Accommodations Policy: If you need academic accommodations because of a disability, please inform me as soon as possible. See me privately after class, or during my office hours. To request academic accommodations, students must first consult with the college’s Disability Services Counselor located in the Gateway Building, Room 344, (307) 268-2557, bheuer@caspercollege.edu. The Disability Services Counselor is responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students requesting accommodations, determining eligibility for accommodations, and helping students request and use appropriate accommodations.

Calendar or schedule indicating course content: Course is subject to change based on needs of the course and at the instructor’s discretion.

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