

SE-01  
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**CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY**  
**PSY 424/4 Abnormal Psychology**  
Online Course  
Spring Evening 2001

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\*when registering on the website the access code is - Fryxell

***Texts***

1. Comer, J. C. (1999). Fundamentals of Abnormal psychology (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). New York, NY: W. H. Freeman and Company.
2. American Psychiatric Association (2000). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (4<sup>th</sup> Ed.) Text Revision. Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Association. (One of the pocket sized editions is fine)

***Course Description***

This course is designed as an introductory course for students interested in exploring both normal and abnormal human behavior. This course will focus on biological and environmental determinants of abnormal behavior, symptomatology, assessment, and intervention strategies. In addition, students will become familiar with the use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-IV). As with all classes at Chaminade University, the course has a foundation in the Marianist educational values of faith the pursuit of excellence and quality, a spirit of family, the promotion of social justice, and the ability to adapt to change. Upon completion of this course, through active participation, reading, writing, discussion, critical thinking, and self-examination, students will:

1. have an understanding of the historical, cultural, and societal factors related to understanding abnormal behavior;
2. have and understanding of the biological, psychological, environmental, and social cultural factors affecting the development of abnormal behavior;
3. be able to assess, interpret, and diagnose abnormal behavior within a DSM-IV framework;
4. be able to identify the symptoms, characteristics, behaviors, and treatments associated with the disorders covered in the DSM-IV;
5. have an understanding of the legal and ethical issues related to identification and treatment of abnormal behavior;
6. have an understanding of the cross-cultural issues related to abnormal behavior;
7. be able to locate and interpret current research related to abnormal psychology;
8. understand and utilize the scientific method;
9. have an understanding of abnormal behavior based on biological, psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, existential, and social-cultural models of psychological abnormality; and
10. have an understanding of the current issues related to abnormal psychology.

### **Course Requirements**

Grades for the course will be assigned based on the quality of student work as demonstrated by successful completion of the following requirements:

- |    |                                   |                     |
|----|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| A. | Case Studies (8 @ 25 points each) | = 200 points        |
| B. | Exam (1 @ 100 points)             | = 100 points        |
| C. | Quizzes (5 @ 20 points)           | = 100 points        |
|    | <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>= 400 points</b> |

A. Case Studies (8 @ 25 = 200 points)

Each week one case study will be posted for you to diagnose and suggest possible treatments for. The case studies will describe a person and the situation that they are in. Your assignment is to use information from the textbook and the DSM-IV to decide on the most likely diagnosis for the person and then describe how a psychologist or psychiatrist might treat the person. Your answers should include:

Part 1: Diagnosis. In this section provide a description of how you made the diagnosis (i.e. what criteria was or was not met) and how and why you ruled out other disorders. The best way to do this is to look at each of the criteria for the disorder and describe how the person meets it.

Part 2: Treatment. In this section provide a description of the types of treatment that might be used to help the person. Based on your reading (textbook and internet sites) discuss what type of treatment you think is the most appropriate for the individual described in the case.

Your answers should be approximately two pages in length (12 point type, double spaced). Please email your answers to me as an attachment. Remember to include your name, email address, and the case # on all of your papers!

B. Exams (1 @ 100 points)

One exam will be given for this course. The final exam may include multiple choice, true/false, and short answer type questions.

C. Quizzes (5 @ 20 points)

Five quizzes will be posted over the semester. You may take the quizzes at any time after they are posted but prior to the final exam. The quizzes should help to prepare you for the final.

Grading:

Grades will be assigned according to the quality of the work produced using a straight percentage format (total possible points = 400).

90% - 100%	= A
80% - 89%	= B
70% - 79%	= C
60% - 69%	= D
50% - 59%	= F

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### **Week 1 – 4/7/01 Class meeting on campus**

Read the text intro. and chapters 1 - 3; look over the intro. and appendices in your DSM-IV.

### **Week 2 – 4/14/01 Anxiety and Phobias**

Read chapters 4 & 5; look over appropriate sections of the DSM-IV  
Case Study #1 Post by 4/21

### **Week 3 – 4/21/01 Mood Disorders and Suicide**

Read chapters 6 & 7; look over appropriate sections of the DSM-IV  
Case Study #2 Post by 4/28

### **Week 4 – 4/28/01 Psychosocial Factors and Physical Disorders; Eating Disorders**

Read chapters 8 & 9; look over appropriate sections of the DSM-IV  
Case Study #3 Post by 5/5

### **Week 5 – 5/5/01 Substance-Related Disorders**

Read chapter 10; look over appropriate sections of the DSM-IV  
Case Study #4 Post by 5/12

### **Week 6 – 5/12/01 Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders**

Read chapter 11; look over appropriate sections of the DSM-IV  
Case Study #5 Post by 5/19

### **Week 7 – 5/19/01 Schizophrenia, Disorders of Memory**

Read chapters 12 & 13; look over appropriate sections of the DSM-IV  
Case Study #6 Post by 5/26

### **Week 8 - 5/26/01 Personality Disorders**

Read chapter 14; look over appropriate sections of the DSM-IV  
Case Study #7 Post by 6/2

### **Week 9 - 6/2/01 Disorders of Childhood and Old Age**

Read chapters 15 & 16; look over appropriate sections of the DSM-IV  
Case Study #8 Post by 6/9

### **Week 10 - 6/9/00 Final Exam**