

SSE '01

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY
PSY 424 Abnormal Psychology

Internet Course
Summer 2001

www.blackboard.com/courses/CHAMINADEPSY424SUMMER2001

(the access code to log on to the site is fryxell)

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Texts

Comer, J. C. (1999). Fundamentals of Abnormal psychology (2nd Ed.). New York, NY: W. H. Freeman and Company.

American Psychiatric Association (1994). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (4th Ed.). 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). 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 an 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. have an understanding of abnormal behavior based on biological, psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, existential, and social-cultural models of psychological abnormality;
9. have an understanding of the current issues related to abnormal psychology; and
10. be able to understand and use the scientific method.

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 each)	=	100 points
TOTAL	=	400 points

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. You should describe how the person meets each of the criteria for the disorder that you think fits the person.

Part 2: Treatment. In this section provide a description of the types of treatment that might be used to help the person. Also identify the type of treatment that you think would be most appropriate

Your answers should be approximately two pages in length (12 point type, double spaced). Copy and paste your papers into an email message to me and send by the due date (the pasted document will probably lose the double spacing but that is not a problem). Do not work ahead as comments on prior cases might be helpful for completing future cases.

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 each)

Five quizzes will be posted on the webpage. You can take the quizzes anytime after they are posted but before the final exam.

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

Week	Topics	Reading/Assignments
Week 1 – 7/6/00	Introduction	Chapters 1 - 3 DSM-IV Intro. & Appendices
Week 2 – 7/13/00	-Anxiety and Phobias -Panic, OCD, and Stress Disorders	Chapters 4 & 5 DSM-IV <i>Case Study #1 Post by 7/20</i>
Week 3 – 7/20/00	-Mood Disorders and Suicide	Chapters 6 & 7 DSM-IV <i>Case Study #2 Post by 7/27</i>
Week 4 – 7/27/00	-Psychosocial Factors and Physical Disorders -Eating Disorders	Chapters 8 & 9 DSM-IV <i>Case Study #3 Post by 8/3</i>
Week 5 – 8/3/00	-Substance-Related Disorders	Chapter 10 DSM-IV <i>Case Study #4 Post by 8/10</i>
Week 6 – 8/10/00	-Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders	Chapter 11 DSM-IV <i>Case Study #5 Post by 8/17</i>
Week 7 – 8/17/00	-Schizophrenia -Disorders of Memory	Chapters 12 & 13 DSM-IV <i>Case Study #6 Post by 8/24</i>
Week 8 – 8/24/00	-Personality Disorders	Chapter 14 DSM-IV <i>Case Study #7 Post by 8/31</i>
Week 9 – 8/31/00	-Disorders of Childhood and Old Age	Chapters 15 & 16 DSM-IV <i>Case Study #8 Post by 9/7</i>
Week 10 - 9/7/00	Final Exam	