

FE'02

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY
PSY 424 Abnormal Psychology
Online Course
Fall 2002

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Course Website: For this course we will be using the Blackboard Website on which all of the assignments and quizzes will be posted. The Blackboard website is time-limited to 60 days so it will not be available until the 12th of October. I will send you the web address and password at that time. In the meantime you can just get started with your reading.

Texts

Comer, J. C. (2002). Fundamentals of Abnormal psychology (3rd 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.

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.

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 were or were 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). This works better than sending attachments which sometimes cannot be opened and also carry viruses. Do not work too far ahead as comments on prior cases might be helpful for completing future cases. Make sure to identify the case number on the subject line of the email message.

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 – 10/07/02 - Introduction Read: Comer: Chapters 1 - 3
DSM-IV: Intro. & Appendices

Week 2 – 10/12/02 – Anxiety Disorders Read: Comer: Chapters 4 & 5
DSM-IV: Anxiety Disorders
Case Study #1 Post by 10/19

Week 3 – 10/19/02 -Mood Disorders Read: Comer: Chapters 6 & 7
DSM-IV Mood Disorders
Case Study #2 Post by 10/26

Week 4 – 10/26/02 –Somatic/Eating Disorders Read: Comer Chapters 8 & 9
DSM-IV Somatoform/
Eating Disorders
Case Study #3 Post by 11/02

Week 5 – 11/02/02 -Substance Disorders Read: Comer Chapter 10
DSM-IV Substance Disorders
Case Study #4 Post by 11/09

Week 6 – 11/09/02 -Sexual Disorders Read: Comer Chapter 11
DSM-IV Sexual Disorders
Case Study #5 Post by 11/16

Week 7 – 11/16/02 –Schizophrenia/Memory Read: Comer Chapters 12 & 13
DSM-IV Schizophrenia/
Memory Disorders
Case Study #6 Post by 11/23

Week 8 – 11/23/02 -Personality Disorders Read: Comer Chapter 14
DSM-IV Personality Disorders
Case Study #7 Post by 11/30

Week 9 – 11/30/02 -Disorders of Childhood Read: Comer Chapters 15 & 16
DSM-IV Childhood Disorders
Case Study #8 Post by 12/07

Week 10 – 12/07/02 Final Exam 1:00 PM on campus