

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PSYC 430

ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of neurotic and psychotic behavior including origin, classification, symptoms and a survey of diagnosis, therapy and prevention.

RATIONALE

The purpose of this course is to aid the student in developing a Christian perspective on the field of abnormal psychology. This will be accomplished by studying the history and prevailing definitions of abnormality, as well as the specific mental disorders. The student will gain knowledge of the DSM-IV with its diagnosis and insight into appropriate treatments for each disorder. This introductory knowledge and insight will serve as initial preparation for working in a treatment role that requires an understanding of abnormal psychology and the various mental disorders.

I. PREREQUISITES

PSYC 341

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click the following link to view the required resources for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio and video equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Microsoft Word and PowerPoint
(Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to LU students.)

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Convey the foundation of the discipline of Psychology in a historical and sociocultural context (PDLO 1).
- B. Evaluate the language of the discipline found in textbooks and scientific journal articles, and present written arguments in the terminology of the discipline using elements of style and the presentation of scientific information described in the most recent Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (PDLO 4).

- C. Demonstrate the skills of gathering information from a library including computerized information sources, bibliographic systems, computerized literacy skills in word-processing in APA format, conducting internet/electronic searches, and utilization of various statistical packages as well as other sources from which one can present a persuasive argument (PDLO 5).
- D. Describe and use the DSM-IV by:
 - 1. Demonstrating the DSM multiaxial system.
 - 2. Summarizing the various DSM diagnostic categories.
 - 3. Listing the criteria for the various DSM diagnoses.
- E. Identify cross-cultural issues.
- F. Describe and explain the benefits and dimensions of the various treatment approaches.
- G. Discuss the etiological contributions of biological, psychosocial, and sociocultural factors to the different mental disorders.
- H. Examine the field of abnormal psychology from a Christian worldview perspective.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

B. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Students must complete four Discussion Board Forums. The forums will cover topics relating to the course material. They must post an original thread for each forum by Friday night of the assigned week, and reply to two classmates' threads by Monday night of the same week, except for DB Forum 4, in which replies are due by Friday of Module/Week 8. In their thread, students must use a reference besides the textbook as well as a Bible passage, including an application of the passage to the forum topic.

C. Case Studies (3)

Students will complete Case Study assignments in Modules/Weeks 2, 4, and 6. For each of these assignments, students will review a case study about one type of abnormal behavior and then complete an answer sheet of questions to apply what they have learned from the study.

D. References Assignment

Students will decide on a topic and find references for their Research Paper. They must find and cite at least 6 references in APA style. 5 of the references must be journal articles or book references dated within the past 10 years. (1 of these must be theological and/or biblical in nature.) Additionally, 1 reference must be a Bible passage. This assignment is due by the end of Module/Week 3.

E. Research Paper

Students will research a specific mental disorder within the realm of Abnormal Psychology. The topic must be one which is discussed in the Comer text and described in the DSM-IV. The length of the body of the paper should not exceed 10 pages. In addition to this, students must include an APA-style title page, abstract, and references. The Research Paper is due by the end of Module/Week 7.

F. Quizzes (8)

In each module, students will take a 50-minute, open-book quiz based on the assigned textbook readings and media presentations. Each quiz contains 25 multiple-choice questions. Additionally, each quiz will be available for the full week of the module and will be unavailable after 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of that module, except for Quiz 8, which must be completed by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of Module/Week 8.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 each)	200
Case Studies (3 at 50 each)	150
References Assignment	50
Research Paper	200
Quizzes (8 at 50 each)	400
Total	1000

B. Scale

A = 900–1000 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Policies

Late Work Policy: Students who submit their work late without prior authorization from their instructor will be penalized points for every day the assignment is late. No assignment will be accepted after the third late day. Regarding quizzes, if a student has extenuating circumstances that would keep him/her from completing them by the deadline, he/she must let the instructor know in advance, and it will be determined whether the situation warrants an extension.

Assignment Completion: All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in this course.

Quizzes: When taking each quiz, students may refer only to their own textbooks or course notes. They are not allowed to use classmates' materials or any other electronic/print sources. If students violate this policy, they will receive a 0 for the entire quiz.

D. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact LU Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PSYC 430

Textbook: Comer, *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology & Video Tool Kit* (2011).

WEEK/ MODULE	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Comer: chs. 1–2 2 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist	0
		Class Introductions	0
		DB Forum 1: Model of Abnormal Psychology	50
		Quiz 1	50
2	Comer: chs. 3–4 1 presentation	Case Study: Anxiety	50
		Quiz 2	50
3	Comer: chs. 5–6 1 presentation	DB Forum 2: Stress	50
		References Assignment	50
		Quiz 3	50
4	Comer: chs. 7–8 1 presentation	Case Study: Depression	50
		Quiz 4	50
5	Comer: chs. 9–10 2 presentations	DB Forum 3: Substance Disorders	50
		Quiz 5	50
6	Comer: chs. 11–12 1 presentation	Case Study: Schizophrenia	50
		Quiz 6	50
7	Comer: chs. 13–14 1 presentation	Research Paper	200
		Quiz 7	50
8	Comer: chs. 15–16 3 presentations	DB Forum 4: Law, Society, and Mental Health	50
		Quiz 8	50
TOTAL			1000

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course week (except week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday.