

# **Abnormal Psychology (2211)**

**McDaniel College**

**Kramer Yotam, Clinical Psychologist**

E-mail: [Yotamkr@Gmail.com](mailto:Yotamkr@Gmail.com)

Office Hours: By appointment

Phone: (36)705630837

**Class Days/Time:**

Wednesdays and Fridays 10:15-11:45

**Classroom:**

Room 002

## **Course Description**

This course is designed to provide an introduction to abnormal Psychology and psychopathology. The course will cover material on various psychological disorders, theories about their development; how disorders are diagnosed and assessed; their clinical course; and how they are treated. Current theory and research will be emphasized.

## **Course objectives:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the nature of abnormal behavior and mental illness.
- Understand the process of assessing such behavior and the most commonly used system for classifying psychological disorders.
- Be familiar with and able to discuss several different theoretical perspectives on psychological disorders.
- Be familiar with the research methods used and research findings on various psychological disorders.
- Understand the causes and be able to identify the symptoms of various psychological disorders.
- Be familiar with effective treatment approaches to different psychological disorders.
- Understand various legal issues relevant to mental illness and abnormal behavior.

## **Required Texts/Readings**

### **Course Textbook:**

**Barlow, Durand: *Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition.**

**Recommended reading:**

Oltmanns, Martin, Neale, and Davison (2012). *Case Studies in Abnormal Psychology*, 9th Edition

Yalom, I. D. (2005). *The Schopenhauer Cure : A Novel*. New York, NY: Harper Perential

Green, H. (1964). *I never promised you a rose garden*. New York, NY: Signet

Kohut, H. and Wolf, E. S. (1978). "The Disorders of the Self and their Treatment: An Outline". *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 59, 413-425.

**Teaching methods**

The course will integrate a number of reading materials, lectures, discussions and video presentations.

**Course Requirements and Assignments**

*Attendance:* Because active discussion and participation are integral parts of the learning experience in this course, class attendance is expected.

*Reading:* Students are expected to read course materials every week, while paying attention to their thoughts, reactions and feelings. Emailing me with notes or questions about the week's material or about the lessons is encouraged. These comments will be discussed in class, and will be assessed as part of the grading for participation.

**Assignments**

*Case Presentation:* Students will be requested to present in couples one 'Case Study' from the 'Case studies book'.

*Final paper:* Students will be required to write a final paper. Papers must be typed neatly, double spaced and stapled. All submitted papers should include the student's name, project title and class information. All assignments will be collected during class on the due date. No late papers will be accepted. The paper is due on the last meeting. The students will be expected to describe in detail and offer a diagnosis for a character from a book/film, and then make suggestions for possible therapeutic measures.

Papers should be about 3-4 pages long, and students are expected to incorporate the knowledge gained in the course. Details about grading will be discussed in class.

**Final Exam:**

Students will be presented with a number of cases and will be asked to analyze them. Students will be expected to describe symptoms, give diagnoses, and suggest Psychological theories and therapeutic approaches that might be relevant to the cases.

**Grading:**

Final paper: 25%

Case Presentation: 25%

Weekly reading responses and participation in class: 25%

Final exam: 25%

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Assignments, Deadlines	Readings
1		Introduction to course	Syllabus
1		Abnormal psychology in historical context	Barlow Ch. 1
2		An integrative Approach to Psychopathology	Barlow Ch. 2
2		Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis	Barlow Ch. 3-4
3		Anxiety Disorders	Barlow Ch. 5
3		Obsessive-Compulsive and related Disorders - Ahmed	Barlow Ch. 5
4		Somatic Disorders and Related Disorders – Betania	Barlow Ch. 6
4		Mood Disorders – Depression Aylis and Poly	Barlow Ch. 7
5		Mood Disorders – Bipolar – Aylis and Poly	Barlow Ch. 7
5		Mood Disorders and Suicide - Rquel	Barlow Ch. 7
6		Eating Disorders (Daniel?)	Barlow Ch. 8
6		Sleep-Wake Disorders – Chen	Barlow Ch. 8
7		Substance related disorders – Kimberly	Barlow Ch. 11
7		Substance related disorders	Barlow Ch. 11
8		Personality Disorders -Chen	Barlow Ch. 12
8		Personality Disorders	Kohut & Wolf (1978)
9		Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders Daniel stern	Barlow Ch. 13
9		Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders	Green (1964)
10		Neurodevelopmental Disorders -	Barlow Ch. 14
10		Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Barlow Ch. 14
11		Neurocognitive Disorders	Barlow Ch. 15
11		Neurocognitive Disorders	Barlow Ch. 15
12		Physical disorders and Health Psychology	Barlow Ch. 9
12		Elective topics	
13		Elective topics	
13		Course wrap-up & exam review	
14		Final exam	