



EFFECTIVE: SEPTEMBER 2004
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A: Division: **INSTRUCTIONAL** Effective Date: **SEPTEMBER 2004**

B: Department / **PSYCHOLOGY** Revision New Course
 Program Area: **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES**

If Revision, Section(s) **C, H**
 Revised:
 Date of Previous Revision: **OCTOBER 2001**
 Date of Current Revision: **APRIL 2004**

C: **PSYC 2341** **D:** **ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY** **E:** **3**

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits
F:	Calendar Description: Students are introduced to basic issues in the study of abnormal psychology and to a selection of mental disorders. Topics include the history of psycho-pathology, paradigms, classification, assessment, research methods, theories of etiology, and approaches to treatment.	
G:	Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings	H: Course Prerequisites: PSYC 1200
	Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings: Lecture	I: Course Corequisites: NONE
	Number of Contact Hours: (per week /semester for each descriptor) Lecture: 4 hrs. per week / semester	J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite NONE
	Number of Weeks per Semester: 15	K: Maximum Class Size: 35
L: PLEASE INDICATE:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-Credit	
<input type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Non-Transfer	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	College Credit Transfer:	
SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (www.bccat.bc.ca)		

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:

1. Define abnormality.
2. Describe the perceived causes and treatments of abnormal behaviour prior to the twentieth century.
3. Describe the biological, psychoanalytic, behavioral, cognitive, and diathesis-stress paradigms of psychopathology.
4. Describe the therapies associated with each paradigm.
5. Evaluate each paradigm with regard to its strengths and weaknesses.
6. Describe the DSM-IV system of classifying mental disorders, the reason for using a classification system, and the reliability of psychiatric diagnosis.
7. Describe clinical assessment techniques including unstructured and structured interviews, psychological inventories, projective tests, intelligence tests, neuropsychological assessments, psycho physiological assessments, behavioral assessments, and brain imaging techniques.
8. Evaluate each assessment technique in terms of its reliability and validity.
9. Describe the case study, correlation, and experimental methods of scientific investigation.
10. Evaluate each method of investigation with regard to its strengths and weaknesses.
11. Describe the symptoms and associated features of anxiety disorders, somatoform disorders, dissociative disorders, mood disorders, personality disorders, substance use disorders, sexual disorders, schizophrenia, and childhood disorders.
12. Describe and evaluate the theories of etiology for each disorder.
13. Describe and evaluate the psychological and biological therapies for each disorder.
14. Describe and discuss issues relating to civil commitment and criminal responsibility.
15. Describe and discuss ethical dilemmas in therapy and research.

N: Course Content:

1. Historical and Scientific Considerations
The nature of abnormality
The mental health professions
History of psychopathology
2. Current Paradigms in Psychopathology and Treatment
Biological paradigm
Psychoanalytic paradigm
Learning paradigm
Cognitive paradigm
Consequences of adopting paradigm
3. Classification and Diagnosis
Diagnostic system of the American Psychiatric Association
Issues in classification
Criticisms of diagnosis

Course Content Cont'd.

4. Clinical Assessment Procedures
Reliability and validity
Biological assessment
Psychological assessment
Cultural diversity and assessment
5. Research Methods in the Study of Abnormal Psychology
Science and scientific methods
Research methods of abnormal psychology
6. Anxiety Disorders
Description
Theories of etiology
Therapies
7. Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders
Description
Theories of etiology
Therapies
8. Mood Disorders
Descriptions
Theories of etiology
Therapies
9. Personality Disorders
Description
Theories of etiology
Therapies
10. Substance Use Disorders (Focus on Alcohol)
Description
Theories of etiology
Therapies
11. Sexual Disorders
Description
Theories of etiology
Therapies
12. Schizophrenia and Other Psychotic Disorders
Description
Theories of etiology
Therapies
13. Childhood Disorders
Description
Theories of etiology
Therapies
14. Legal and Ethical Issues
Civil commitment
Criminal responsibility
Ethical issues

O: Methods of Instruction:

This course will employ a number of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives which will include some of the following:

1. Lectures
2. Seminar presentations
3. Audio-visual materials
4. Small group discussion
5. Research papers
6. Volunteer projects

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:

A textbook such as one of the following:

Barlow, D. & Durand, V. (1999). Abnormal Psychology (2nd Ed.). Belmont, CA, Wadsworth.

Davison, G. & Neale, J. (2000). Abnormal Psychology (8th Ed.). New York, NY, Wiley.

Text will be updated periodically.

Q: Means of Assessment:

Evaluation will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. Evaluation will be based on the course objectives. The instructor will present a written course outline with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester. Evaluation will be based on some of the following:

1. Multiple choice tests
2. Written answer tests
3. Final exam
4. Oral presentation
5. Research project/term paper
6. Volunteer project

An example of one evaluation scheme:

4 tests	40%
Mid term exam	15%
Term paper	15%
Oral presentation	10%
Final exam	<u>20%</u>
	100%

R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No. Given that this course involves theoretical and empirical analyses of abnormal psychology, it is unlikely to be open for PLAR except as a credit transfer from another institution.

Course Designer(s):

Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

Dean / Director

Registrar