



Course Prefix/Number/Title: PSYC 270—Abnormal Psychology

Number of credits: 3 credits

Course Description:

A survey of the classification, symptoms, and etiology of psychological disorders.

This class focuses on the entire range and scope of human behavior, including theoretical, etiological, epidemiological, and phenomenological approaches to mental illness. It is intended that the student increases their understanding of psychopathology in general and learn more about basic psychological disorders. The course will also explore the aspects of social consequences and treatment options offered in the past and at the current time.

Pre-/Co-requisites: PSYC 111—Introduction to Psychology

Course Objectives:

Students will:

1. Define key concepts in the field of abnormal psychology.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of abnormal psychology, including the field's history, methods, and future directions.
3. Describe basic psychological disorders, including classification, symptoms, and etiology.
4. Explain the psychological and social factors that influence psychological disorders.

Instructor: Lexi R. Kvasnicka-Gates, Ph.D.

Office: Thatcher Hall 2206

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 9:00am-9:50am and 1:00-1:50pm

Phone: 228-5475

Email: lexi.kvasnicka@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule: MWF 2:00-2:50pm TH 1108

End Date: March 9, 2025This is a fast-paced class. Extensions WILL NOT be granted.

Textbook(s):

American Psychological Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th Edition). Washington, DC: APA.

Oltmanns, T. F., Martin, M. T., Neale, J. M., & Davison, G. C. (2012). *Case Studies in Abnormal Psychology*, 9th Ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Course Requirements:

- Quizzes (12 quizzes-15 points) 180 points
- Papers (12 papers-10 points each) 120 points
- Discussion Participation (12 discussions-5 points each) 60 points

Total: 360 points

A	324 and above
B	288-323
C	252-287
D	216-251
F	215 and below

Major Assignments:

- **Quizzes:** Twelve (12) quizzes will be given throughout the semester. Each quiz will be worth 15 points, and will consist of ten multiple choice questions worth 1-point each, and one essay question worth 5 points. The essay question on each quiz (except the first) will be: What are some challenges that you would experience if you had _____ disorder. These quizzes will cover material presented in the week’s readings, assignments and lectures.
- **Papers:** There are a total of ten (10) case studies covered throughout the semester. Each student will be responsible for writing a summary and reflection on all ten case studies. The summary and reflection should be one page (double-spaced) in length. Additionally, the first paper due in the class will reflect over changes to the DSM, and the ninth paper in the class will summarize and reflect on the movie *Still Alice*. These assignments must be turned in at the beginning of the class period of which it is due. Full points will be awarded for summary and reflections that are thorough and insightful.
- **Discussion Participation:** There are a total of twelve (12) discussions over class topics in Blackboard. Students are expected to actively participate in ALL discussions. Students who contribute multiple insights and facilitating discussion will earn the full 5 points.

Tentative Course Outline:

Week	Date	Day	Topic	DSM-5	Paper/Case Study
Week 1	1/15 1/17	Wednesday Friday	Class Introduction/Responsibilities & Assignments History of the DSM/Using the DSM		
Week 2	1/20 1/22 1/24	Monday Wednesday Friday	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No Class)</i> Using the DSM/ Quiz #1 (Paper and Discussion) Neurodevelopmental Disorders (watch T.G.)	p. 31	DSM-5
Week 3	1/27 1/29 1/31	Monday Wednesday Friday	Quiz #2/Autistic Disorder (Paper & Discussion) Depressive Disorders Quiz #3/Depression (Paper and Discussion)	p. 155	p. 309 p. 87
Week 4	2/3	Monday	Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders	p. 235	

	2/5 2/7	Wednesday Friday	Quiz #4/OCD (Paper and Discussion) Dissociative Disorders	p. 291	p.1
Week 5	2/10 2/12 2/14	Monday Wednesday Friday	Quiz #5/DID (Paper and Discussion) Feeding and Eating Disorders Quiz #6/Bulimia (Paper and Discussion)	p. 329	p. 68 p. 234
Week 6	2/17 2/19 2/21	Monday Wednesday Friday	<i>President's Day (No Class)</i> Sexual Dysfunctions/Paraphilic Disorders Quiz #7/Paraphilic (Paper and Discussion)	p. 423, 685	p. 188
Week 7	2/24 2/26 2/28	Monday Wednesday Friday	Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders Quiz #8/Alcohol Depend. (Paper & Discussion) Neurocognitive Disorder	p. 481 p. 591	p. 159
Week 8	3/3 3/5 3/7	Monday Wednesday Friday	Quiz #9/Still Alice (Paper and Discussion) Personality Disorders Quiz #10/Borderline (Paper and Discussion)	p. 645	Movie p. 283
By 11:59pm on Sunday, March 9			Quiz #11/Schizophrenia (Paper and Discussion) Quiz #12/Gender Dysphoria (Paper and Discussion) **These lectures, discussions, paper drop boxes, and quizzes are all available on Blackboard	p. 87 p. 451	p. 130 p. 202

***The final will NOT be given early. You must take the final during the final exam time, no exceptions.

General Education Competency/Learning Outcome(s) OR CTE Competency/Department Learning Outcome(s):

- Competency/Goal 6: Demonstrates knowledge of social structures
 - Learning Outcome 1: Examines the experience of the individual
 - Learning Outcome 2: Examines the world of human diversity

Relationship to Campus Focus: Campus Focus: Nature, Technology, and Beyond

- Students will be familiar with the technological tools used to investigate the mind and our behavior.
- Students will be familiar with how nature influences our own (psychological) development.
- Students will use critical thinking to understand the importance of psychology now, and in the future.

Classroom Policies:

- **Participation.** Students are expected to come to class prepared and actively engage in class discussion and activities. The classroom environment is open and harassment free, so please engaged in discussion. Computers are welcome in the classroom for note-taking purposes only. If students abuse this privilege, the instructor reserves the right to ban computers from the lecture periods.
- **Deadlines.** All assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day that they are due. Students will be deducted 5 points for every 24-hour period the assignment is not turned in, including weekends.

If a student is aware that they will miss a quiz, they must inform the instructor *at least* one week prior to the missed quiz. If a student is sick or experiences unforeseen circumstances where a quiz must be missed, **the instructor must be informed immediately and proper documentation must be presented** (e.g., doctor's note, police accident report). Students will lose 10% for each 24-hour period that the quiz is not taken. Once two class periods have passed since the missed quiz, the student will receive a "0" for the quiz. Students involved in college activities (e.g., athletics) that require them to miss a quiz will take a make-up which is the same format as typical quiz (multiple choice and short answer). Proper documentation from a coach or faculty supervisor is required to avoid the grade penalty.

- **Grades.** Questions about test grades can be emailed to the instructor up to 10 days (including weekends) after the grade is posted; after this time grades are considered final. Questions regarding grades can be emailed to the instructor no sooner than 24-hours after the grade has been posted. Challenging the grade will result in a re-grade. Re-grades may result in a grade higher or lower than the original grade.
- **Canceled Class.** If a weather-related event prevents the professor from getting to class, students will be responsible for completing an "assignment" over the scheduled reading. Information about the assignment will be provided on the class Blackboard shell, and the deadline for completion of the assignment will be by 9:00pm the day of the missed class. The "assignment" will take the place of an in-class quiz, and will be worth 5 points. Students will be notified of the professor's absence by a note on the classroom door, as well as with a notification on the class Blackboard shell. Just as with the in-class quizzes, if a student does not complete the assignment by 9:00pm, it cannot be made up.

Student Email Policy:

Dakota College at Bottineau is increasingly dependent upon email as an official form of communication. A student's campus-assigned email address will be the only one recognized by the Campus for official mailings. The liability for missing or not acting upon important information conveyed via campus email rests with the student.

Academic Integrity:

According to the DCB Student Handbook, students are responsible for submitting their own work. Students who cooperate on oral or written examinations or work without authorization share the responsibility for violation of academic principles, and the students are subject to disciplinary action even when one of the students is not enrolled in the course where the violation occurred. The Code detailed in the Academic Honesty/Dishonesty section of the Student Handbook will serve as the guideline for cases where cheating, plagiarism or other academic improprieties have occurred.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

Students with disabilities or special needs (academic or otherwise) are encouraged to contact the instructor and Disability Support Services.

Title IX:

DCB faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the College as a whole. Please be aware that all DCB employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as advocates, counselors, clergy and healthcare providers) are required to report

information about such discrimination and harassment to the College Title IX Coordinator. This means that if a student tells a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the College's Title IX Coordinator. Students wishing to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility can find a list of resources on the DCB Title IX webpage.

AI Student Policy:

Unless otherwise indicated in the course syllabus, or in individual instructions for course assignments, or in the absence of the express consent of the course instructor, students are not allowed to utilize generative AI to help produce any of their academic work. Any violation of this policy will be considered an act of academic dishonesty as outlined within the Dakota College Code of Student Life.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible to follow the syllabus and assignment instructions regarding use of generative AI for all academic work. • Obtain permission of the instructor prior to the use of generative AI that is outside of the syllabus or assignment instructions. Provide appropriate rationale for how the use of generative AI will enhance the learning experience for the assignment. • In instances where generative AI is permissible, appropriately cite the generative AI program used and indicate where in the assignment it was used, in a brief submission statement.
Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine if the use of generative AI could enhance student learning in any assignment of project. • Clearly indicate in all course syllabi if generative AI is allowable for any academic work. • If allowable, give specific parameters for how and when generative AI may be used. • If a violation of generative AI for the individual course/syllabus is suspected, discuss the concern with the student. If violation is still suspected, inform the appropriate semester coordinator/program director.