

Dakota College at Bottineau Course Syllabus

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:

Anytime via email or Blackboard Message

Phone: 228-5475

Email: lexi.kvasnicka@dakotacollege.edu

Lecture/Lab Schedule:

Online

Required Texts:

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:

Topic	DSM-5	Case Study	Quiz	Paper	Discussion	Movie	Due Date
Class Responsibilities and Assignments			Non-Credit Quiz				Sept. 1, 11:59pm
History of the DSM/Using the DSM			Quiz #1	Paper #1	Discussion #1		Sept. 8, 11:59pm
Neurodevelopmental Disorders	p. 31	p. 309	Quiz #2	Paper #2	Discussion #2	Temple Grandin	Sept. 22, 11:59pm
Depressive Disorders	p. 155	p. 87	Quiz #3	Paper #3	Discussion #3		Sept. 29, 11:59pm
Obsessive-Compulsive and Related Disorders	p. 235	p. 1	Quiz #4	Paper #4	Discussion #4		Oct. 6, 11:59pm
Dissociative Disorders	p. 291	p. 68	Quiz #5	Paper #5	Discussion #5	United States of Tara	Oct. 20, 11:59pm
Feeding and Eating Disorders	p. 329	p. 234	Quiz #6	Paper #6	Discussion #6		Oct. 27, 11:59pm
Sexual Dysfunctions	p. 423		Quiz #7				Nov. 10, 11:59pm
Paraphilic Disorders	p. 685	p. 188	Quiz #7	Paper #7	Discussion #7		Nov. 10, 11:59pm
Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders	p. 481	p. 159	Quiz #8	Paper #8	Discussion #8		Nov. 17, 11:59pm
Neurocognitive Disorders	p. 591		Quiz #9	Paper #9	Discussion #9	Still Alice	Nov. 24, 11:59pm
Personality Disorders	p. 645	p. 283	Quiz #10	Paper #10	Discussion #10		Dec. 1, 11:59pm
Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorders	p. 87	p. 130	Quiz #11	Paper #11	Discussion #11		Dec. 8, 11:59pm
Gender Dysphoria	p. 451	p. 202	Quiz #12	Paper #12	Discussion #12		Dec. 15, 11:59pm

*****This is a very fast paced course. Students are encouraged to work ahead.**

General Education Goals/Objectives:

- 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 Theme:

Campus theme: 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 stay up-to-date in the class. If a student needs extra help with course technology, it is the student's responsibility to alert the instructor (via email or Blackboard) as soon as possible. Please utilize the course Blackboard shell. The classroom environment is open and harassment free, so please engage in discussion
- **Deadlines.** All assignments are due by Sunday at 11:59pm of the assigned week. Students will be deducted 5 points for every 24-hour period the assignment is not turned in, including weekends. All exams, quizzes, discussions, and project drop boxes are open until the closing date. DO NOT wait for the last minute to complete assignments. If a student does not turn in or complete an assignment by the necessary time, the student will receive a "0" for the incomplete assignment.
- **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.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism (taking the ideas, thoughts, or language of someone else and passing them off as your own) will not be tolerated in this class. If a student is suspected of plagiarizing, cheating, or not doing their own work, the matter will be investigated. Any student who is found to engage in academic dishonesty (including letting others cheat off of you) will receive an automatic "F" in the course. Additionally, the incident will be reported to the appropriate University office and additional action may be taken.

Disabilities and Special Needs:

Please inform the instructor within the first week of classes if any assistance is required due to disabilities or special needs.

Student E-mail Policy

The Dakota College at Bottineau campus community is increasingly dependent upon electronic communication among faculty, staff and students. Because of its convenience, cost-effectiveness and speed, e-mail has replaced much of the paper correspondence of the past. Because of this acceptance of and reliance upon electronic communication, e-mail is considered an official form of communication at Dakota College at Bottineau. A student's campus-assigned e-mail 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 email because of a failure to access a campus-assigned e-mail address rests with the student.