**SAMPLE SYLLABUS 1: Undergraduate Psychology Course**

**Abnormal Psychology**

**Course Description:** The major focus of this course is mental illness and abnormal behavior, in light of modern theory and knowledge. Current trends and modern methods of diagnosis, understanding, treatment, and prevention are discussed. Students enrolled in this course may be required to share information regarding their personal life, family, or relationships.

Additional Description: This course provides a foundation on the taxonomy, epistemology, prevalence, course, and treatment of mental disorders as classified in DSM-5 from biological, psychological, and sociocultural perspectives that incorporate viewpoints from a number of theoretical frameworks. Case studies will be utilized frequently to supplement understanding of these disorders and provide examples of how they are manifested in people’s lives. Be aware that details from cases may be disguised or altered to protect confidentiality. The class will be lecture oriented, with opportunities for group discussion, personal reflection, and creative engagement with the course material.

**Course Learning Outcomes:** In order to communicate the goals of this course, this course utilizes common language developed by the University’s Department of Psychology, the University’s Assessment Protocol, and American Psychological Association (APA). The hope is that the students, faculty, administration, and other interested parties know the purpose of the course and how it serves the mission of the University and the Department of Psychology and how the course aligns with appropriate outcomes identified by APA and the Assessment Protocol.

Essential Goals: Assessment 1. Gaining basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)

Important Goals: Assessment 8. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing

Assessment 11. Learning to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

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| **Course Goals and Objectives** | **Department of Psychology Goals** | **APA SLO Goals** | **Assessment** | **Student Assignment/ Outcomes/ Measurements** |
| Students will demonstrate **knowledge and understanding of abnormal psychology** including: diagnostic categories and subtypes; history of abnormal psychological conceptualization, assessment, and diagnosis; Current research and methods of assessment and treatment for psychological disorders; etiology and biopsychosociocultural factors in disordered behavior; and ethical practices pertaining to abnormal psychology | SLO 1: DISCIPLINARY KNOWLEDGE. Students demonstrate a working knowledge of psychology's content domains, key theories, concepts, principles, themes, and applications of psychology in society | **Goal 1: Knowledge Base In Psychology** | Assessment 1, 3 | Exams 1-4; Final Exam (M.C.); SBIRT Training |
| Students will demonstrate **proficiency in scientific inquiry** related to abnormal psychology including: Current literature review and examination of the current issues in abnormal psychology, illustrated by APA writing | SLO 2: CRTICIAL THINKING, SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY AND EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION. Students demonstrate effective expression of critical thought and scientific inquiry in their engagement with psychology literature, conduct of psychological research, and written, oral, and interpersonal communication | **Goal 2: Scientific Inquiry and Critical Thinking**  **Goal 4: Communication** | Assessment 8, 9, 11 | Journal Article Review |
| Students will identify and critically analyze the **professional issues** related to the application of abnormal psychology including: issues related to professional **ethics, multiculturalism, and personal self-awareness**. | SLO 3: VALUES AND ETHICS.  Students demonstrate knowledge of the APA ethical and multicultural ethical standards for the practice of psychology and are able to utilize those standards in decision making and actions in scientific inquiry, sociocultural, and interpersonal contexts. Students articulate and behaviorally express values that build and enhance interpersonal relationships and community engagement at local, multicultural, and cross cultural levels. | **Goal 3:**  **Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World** | Assessment 1, 4, 9, 10 | Mid-Term Paper |
| Students will demonstrate a **faith-integrated worldview** approach to abnormal psychology, including: Faith integrated conceptualizations of identity, behavior and pathology in terms of etiology, conceptualization and treatment issues within a Christian psychological perspective. | SLO 3: VALUES AND ETHICS.  Students demonstrate knowledge of the APA ethical and multicultural ethical standards for the practice of psychology and are able to utilize those standards in decision making and actions in scientific inquiry, sociocultural, and interpersonal contexts. Students articulate and behaviorally express values that build and enhance interpersonal relationships and community engagement at local, multicultural, and cross cultural levels. | **Goal 3: Ethical and Social Responsibility in a Diverse World** | Assessment 4, 7, 10 | Term Paper |

**Course Schedule**

**Date Topic (Assignment Due in Bold) Reading1 Assignment**

9/1 Introduction and Overview of Syllabus Syllabus

9/6 Ch. 1 Research and Abnormal Psychology 1.1-1.9 Reading Ch. 1

9/8 Ch. 2 History of Abnormal Psych: Prehistory - 19th Century 2.1

9/13 Ch. 2 History of Abnormal Psych: 19th Century-Present 2.2-2.3 Reading Ch. 2

9/15 Ch. 3 Biological Causes of Abnormal Psychology 3.1-3.3;

9/20 Ch. 3 Psychological and Sociocultural Causes 3.4-3.6 Reading Ch. 3

9/22 Ch. 4 Assessment of Abnormal Psychology 4.1, 4.3

9/27 Ch. 4 Classifying Abnormal Psychology 4.5-4.6 Reading Ch. 4

9/29 Ch. 5 Stress and Health 5.1-5.4

10/4 Ch. 5 Treatment and Prevention of Stress-Related Disorders 5.5-5.8 Journal Article

10/6 Ch. 6 Anxiety Disorders 6.1-6.5

10/11 Ch. 6 Obsessional Disorders 6.6-6.8

10/13 Ch. 7 Unipolar Depression 7.1-7.3 Mid-Term Paper 1

10/18 Ch. 7 Bipolar Disorders and Suicide 7.4-7.9

10/20 Exam Day Exam 1

10/25 Ch. 9 Eating Disorders 9.1-9.3 Reflection Paper

10/27 Ch. 9 Obesity 9.4-9.6

11/1 Ch. 10 Cluster A and B Disorders 10.1-10.4 Mid-Term Paper 2

11/3 Ch. 10 Cluster C Disorders and Psychopathy 10.5-10.8

11/8 Ch. 11 Substance Use Disorders 11.1-11.3 **SBIRT Training**

11/10 Exam Day Exam 2

11/15 Ch. 12 Homosexuality & Gender Dysphoria 12.1-12.3 **SBIRT Certificate**

11/17 Ch. 12 Paraphilias and Ch. 13 Schizophrenia 13.1-13.2 Term Paper Outline

11/22 Ch. 13 Schizophrenia, Neurodevelopment, and Treatment 13.3-13.7

11/24 No Class: Thanksgiving

11/29 Ch. 14 Brain Impairment, Delirium, & Dementia 14.1-14.4 Film Analysis

12/1 Ch. 14 Amnesia and Brain Injury 14.5-14.7

12/6 Ch. 15 ODD, CD, & ADHD 15.1, 15.3

12/8 Ch. 15 Autism, Learning Disorders & RDoC 15.5-15.8 **SBIRT 30 day**

TBD Final Examination (Covers Chapters 12-15 + 2 Essay Questions) Term Paper

**Assignments**

1. **Attendance and Participation.** See Policies (above) for more information on this policy. 5 points will be deducted for each additional unexcused absence beyond the one absence allowed. A subjective evaluation of the student’s participation will also contribute to the determination of the attendance grade.
2. **Reading Chapters 1-4.** This assignment involves reading and completing the associated quizzes on the online platform. All quizzes are open-book. See Policies (above) for more information about how points are awarded for this course component.
3. **Reflection Paper.** This 2.5-3.5 page paper will involve either a personal response that details the student’s experiential and cultural impressions of mental illness OR an analysis of cultural or media trends that impact perceptions of mental illness. More details will be provided later.
4. **Mid-Term Paper 1 & 2.** The student will submit two 2-3 page Mid-Term papers, each addressing a summary of the clinical features of a single diagnosis from a list of options. More details will be provided later.
5. **Journal Article Review**: Select and read one article from the following: Wakefield (2007) or Deacon (2013). Based on this article, submit a 3-4 page review. More details will be provided later.
6. **Film Analysis.** This 3-4 page paper involves a critical analysis of a movie depicting mental illness. Students will apply course material in their analysis of the movie. More details will be provided later.
7. **SBIRT Training.** The student will complete a 4 hour online training of Faith & Spirituality Integrated SBIRT and be prepared to practice SBIRT in class. More details will be provided later. You are required to complete the training, show Completion Certificate; and a 30 day follow-up to receive credit in this course.
8. **Term Paper**. This 5-7 page faith integration paper gives the student an opportunity to elaborate on similarities and differences between Christian views and biopsychosocial views of a particular immoral behavior. More details will be provided later.
9. **Exams 1-2**. In-class mid-term exams will assess student’s knowledge of Abnormal Psychology from the selected chapters. Exams will include a multiple choice section and an essay response section. The essay question will be worth 10 points and will be provided in advance of the exam. Please bring a scantron and Blue Book unless told otherwise.
10. **Final Exam.** The final exam will assess student’s knowledge of Abnormal Psychology from the selected chapters. Multiple choice questions will address Chapters 12-15, additional readings, and Christian integration. There will also be 2 cumulative essay response questions, each worth 10 points. The instructor will provide 3 possible essay exam questions and 2 of these will be on the final exam. Please bring both a scantron and blue book unless instructed otherwise. The date of the final exam is determined by the APU finals exam schedule.

All assignments should be completed using APA style citations, formatting, and references.

**Determination of Grades**

**Assignment Points Percent Clock Hours**

Attendance and Participation 30 6% 45

Reading Chapters 1-4 36 7% 8

Reflection Paper 32 6% 6

Mid-Term Paper #1 25 5% 5

Mid-Term Paper #2 25 5% 5

Journal Article Review 45 9% 8

Film Analysis 38 8% 7

Term Paper Outline 10 2% 3

Term Paper 64 13% 12

S-BIRT Training 30 6% 5

Exam #1 50 10% 10

Exam #2 50 10% 10

Final Exam 65 13% 13

*Total 500 100% 137*