

ARIZONA WESTERN COLLEGE
SYLLABUS

PSY 281 ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

Credit Hours: 3 Lec.: 3

PREREQUISITE: PSY 101

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an undergraduate level introduction to the concepts of abnormality, mental health and mental illness. It serves as an introduction to the concepts of normality and abnormality in a cultural context. It also covers current diagnostic categorizations of abnormality and treatment of mental illness along with historical perspectives on these diagnoses and treatments. It does not train students in diagnosis or intervention. Abnormal psychology examines the causes, diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and possible prevention of mental disorders; including historical and current theoretical perspectives, classification systems, cultural perspectives and ethical issues.

1. COURSE GOALS

- 1.1 Think critically about concept of normalcy that they encounter in everyday life.
- 1.2 Demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental theoretical perspectives, principles, concepts, vocabulary and methodology for each of the assigned topics.

2. OUTCOMES

Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1 demonstrate knowledge of fundamental theoretical perspectives, principles, concepts, vocabulary and methodology for each of the assigned topics.
- 2.2 compare and contrast the major theoretical perspectives found in abnormal psychology.
- 2.3 critically analyze information pertaining to abnormal psychology found in film, television, radio, print, and IT sources.
- 2.4 communicate an understanding of abnormal psychology concepts in written or oral formats.
- 2.5 describe the relevance of religion, race, class, gender, age, and ethnicity to understanding differences in the prevalence of disorders and the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of these disorders.
- 2.6 be able to discuss the philosophical issues surrounding the concepts of normality and abnormality.
- 2.7 demonstrate knowledge of a variety of psychological disorders including mood, personality, lifestyle, learning and sexual disorders.
- 2.8 apply concepts to current social problems/concerns.
- 2.9 think critically about ethics and apply their thoughts to real life ethical dilemmas.
- 2.10 use classroom technology effectively- blackboard/internet/internet video/power point/SPSS or other technology as appropriate.
- 2.11 successfully navigate the blackboard classroom platform and classroom ancillaries.

3. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.1 Under AWC Policy, students are expected to attend every session of class in which they are enrolled.
- 3.2 If a student is unable to attend the course or must drop the course for any reason, it will be the responsibility of the student to withdraw from the course. Students who are not attending as of the 45th day of the course may be withdrawn by the instructor. If the student does not withdraw from the course and fails to complete the requirements of the course, the student will receive a failing grade.
- 3.3 Americans with Disabilities Act Accommodations: Arizona Western College provides academic accommodations to students with disabilities through AccessABILITY Resource Services (ARS). ARS provides reasonable and appropriate accommodations to

Students who have documented disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to make the ARS Coordinator aware of the need for accommodations in the classroom prior to the beginning of the semester. Students should follow up with their instructors once the semester begins. To make an appointment call the ARS front desk at (928) 344-7674 or ARS Coordinator at (928) 344-7629, in the College Community Center (3C) building, next to Advising.

- 3.4 Academic Integrity: Any student participating in acts of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, copying the work of other students, using unauthorized “crib notes”, plagiarism, stealing tests, or forging an instructor’s signature - will be subject to the procedures and consequences outlined in AWC’s Student Code of Conduct.
- 3.5 Texts and Notebooks: Students are required to obtain the class materials for the course.
- 3.6 Arizona Western College students are expected to attend every class session in which they are enrolled. To comply with Federal Financial Aid regulations (34 CFR 668.21), Arizona Western College (AWC) has established an Attendance Verification process for “No Show” reporting during the first 10 days of each semester.

Students who have enrolled but have never attended class may be issued a “No Show” (NS) grade by the professor or instructor and receive a final grade of “NS” on their official academic record. An NS grade may result in a student losing their federal financial aid.

For online classes, *student attendance in an online class is defined as the following* (FSA Handbook, 2012, 5-90):

- Submitting an academic assignment
- Taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction
- Attending a study group that is assigned by the school
- Participating in an online discussion about academic matters
- Initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course

4. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION

- 4.1 Lecture and readings from the texts and available media
- 4.2 Audiovisual material as needed
- 4.3 Group discussions; games
- 4.4 Case studies
- 4.5 Class presentations, essays or other revised written work

5. LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 5.1 Reading assignments
- 5.2 Class lectures, discussions, laboratories, hands-on assignments
- 5.3 Homework, tests and/or quizzes
- 5.4 essays, games for credit, case studies, revised written work

6. EVALUATIONS

- 6.1 Grades will be earned on a straight grading system (no curve) by successful completion of an assortment of learning activities, exams, assignments, and In-class and online participation. Attendance will be graded.
- 6.2 Please see the class schedule and first day handouts for more information about grading schemas.