Syllabus for PSY 214 Abnormal Psychology  
Spring 2010 CRN 20903 Tuesday 1:10 – 3:40 p.m. E5 527

Description: This course will provide an overview of the field of abnormal psychology, including theoretical approaches, classifications, diagnoses, and treatments.

Instructor: Rita Flattley, M.Ed  Email: rflattley@pima.edu  Office Hours: O1 162

Mon/Wed 8:45 – 9:45 am & Tue/Thurs 9 – 10 a.m.  Phone: 206-7634 days


Attendance and Participation:
Regular attendance is important in any college class, and is positively correlated with student success. If you miss classes but intend to remain in the class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor and make up any missing work. Some test items will be taken from films or guest speakers presented in class. This is a 200 level course and the reading level of the text is higher than an introductory level class. Reading the text is required, there is not enough time to cover every detail in the text during the class time. Success depends on both reading and attending.

Goals:
My goals for this class include sharing current research on the diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of neurological and psychological disorders, as well as sharing discussions of the societal impact of mental illness and the funding and resources available for treatment and prevention. I also hope to share the human face of mental health issues and engender understanding and compassion for those who suffer and their loved ones.

Important Dates for Spring 2010

Classes Start Tuesday, January 19
Drop/Refund Deadline Monday, February 1
Rodeo Days Thursday and Friday, February 25 – 26 – No Class
45th Day Census for Registration Thursday, March 4
Spring Break Week March 14 – 20 – No Class
Withdrawal Deadline Thursday, April 8
Finals Week May 12 – May 18

Note: Students are held responsible for knowing and following the PCC Code of Conduct and maintaining academic integrity in the course of their studies. Students who do not attend regularly may be withdrawn from the class roster or may fail the class.

Pursuant to Arizona state law (ARS 13-3620) College personnel who learn in the course of their employment that a minor has been the victim of physical or sexual abuse are required to report this information immediately to law enforcement.

PCC provides reasonable accommodation to those students who qualify under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA.) Appropriate medical documentation will be required to determine eligibility. Please contact the campus Disabled Student Resource office at 206-7799 to begin the accommodation request process.
**Classroom Manners:**
In order to maintain a positive and constructive learning environment, everyone involved must be mature and respectful to others. Turn off cell phones and avoid side conversations, entering late and/or leaving early, and other distracting or disruptive behaviors. Thank you!

**Class Schedule**  (Subject to minor changes as announced in class)

Week #1 January 19  Introduction to course and review of syllabus.  READ Ch. 1.  Definitions of abnormality, historical and modern perspectives on mental health issues, causes, and cures.

Week #2 January 26  Research Methods  READ Ch. 3  Research in the mental health field - its basic methods, ethical and practical issues.

Week #3 February 2  Assessment and Diagnosis.  READ Ch. 4.  Clients are assessment and diagnosis, intake procedures, using DSM IV-TR criteria.

Week #4 February 9  Stress Disorders and Health Psychology.  READ Ch. 6.  The mind/body connection, the role of personality traits and social support, post traumatic stress disorder.  
**First case study or research article due Week 4 – submit in person, not email.**

Week #5 February 16  Theories and Treatments.  READ Ch. 2 and 5.  Theoretical perspectives and the treatment modalities associated with them.  Treatment efficacy and combining methods.

Week #6 February 23  Anxiety Disorders.  READ Ch. 7.  Panic disorder, phobias, obsessive-compulsive disorder.  Comparing medication and cognitive-behavior approaches.

Week #7 March 2  **First Test on Chapters 1 – 7 Can use 2 page sides notes.**  
READ Ch 10 Suicide.  Suicide rates and possible causes.  Suicide prevention.

Week #8 March 9  READ Ch 8  Somatoform and dissociative disorders.  Munchausen’s Syndrome by proxy.  Psychodynamic ideas, culture and body image disorders, psychogenic amnesias and trauma.

Week #9 March 23  Mood Disorders  READ Ch. 9.  Depression and bipolar disorder. Biological predisposition, negative belief systems, culture and gender, medications and cognitive therapies.

Week #10 March 30  Schizophrenia.  READ Ch. 11.  Description of symptoms and etiology. Biological and sociocultural causes and treatments.  Myths and realities, new research.  
**Second case study or research article due Week 10 – submit in person, not email.**

Week #11 April 6  Personality Disorders  READ Ch. 12.  The three clusters of personality disorders in the DSM, and problems with categorization.  Self-harm and harm of others.

Week #12 April 13  **Second Test on Chapters 8 – 12 Can use 2 page sides notes**  
Cognitive Disorders and Life Span Issues.  READ Ch. 14 Dementia, neurological diseases, issues of aging.

Week #13 April 13  Childhood Disorders.  READ Ch. 13.  Developmental disorders, the autism spectrum, ADD, conduct disorders, learning disorders, retardation.
Week # 14 April 20  Eating Disorders  READ Ch. 15 Anorexia, bulimia, Culture and gender, social pressures and biological factors.  Sexual Disorders.  READ Ch. 16.  Sexual identity, sexual dysfunctions, paraphilias.  Sex therapy, sensate focus, treatment of sex offenders.

Book Review Due Week 14

Week # 15  April 27  Substance Abuse.  Types of abused substances and treatment methods. Legal and social issues, comorbidity, employment opportunities.

Week # 16 May 4  Last Day to turn in Any Writing Assignment!!  READ Ch. 18 Mental Health & Law.  Insanity pleas, competency and commitment hearings, civil rights & responsibilities.  Law and public policy and the mental health system.

May 11  Last Test and last class session.  Check on grades next week.

Writing Assignments:
All writing assignments must be typed, in a standard 12 point font, with at least one inch margins, preferably with 1.5 or double spacing. Make sure that your full name, as it appears on the class list, is at the top as well as the class in which you are enrolled. Article reviews should include a brief summary of the material and your conclusions or comments, and should be about one to two pages in length. Be sure to put the reference at the end, as shown below.

Research reviews must be of a case study or research article relevant to Abnormal Psychology, not just psychology in general as in PSY 101. The book review must be done on a nonfiction book that is biographical, autobiographical, or by a psychologist. Novels do not count.

How to reference your source material – put references at the end of the paper.
Write citations in APA Style: The Publication Style of the American Psychological Association. Print materials are listed alphabetically by author’s last name. If the material is given in an official document from an organization without a person’s name, the organization is the author.

Examples: For information in print :
Author Date Title of article Publication information

Examples - For information from the Internet:
Author Date Title of article Publication information
Important: Do NOT copy papers in whole or in part from the Internet without using quotation marks around the verbatim material (quotations should be brief.) This is defined as plagiarism and is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Write your own original work and always cite your sources.

Grading Policy and Point Assignments

Attendance: Max. 25 pts.
Three Quizzes @ 50 pts. each: Max. 150 pts.

Book Review: Max 50 pts.

Read a book written by a person with a psychological disorder or one by a mental health professional providing treatment for a person or people with a disorder. Write a brief essay on what you learned from getting an “up close and personal” view of mental and/or neurological illness. The instructor will share a list of possible books.

One Review of a Case Study and One Review of a Journal Articles @ 25 pts. Each Max. 50 pts.
There are books of case studies on reserve in the library, and some copies of the Journal of Abnormal Psychology are also on reserve. You may also locate them on the Internet or in a Pima Library database. Journals or web pages must be peer reviewed by other scientists.

Extra credit opportunities may be announced occasionally in class as opportunities arise. Students are encouraged to bring in current information to share with the class on such topics as new research developments or current events that relate to the field of abnormal psychology. Test questions may cover information provided in class through videos or guest speakers.

Point Conversion to Letter Grade

90 – 100%  = 247 – 275 = A
80 – 89%   = 218 – 246 = B
70 – 79%   = 189 – 217 = C
60 – 69%   = 160 – 188 = D

Web Sites for Abnormal Psychology

American Psychiatric Association  www.psych.org
The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  www.nami.org
The National Institute of Mental Health  www.nimh.nih.gov
The American Psychological Association  www.apa.org
Neuropsychology Central  www.neuropsychologycentral.com/index.html
The Whole Brain Atlas from Harvard Medical School  www.med.harvard.edu/AANLIB/home.html
The Internet Mental Health Page  www.mentalhealth.com/
Psychopharmacology Tips and search  www.dr-bob.org/tips/
Info from professional psychiatric associates  www.baltimorepsych.com/index.htm
General Health Research News  www.medpagetoday.com/