Department:

Psychology

Course Description:

This course is a study of emotional and behavioral disorders. Abnormal Psychology focuses on the description, causes, and treatment of abnormal behavior patterns. Classifications of disorders according to the DSM-V, such as mood disorders, anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders, and personality disorders, will be presented. Methods of treatment, specifically psychotherapies and biomedical therapies, will be discussed.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the historical, cultural, and current perspectives on normal and abnormal behavior
2. Dispel some of the common myths associated with mental illness
3. Describe the basic methods of research and design as they apply to abnormal psychology
4. Explain assessment, diagnosis, and classification of mental disorders
5. Compare and contrast theoretical models of abnormal behavior
6. Describe etiology, symptomatology, and treatment for the following disorders:
   a. Anxiety
   b. Dissociative
   c. Mood
   d. Eating
   e. Schizophrenia
   f. Personality
   g. Organic/Cognitive
   h. Substance abuse
   i. Sexual/Gender identity
   j. Developmental
   k. Sleep
   l. Somatoform
7. Explain and evaluate the legal and ethical issues associated with abnormal behavior
8. Access the Internet to find research articles
9. Write in a proficient and scholarly style
10. Use computer software for producing documents and presentation materials
Course Content:

A. Introduction to Abnormal Psychology
   1. Historical Perspectives
   2. Contemporary Perspectives
B. Research Methods
C. Diagnosis and Assessment
   1. Models of Psychological Abnormality
   2. Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
   3. Methods of Assessment
D. Methods of Treatment
E. Mental Health Disorders
   1. Anxiety Disorders
   2. Adjustment Disorders
   3. Dissociative and Somatoform Disorders
   4. Mood Disorders
   5. Personality Disorders
   6. Schizophrenia and Psychotic Disorders
   7. Cognitive Disorders
   8. Substance Abuse and Dependence
   9. Eating and Sleep Disorders
   10. Disorders Involving Gender and Sexuality
   11. Disorders of Childhood and Adolescence
F. Abnormal Psychology and the Law

Learning Assessments:

Learning will be assessed through the use of examinations as well as a comprehensive final. Additional learning assessments may include pop quizzes, classroom discussion, and written assignments.

Instructional Materials:


Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition
It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.