

WILMINGTON UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES  
BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

COURSE TITLE: Abnormal Psychology  
COURSE NUMBER: PSY 305

I: COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of the causes, characteristics, and management of abnormal behavior. The course is divided into three general areas: major theoretical perspectives of abnormal behavior; major disorders following the categories of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (~~DSM~~); and causes, treatment, and impact of abnormal behavior.

II. MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS:

GOAL A:

Evaluate major theoretical perspectives of abnormal behavior (Biological, Psychodynamic, Cognitive, Sociocultural and Humanistic).

Learning OutcomesThe student will:

- A-1 Demonstrate understanding of the key concepts and individuals associated with each theory.
- A-2 Compare different theories' explanations for the causes of abnormal behavior.
- A-3 Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses associated with each theory.

GOAL B:

Demonstrate understanding of stress, coping and vulnerability and their impact on a person's behavior and environment.

Learning OutcomesThe student will:|rlabnormal behavior

- B-2 Analyze why people respond differently to the same psychosocial events.

- B-3 Predict when different risk and resiliency factors will lead to the development of abnormal behavior.

**GOALC:**

Demonstrate understanding of DSM and its use in categorizing abnormal behavior, with a special emphasis on variation due to multicultural variables.

Learning OutcomesThe student will:

- C-1 Describe the DSM and its purpose in classifying abnormal behavior.
- C-2 Assess the strengths and weaknesses of diagnosing abnormal behavior.
- C-3 Identify cultural differences in what is considered abnormal behavior.
- C-4 Propose explanations for the variation in prevalence rates among different cultures.

**GOALD:**

Evaluate the cause of maladaptive behavior on current research and theoretical perspectives.

Learning OutcomesThe student will:

- D-1 Differentiate between genetic, environmental, and psychological causes of abnormal behavior.
- D-2 Propose explanations for the etiology of different types of abnormal behavior.
- D-3 Critique current research findings on the various theoretical perspectives.

**GOALE:**

Evaluate appropriate treatment for the various types of abnormal behavior.

Learning OutcomesThe student will:

- E-1 Assess the effectiveness of biological interventions.
- E-2 Assess the effectiveness of psychological interventions.
- E-3 Predict which intervention methods would be most effective in treating different types of abnormal behavior.

**GOALF:**

Understand the impact of abnormal behavior on the self and family members.

Learning OutcomesThe student will:

- F-1 Examine different prevention methods.
- F-2 Explain and provide examples of how a client's abnormal behavior affects their social supports.
- F-3 Recognize the challenges that family members often face in treating abnormal behavior.
- F-4

Write and speak in a professional manner.

Learning Outcomes: The student will:

- I-1 Present written information in a logical and grammatical manner.
- I-2 Present written information using standard APA style.