

WTCS Repository

10-809-159 Abnormal Psychology

Course Outcome Summary

Course Information

Description The course in Abnormal Psychology surveys the essential features, possible causes, and assessment and treatment of the various types of abnormal behavior from the viewpoint of the major theoretical perspectives in the field of abnormal psychology. Students will be introduced to the diagnosis system of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV). In addition, the history of the psychology of abnormality will be traced. Cultural and social perspectives in understanding and responding to abnormal behavior will be explored as well as current topics and issues within abnormal psychology.

Total Credits 3.00

Pre/Corequisites

Prerequisite Each Wisconsin Technical College determines the General Education course prerequisites used by their academic institution. If prerequisites for a course are determined to be appropriate, the final Course Outcome Summary must identify the prerequisites approved for use by the individual Technical College.

Course Competencies

1. Compare and contrast psychological abnormality from historical perspectives to current views

Assessment Strategies

- 1.1. by participation in discussion
- 1.2. in oral and/or written assignments and activities
- 1.3. via written or oral evaluation

Criteria

Performance will be successful when:

- 1.1. learner will trace the history of abnormality
- 1.2. learner identifies perspectives of major historical periods
- 1.3. learner identifies current perspectives

2. Summarize current research methods as they apply to abnormal psychology

Assessment Strategies

- 2.1. by participation in discussion
- 2.2. in oral and/or written assignments and activities
- 2.3. via written or oral evaluation

Criteria

Performance will be successful when:

- 2.1. learner identifies components in empirical research
- 2.2. learner describes how methods of empirical research are applied
- 2.3. learner uses empirical research strategies necessary for sound research practices

3. Outline the multi-dimensional criteria for determining abnormality

Assessment Strategies

- 3.1. by participation in discussion
- 3.2. in oral and/or written assignments and activities
- 3.3. via written or oral evaluation

Criteria

Performance will be successful when:

- 3.1. learner lists the multidimensional criteria for determining abnormality
- 3.2. learner defines each criterion
- 3.3. learner describes how criteria work together in determining abnormality

4. Examine major theoretical perspectives within psychology as they apply to psychological disorders

Assessment Strategies

- 4.1. by participation in discussion
- 4.2. in oral and/or written assignments and activities
- 4.3. via written or oral evaluation

Criteria

Performance will be successful when:

- 4.1. learner describes six major theoretical perspectives in psychology including psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, biological, humanistic-existential, and socio-cultural
- 4.2. learner articulates the strengths and weaknesses of each theoretical perspective
- 4.3. learner examines the way in which each perspective defines abnormality

5. Critique DSM-IV classification system

Assessment Strategies

- 5.1. by participation in discussion
- 5.2. in oral and/or written assignments and activities
- 5.3. via written or oral evaluation

Criteria

Performance will be successful when:

- 5.1. learner describes the DSM-IV system of classification and its uses
- 5.2. learner outlines criteria for diagnosis of disorders
- 5.3. learner classifies disorders according to appropriate DSM-IV categories

6. Summarize the characteristics of psychological disorders

Assessment Strategies

- 6.1. by participation in discussion
- 6.2. in oral and/or written assignments and activities
- 6.3. via written or oral evaluation

Criteria

Performance will be successful when:

- 6.1. learner recognizes the differences between Axis I and Axis II disorders
- 6.2. learner identifies each of the major disorder categories in Axis I
- 6.3. learner describes the characteristics of the major disorder categories in Axis I
- 6.4. learner identifies each of the major personality disorders and types of mental retardation listed in Axis II
- 6.5. learner describes characteristics of Axis II personality disorders and mental retardation

7. Apply a biological, psychological, and social/environmental framework to the etiology of specific psychological disorders

Assessment Strategies

- 7.1. by participation in discussion
- 7.2. in oral and/or written assignments and activities
- 7.3. via written or oral evaluation

Criteria

Performance will be successful when:

- 7.1. learner defines what is meant by a biological, psychological, and social/environmental framework
- 7.2. learner defines etiology
- 7.3. learner identifies the relationship between a biological, psychological, and social/environmental framework and etiology

8. Investigate the relationship of assessment and diagnosis to the treatment of psychological disorders

Assessment Strategies

- 8.1. by participation in discussion
- 8.2. in oral and/or written assignments and activities
- 8.3. via written or oral evaluation

Criteria

Performance will be successful when:

- 8.1. learner describes assessment criteria of psychological disorders
- 8.2. learner describes diagnostic criteria for psychological disorders
- 8.3. learner matches appropriate assessment and diagnostic criteria to specific psychological disorders
- 8.4. learner lists common treatment modalities
- 8.5. learner matches treatment modalities to specific psychological disorders

9. Identify potential moral, ethical, and legal considerations/conflicts in mental health fields

Assessment Strategies

- 9.1. by participation in discussion
- 9.2. in oral and/or written assignments and activities
- 9.3. via written or oral evaluation

Criteria

Performance will be successful when:

- 9.1. learner distinguishes among moral, ethical, and legal concerns
- 9.2. learner determines potential moral dilemmas in mental health fields
- 9.3. learner determines potential ethical concerns in mental health fields
- 9.4. learner determines potential legal conflicts in mental health fields

10. Explore future directions in the theory and practice of abnormal psychology

Assessment Strategies

- 10.1. by participation in discussion
- 10.2. in oral and/or written assignments and activities
- 10.3. via written or oral evaluation

Criteria

Performance will be successful when:

- 10.1. learner recognizes psychology as a dynamic, evolving field in the social sciences
- 10.2. learner identifies potential directions for future theory and practice in mental health
- 10.3. learner projects a broader scope for the future of abnormal psychology