Course Information

Description
The course in Abnormal Psychology surveys the essential features, possible causes, assessments, and treatment of mental health challenges from the viewpoint of the major historical and theoretical perspectives in the field. Students will be introduced to the diagnostic system of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Biological, psychological, and socio-cultural perspectives in understanding and responding to abnormal behavior will be addressed, as well as, current topics and issues.

Total Credits
3

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. Explore the historical and theoretical models of abnormal psychology

Assessment Strategies
1.1. Discussion or Reflection Response
1.2. Written, Visual or Oral Product
1.3. Written or Oral Evaluation

Criteria
Your performance will be successful when you:
1.1. examine major theoretical perspectives in psychology (including psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, biological, humanistic-existential, and socio-cultural)
1.2. articulate the strengths and weaknesses of each theoretical perspective
1.3. examine the way in which each theoretical perspective defines abnormality
1.4. explain theoretical perspectives throughout history

2. Explain research methods as they apply to the field of abnormal psychology

Assessment Strategies
2.1. Discussion or Reflection Response
2.2. Written, Visual or Oral Product
2.3. Written or Oral Evaluation

Criteria
Your performance will be successful when you:

2.1. examine methods in empirical research
2.2. describe how methods of empirical research are applied.
2.3. summarize empirical research strategies necessary for sound research practices

3. **Summarize the characteristics of psychological disorders**

   **Assessment Strategies**
   - 3.1. Discussion or Reflection Response
   - 3.2. Written, Visual or Oral Product
   - 3.3. Written or Oral Evaluation
   - 3.4. Case Study or Scenario

   **Criteria**

   Your performance will be successful when you:
   - 3.1. describe symptoms of major disorders
   - 3.2. outline criteria for diagnosis of disorders
   - 3.3. explain the classifications of disorders

4. **Explore the use of assessment tools and classification systems in diagnosis**

   **Assessment Strategies**
   - 4.1. Discussion or Reflection Response
   - 4.2. Written, Visual or Oral Product
   - 4.3. Written or Oral Evaluation
   - 4.4. Case Study or Scenario

   **Criteria**

   Your performance will be successful when you:
   - 4.1. describe how the classification system(s) are used in diagnosis
   - 4.2. describe assessment tools used in diagnosis
   - 4.3. describe diagnostic criteria for psychological disorders
   - 4.4. identify appropriate assessment and diagnostic criteria for specific psychological disorders

5. **Examine the potential causes and treatments of psychological disorders**

   **Assessment Strategies**
   - 5.1. Discussion or Reflection Response
   - 5.2. Written, Visual or Oral Product
   - 5.3. Written or Oral Evaluation
   - 5.4. Case Study or Scenario

   **Criteria**

   Your performance will be successful when you:
   - 5.1. define etiology as it relates to potential causes of psychological disorders
   - 5.2. identify the relationship between a biological, psychological, and social/environmental framework and etiology
   - 5.3. explain common treatment methods
   - 5.4. examine treatment methods for specific psychological disorders

6. **Identify moral, ethical, and legal considerations in mental health fields**

   **Assessment Strategies**
   - 6.1. Discussion or Reflection Response
   - 6.2. Written, Visual or Oral Product
   - 6.3. Written or Oral Evaluation
   - 6.4. Case Study or Scenario

   **Criteria**

   Your performance will be successful when you:
   - 6.1. distinguish between moral, ethical, and legal concerns
6.2. determine potential moral dilemmas in mental health fields
6.3. determine potential ethical concerns in mental health fields
6.4. determine potential legal issues in mental health fields

7. **Explore psychological wellness**

Assessment Strategies
7.1. Discussion or Reflection Response
7.2. Written, Visual or Oral Product
7.3. Written or Oral Evaluation

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when you:
7.1. describe wellness based on current research
7.2. determine individual and socio-cultural influences on psychological wellness

8. **Investigate mental health resources and possible obstacles to achieving psychological well-being**

Assessment Strategies
8.1. Discussion or Reflection Response
8.2. Written, Visual or Oral Product
8.3. Written or Oral Evaluation

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when you:
8.1. examine myths and facts associated with mental illness
8.2. identify types of stigmas and their impact
8.3. determine availability of mental health resources
8.4. examine cost of services, resources available, and barriers to obtaining mental health care

9. **Explore future directions in theory and practice of abnormal psychology**

Assessment Strategies
9.1. Discussion or Reflection Response
9.2. Written, Visual or Oral Product
9.3. Written or Oral Evaluation

Criteria

Your performance will be successful when you:
9.1. recognize psychology as a dynamic, evolving field in the social sciences
9.2. identify potential directions for future theory and practice in mental health