

## COURSE SYLLABUS

1. Department, Course Number, and Title

Behavioral Sciences and Human Services  
PSY 36 – Abnormal Psychology

2. Group and Area

Group IV – Behavioral Sciences

3. Transferability of the Course

This course will transfer to the other colleges within the City University of New York as follows:

Baruch College – PSY 3055: Abnormal Psychology  
Borough of Manhattan Community College – PSY 260: Abnormal Psychology  
Bronx Community College – PSY 31: Abnormal Psychology  
Brooklyn College – PSY 30: Abnormal Psychology I  
City College – PSY 24800: The Abnormal Personality  
College of Staten Island – PSY 202: Psychopathology  
Hunter College – PSY 223: Abnormal Psychology  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice – PSY 242: Abnormal Psychology  
LaGuardia Community College – SSY 230: Abnormal Psychology  
Lehman College – PSY 234: Abnormal Psychology  
Medgar Evers College PSY 301: Abnormal Psychology  
New York City College of Technology – PS 403: Abnormal Psychology  
Queens College – PSY 221: Psychopathology (Abnormal Psychology)  
Queensborough Community College – SS 530: Abnormal Psychology  
York College – PSY 338: Abnormal Psychology

4. Bulletin Description of Course

Concepts of normality and abnormality, and significant theoretical contributions to personality disorganization are presented. Historical factors and current trends in the field of Mental Health and causes of behavioral disorders are discussed in terms of the impact of social, cultural, genetic, and other factors. Survey of treatment methods included.

5. Number of Weekly Class Hours

Three

6. Number of Credits

Three

7. Course Prerequisites or Corequisites

Prerequisite – PSY 11 (General Psychology)

8. Brief Rationale for Course

PSY 36 is an advanced course designed for the student in the fields of Mental Health/Human Services to enhance his or her ability to identify, understand, and work with individuals who are to some extent incapacitated as a result of having personality and/or behavioral disorders.

9. Necessitated Course Withdrawals

N/A

10. CPI Requirement Met

One CPI unit in Social Science or as an Elective

11. Field Work Component, Internship, or Independent Study

N/A

12. Proposed Textbook(s) and/or Other Required Instructional Materials

Alloy, L.B., Riskind, J.H., & Manos, M. (2005). *Abnormal Psychology: Current Perspectives* (9<sup>th</sup> edition). New York: McGraw Hill.

Catone-Maitino, M. (2005). *Study Guide for use with Abnormal Psychology: Current Perspectives* (9<sup>th</sup> edition). New York: McGraw Hill.

13. Required Course for Majors and/or Area of Concentration

This course is required for all students in the following programs:

A.S. in Mental Health/Human Services

A.S. in Mental Health/Human Services, Substance Abuse Counseling  
Concentration

For all other students, the course is considered a General Elective.

14. If Open Only to Selected Students

This course is open to all students.

15. What Students Will Know and Be Able to Do Upon Completion

Pathways Outcomes

- Gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.
- Evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.
- Produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.
- Identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society, including, but not limited to, anthropology, communications, cultural studies, history, journalism, philosophy, political science, psychology, public affairs, religion, and sociology.
- Examine how an individual's place in society affects experiences, values, or choices.
- Articulate and assess ethical views and their underlying premises.

Additional Outcomes expected of students who successfully complete PSY 36:

Understand the complex individual and societal relationships between what is identified as “mental illness” and “mental health;”

Have a working knowledge of the historical developments of the understanding and treatment of abnormal behavior from ancient times to the present, including an appreciation of the disagreements that have existed among mental health professionals regarding the treatment of abnormal behavior throughout history;

Be able to identify the major categories of mental disorders (e.g., anxiety disorders, mood disorders, somatoform disorders, dissociative disorders, personality disorders, psychoses, etc.) and to differentiate between the specific disorders (e.g., obsessive-compulsive anxiety disorder, bipolar disorder, hypochondriasis, conversion disorder, borderline personality disorder, schizophrenia, etc.) that are included in each of these categories;

Be able to differentiate between the various perspectives of abnormal behavior (e.g., biological, psychodynamic, behavioral, cognitive, humanistic, etc.) and to understand how each perspective explains the

etiology of each disorder and how each perspective proposes to treat each disorder;

Have an understanding of the contemporary issues in the field of abnormal psychology, including the disagreements among mental health professionals regarding the need for and the benefits/disadvantages of making diagnoses and the presence of large numbers of mentally ill individuals in our prison systems; and

Understand the ethical and legal issues that must be addressed by mental health professionals in the course of their work.

16. Methods of Teaching

The course will be taught through lectures, class discussions, class demonstrations of therapeutic techniques, and videotapes.

17. Assignments to Students

Students will have specific readings from the textbook and other sources assigned as a preparation for each class. Several journal and newspaper articles that will extend the breadth of study of specific topics covered by the course will be assigned for reading throughout the semester. A major paper, optional and to be used to replace the student's lowest test grade for the semester, will be assigned on a specific topic in abnormal psychology related to an issue of concern to contemporary mental health providers.

18. Method of Evaluating Learning

Student learning will be evaluated on a regular basis throughout the semester. Evaluation measures will include: Class participation; attendance and lateness record, quizzes and exams, assigned activities (such as problem-based learning assignments, observations, etc.), essays, reaction papers, and term papers. The implementation and combination of these evaluative measures will vary across semester and section.

19. Topical Course Outline (regarding reading topics covered, learning activities, and assignments)

Session #1	Abnormal Psychology: Historical Perspectives Abnormal Behavior and Society Read Chapter 1, pages 1 to 11
Session #2	Abnormal Psychology: Historical Perspectives (continued) Conceptions of Abnormal Psychology: A Short

	History Read Chapter 1, pages 11 to 23
Session #3	Diagnosis and Assessment Diagnosis and Assessment: The Issues Read Chapter 2, pages 26 to 37
Session #4	Diagnosis and Assessment (continued) Methods of Assessment Cultural Bias in Assessment Read Chapter 2, pages 37 to 52
Session #5	The Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sociocultural Perspectives The Behavioral Perspective Read Chapter 4, pages 75 to 88
Sessions #6	The Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sociocultural Perspectives (continued) The Cognitive Perspective Read Chapter 4, pages 88 to 98
Session #7	The Behavioral, Cognitive, and Sociocultural Perspectives (continued) Video: <i>Virtual Fear</i> The Sociocultural Perspective Read Chapter 4, pages 98 to 102
Session #8	The Psychodynamic, Humanistic-Existential, and Interpersonal Perspectives The Psychodynamic Perspective Read Chapter 5, pages 105 to 122
Session #9	The Psychodynamic, Humanistic-Existential, and Interpersonal Perspectives (continued) The Humanistic-Existential Perspective The Interpersonal Perspective Read Chapter 5, pages 123 to 127
Session #10	The Neuroscience Perspective Read Chapter 6, pages 130 to 148
Session #11	Video Documentary: <i>The New Asylums</i>

Session #12	Test #1 – Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6
Session #13	Anxiety Disorders Anxiety Disorder Syndromes Read Chapter 7, pages 150 to 157
Session #14	Anxiety Disorders (continued) Anxiety Disorder Syndromes (continued) Video: <i>Posttraumatic Stress Disorder</i> Read Chapter 7, pages 157 to 163
Session #15	Anxiety Disorders (continued) Theory and Therapy Read Chapter 7, pages 163 to 176
Session #16	Dissociative and Somatoform Disorders Dissociative Disorders Read Chapter 8, pages 179 to 192
Session #17	Dissociative and Somatoform Disorders (continued) Dissociative Disorders: Theory and Therapy Read Chapter 8, pages 192 to 197
Session #18	Dissociative and Somatoform Disorders (continued) Somatoform Disorders Theory and Therapy Read Chapter 8, pages 197 to 209
Session #19	Mood Disorders Depressive and Manic Episodes Mood Disorder Syndromes Read Chapter 10, pages 245 to 252
Session #20	Mood Disorders (continued) Mood Disorder Syndromes (continued) Suicide Video: <i>Depression</i> Read Chapter 10, pages 252 to 263
Session #21	Mood Disorders (continued) Theory and Therapy Read Chapter 10, pages 263 to 284
Session #22	Test #2 – Chapters 7, 8, and 10



- Session #33            Test #3 – Chapters 11, 9, and 14
- Session #34            Legal and Ethical Issues in Abnormal Psychology  
                                 Psychological Disturbance and Criminal Law  
                                 Civil Commitment  
                                 Read Chapter 18, pages 510 to 527
- Session #35            Legal and Ethical Issues in Abnormal Psychology  
                                 (continued)  
                                 Patients' Rights  
                                 Ethics and the Mental Health Profession  
                                 Read Chapter 18, pages 527 to 536
- Session #36            Review for Final Exam



20. Selected Bibliography and Source Materials

Alloy, L.B., Riskind, J.H., & Manos, M. (2005). *Abnormal Psychology: Current Perspectives* (9<sup>th</sup> edition). New York: McGraw Hill.

Davison, G.C., Neale, J.M., & Kring, A.M. (2005). *Abnormal Psychology, with Cases*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley.

Freud, A. (1946). *The Ego and Mechanisms of Defense*. New York: International Universities Press.

Maslow, A.H. (1987). *Motivation and Personality*. New York: Harper & Row.

Meyer, R. G. (2006). *Case Studies in Abnormal Behavior* (7<sup>th</sup> edition). Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Nevid, J.S., Rathus, S.A., & Greene, B. (2006). *Abnormal Psychology in a Changing World* (6<sup>th</sup> edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Sarason, I.G. & Sarason, B.R. (2005). *Abnormal Psychology: The Problem of Maladaptive Behavior* (11<sup>th</sup> edition). Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Skinner, B.F. (1965). *Science and Human Behavior*. New York: Free Press.

Sue, D., Sue, D.W., & Sue, S. (2006). *Understanding Abnormal Behavior* (8<sup>th</sup> edition). New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Whitaker, R. (2002). *Mad in America*. New York: Basic.