



DATE ADOPTED:  
DATE REVIEWED: 1998, 2007  
DATE REVISED: 1998, 2008

# **Alabama Department of Postsecondary Education**

***Representing Alabama's Public Two-Year College System***

***Jefferson State Community College***

## **PSY 230 Abnormal Psychology**

- I. PSY 230 Abnormal Psychology - 3 Semester Hours**  
(Lec 3 hrs)
- II. Course Description**  
This course is a survey of abnormal behavior and its social and biological origins. The anxiety related disorders, psychoses, personality disorders and mental deficiencies will be covered.
- III. Prerequisite**  
PSY 200
- IV. Textbook**  
Comer, Ronald J. Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Worth publishing (2007). ISBN: 1429200359
- V. General Course Competencies**
  - A. The student will examine the historical background and methods of research in abnormality.
  - B. The student will analyze philosophical perspectives associated with mental disorders.
  - C. The student will demonstrate an understanding of behavioral terminology.
  - D. The student will identify the major therapeutic approaches and diagnostic methods in the treatment of mental disorders.
  - E. The student will demonstrate knowledge of major categories of mental disorders based upon criteria established by the American Psychiatric Association and other national professional organizations.
- VI. Course Competencies Stated in Performance Terms**
  - A. The student will analyze the historical background and methods of research in abnormality.
    - 1. The student will understand
      - a. Ancient and medieval views of abnormal behavior
      - b. the evolution of the modern approaches
    - 2. The student will distinguish
      - a. Longitudinal studies

- b. Case history studies
  - c. Statistical studies
  - d. Correlation's studies
  - e. Experimental studies
- B. The student will acquire knowledge of behavioral terminology applicable to mental disorders.
  - 1. The student will define terms such as
    - a. symptom
    - b. syndrome
    - c. etiology
    - d. prognosis
    - e. diagnosis
- C. The student will examine the diagnostic methods and major therapeutic approaches to abnormality.
  - 1. The student will differentiate among the major techniques used in the psychodiagnostic process.
  - 2. The student will classify psychological tests used in the diagnostic process.
  - 3. The student will examine the psychoanalytic, humanistic, behavioristic and somatic models of therapy.
  - 4. The student will explain the difference between an institution and a therapeutic community.
- D. The student will demonstrate knowledge of major categories of mental disorders based upon criteria established by the American Psychiatric Association and other national professional organizations.
  - 1. Based upon etiology, symptoms, syndromes, and treatment approaches, the student will identify the following major categorize mental disorders.
    - a. anxiety, somatoform, dissociative disorders
    - b. schizophrenic, paranoid, affective disorders
    - c. substance use disorders
    - d. organic mental disorders
    - e. personality disorders
    - f. psychosexual disorders
    - g. adjustment disorders

## **VII. Evaluation and Assessment**

### **Written Assessment**

Grades will be given based upon A = 90 – 100%, B = 80 – 89%, C = 70 – 79%, D = 60 – 69%, and F = below 60%.

## **VIII. Attendance**

Students are expected to attend all classes for which they are registered. Students who are unable to attend class regularly, regardless of the reason or circumstance, should withdraw from that class before poor attendance interferes with the student's ability to achieve the objectives required in the course. Withdrawal from class can affect eligibility for federal financial aid.

## **IX. Statement on Discrimination/Harassment**

The College and the Alabama State Board of Education are committed to providing both employment and educational environments free of harassment or discrimination related to an individual's race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, or disability. Such harassment is a violation of State Board of Education policy. Any practice or behavior that constitutes harassment or discrimination will not be tolerated.

## **X. Americans with Disabilities**

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 state that qualified students with disabilities who meet the essential functions and academic requirements are entitled to reasonable accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to provide appropriate disability documentation to the College. The ADA Accommodations office is located in FSC 300 (205-856-7731).