

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Psychology

Programme: Psychology

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Psychopathology

Course Code: PSY 5405

Total Hours: **120**

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 0

Independent Learning Hours: 75

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits

6 ECTS credits

3 US credits

Course Description:

Combines lectures, case studies, and audiovisual sessions to introduce students to the field of clinical psychology, psychiatry, and mental health work. An examination of the symptoms and treatment options for a range of mental and emotional disorders, including anxiety, depression, mania, and the schizophrenias, raising a number of important issues for discussion. These include: cultural variations in the definition and diagnosis of disordered states; the social psychological problems of the move from asylums to community care; and criticisms of the medical model of abnormality.

Prerequisites: PSY 4210

Aims and Objectives:

This course is designed to introduce students to the various pathologies outlined in the widely used Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders- Fourth Edition Test Revision (DSM-IV-TR). Students will gain knowledge of the symptoms associated with a variety of mental illnesses, and gain insight into how the diverse theories of personality explain the causes of these illnesses.

Programme Outcomes

5A.i, 5C.i, 5D.i

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:
<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

- Develop an understanding of the various aspects of abnormal behavior
- Evaluate the strengths and limitations of the various treatments for psychological disorders
- Develop an understanding of the evolution of psychological perspectives on mental illness and the changes in treatment approaches
- Establish an awareness of the cultural and societal influences on mental health and in diagnosis
- Recognize the interplay of biology, psychiatry, psychology, and other fields on the understanding of abnormal behaviors
- Conduct an accurate, informed, and influential literature review

Indicative Content:

- Abnormal Behavior Defined
- Models of Abnormal Behavior
- Assessment & Classification of Abnormal Behavior
- Case Studies
- Anxiety Disorders
- Dissociative Disorders & Somatoform Disorders
- Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
- Personality Disorders
- Sexual & Identity Disorders
- Mood Disorders
- Suicide
- Schizophrenia
- Eating Disorders
- Legal & Ethical Issues in Mental Health

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

The course material will be covered in the following ways:

- I. Lecture presentations with the key concepts
- II. Videos or films with supplemental information
- III. Web activities
- IV. Open class discussions

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Text(s):

Sue, S., Sue, D., & Sue, S. (9th Edition, 2009). Understanding Abnormal Behavior. (International Student Edition). Wadsworth.

Journals:

American Psychological Association Journals:

Journal of Abnormal Psychology

Journal of Consulting and Clinical

Psychology Journal of Counseling

Psychology

Psychotherapy: Theory, Research, Practice, Training

British Psychological Society Journals:

British Journal of Clinical

Psychology British Journal of Health

Psychology

Psychology and Psychotherapy: Theory, Research and Practice

Web Sites:

American Psychiatric Association (2000). Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV-(TR), Arlington.

<http://www.behavenet.com/capsules/disorders/dsm4TRclassification.htm>

http://allpsych.com/disorders/disorders_alpha.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diagnostic_and_Statistical_Manual_of_Mental_Disorders

http://psyweb.com/Mdisord/DSM_IV/isp/dsm_iv.jsp

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change ?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
	Annual update	May 2023	
	Total Hours Updated	April 2024	
