

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Psychology
<b>Programme:</b>	Psychology
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	Psychopathology
<b>Course Code:</b>	PSY 5405

<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	45
Seminar / Tutorials:	
Independent / Guided Learning:	75

<b>Credits:</b>	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 Text 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://allpsych.com/disorders/disorders_alpha.html)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diagnostic\\_and\\_Statistical\\_Manual\\_of\\_Mental\\_Disorders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diagnostic_and_Statistical_Manual_of_Mental_Disorders)

[http://psyweb.com/Mdisord/DSM\\_IV/jsp/dsm\\_iv.jsp](http://psyweb.com/Mdisord/DSM_IV/jsp/dsm_iv.jsp)

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

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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	
