

Psychology 115

Abnormal Psychology

3 units; 3 hours lecture

Prerequisite: Psychology 101 or Psychology 101H with a minimum grade of C

*Recommended Preparation: English 1 or eligibility for English 1A or qualification by appropriate assessment
Degree applicable Transfer CSU, UC*

This course focuses on the scientific study of both normal and abnormal experience and behavior. Emphasis is placed on the characterization, treatment, and prevention of psychological disorders ranging from mild to severe forms.

Course Objectives:

1. Explain why defining abnormal behavior is difficult.
2. Discuss how research methods are applied to the study of abnormal behavior and psychological disorders.
3. Describe the changing trends occurring across time and cultures regarding the notion of abnormal behavior.
4. Compare and contrast the various theoretical models of abnormal behavior.
5. Identify the various procedures of clinical assessment and diagnosis including their strengths and weaknesses.
6. Discuss the role of psychological factors in health and disease.
7. Describe and differentiate the salient characteristics of the following forms of psychological disorders: Adjustment, Anxiety, Childhood (including Developmental and Learning Disorders), Cognitive (including Delirium and Dementia), Eating, Mood, Personality, Psychotic (including Schizophrenia), Sexual and Gender Identity, Somatoform, and Substance-Related.
8. Compare and contrast the various biological and psychological approaches to the treatment of abnormal behavior and psychological disorders.
9. Assess the legal issues which affect the mentally disordered.
10. Identify the contemporary organized efforts for establishing effective mental health and for the prevention of abnormal behavior.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO):

1. Logic of the Scientific Method

On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to explain and evaluate various sources of data focusing on mental disorders (e.g., epidemiology, efficacy, effectiveness).

2. Fundamental Principles

On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to identify and explain the major theories and definitions of mental illness (e.g., biological, cognitive-behavioral, psychoanalytic, humanistic, sociocultural), including the historical development of these theories.

3. Everyday Application

On examination (e.g., m/c, T/F, fill-in, matching, essay), written essay, research paper, and/or oral presentation, students will be able to apply fundamental principles of abnormal psychology in their efforts to understand everyday life experiences such as these: concerns about the behavior of family or friends, cognitive decline of parent, violent crime (including effects of media coverage).

ADA Statement:

El Camino College is committed to providing educational accommodations for students with disabilities upon the timely request by the student to the instructor. A student with a disability, who would like to request an academic accommodation, is responsible for identifying herself/himself to the instructor and to the Special Resource Center. To make arrangements for academic accommodations, contact the Special Resource Center.

Student Code of Conduct

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/2019-policies/AP%205500%20Student%20Conduct%20.pdf>

Student Rights and Grievances Procedure 5530

<https://www.elcamino.edu/administration/board/boarddocs/AP%205530%20STUDENT%20%20RIGHTS%20AND%20GRIEVANCES.pdf>