



**GRAYS HARBOR  
COLLEGE**

**PSYC& 220/ Spring**

**Abnormal Psychology (5 Credits)**

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*Office hours: M- TH 12-12:50*

## Course Description and Requirements

### Course Resources:

**Required:** Comer, J. (2008). *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology* (5<sup>th</sup> edition). Worth Publishing. New York.

**Description:** **Prerequisite: Psych 100.**  
**PSYC& 220** Provides a comprehensive introduction to the study of abnormal behavior. This course will cover organic and environmental etiology of abnormal behavior, including various disorders related to stress, anxiety, substance abuse, sexuality and moods, as well as personality dysfunction. Also covered are methods of therapy, including biological, cognitive-behavioral, psychodynamic, humanistic and eclectic as they apply to individuals and groups. Class will utilize lectures, movies, group exercises, guest speakers, and case studies. Five lecture hours.

**Academic Misconduct:** Although you may consult with other students about the assignments in class, you must complete all of the assignments on your own. Handing in work that is based even partially on the work of other students constitutes academic misconduct and will be reported to the V.P. of Student Services for disciplinary action. Similarly, providing your work to other students for their use also constitutes academic misconduct and might lead to disciplinary action.

**Attendance:** As stated in the GHC Catalog, “a student is expected to attend all class sessions for each course for which he or she is registered; failure to do so may result in a lower grade. If students unavoidably miss classes, arrangements must be made with the instructor to complete all the required work This is a difficult course and many students fail in large part because they miss class. In addition, there will be five quizzes that may include information from the lectures that is not found in the text.

**In-class Quizzes:**

There will be five quizzes given in this class. The top four of the quizzes will be included in your grade. Each quiz will be worth 100 points and will consist of multiple-choice questions and short answer questions from the lectures, the readings, videos, and movies shown in class, in-class assignments, and take home assignments. **These quizzes will be given on the date specified in the syllabus at the beginning of the class. You will not be given extra time if you are late.**

**Make-up Quizzes:**

No make-up quizzes will be given. If you miss a quiz date or you arrive too late to complete an in-class quiz you may drop that quiz grade still allowing you to receive full credit in the class by taking the other four quizzes. Exceptions will only be made for extraordinary circumstances (if documentation is provided) and participation in official intercollegiate activities on behalf of GHC.

**Assignments:**

You will also complete three take home assignments. Each of these assignments will be worth 100 points. These assignments will be given out during subsequent classes prior to the date due on the course timeline (most will relate to depictions of mental illness in movies).

**Final Grades:**

No grades will be given out over the phone or through e-mail. If you want your final course grade mailed to you before it is posted on the Internet, give your instructor a self-addressed stamped envelope at the time of the last quiz.

Cutoffs for grades are utilizing the following percentile:

A	95 to 100 %
A-	94 to 90 %
B+	89 to 87 %
B	86 to 83 %
B-	82 to 80 %
C+	79 to 77 %
C	76 to 73 %
C-	72 to 70 %
D+	69 to 67 %
D	66 to 60 %
F	Below 60 %

**Incomplete Grades:**

A grade of "I" will not be assigned just because you might be facing some undesired grade. An "I" will only be assigned if a bona fide emergency prevented you from finishing the assignments. In addition, an "I" will only be assigned if you have completed at least 50% of the assignments, have a numerical chance of passing the class once the remaining work has been completed, and made arrangements (in writing) with your instructor before the end of the semester. In such cases you will only be given the opportunity to finish the remaining work. You will not have the opportunity to repeat any assignments you have already finished.

## **Course Aims and Objectives:**

1. Develop an understanding of the impact of psychological disorders on individuals and society. (Competency in Disciplinary Learning (4), Critical Thinking Literacy (3) and Using Resources (3), Social and Personal Responsibility (3))
2. Introduce the major diagnostic categories of abnormal behavior as outlined in the DSM-IV. (Competency in Disciplinary Learning (4), Critical Thinking (3) Literacy (3) and Using Resources (3))
3. Help students become aware of the causative factors in the development of psychological disorders including the behavioral, psychological, familial and biological aspects. (Competency in Disciplinary Learning (4), Critical Thinking (3) Literacy (3) and Using Resources (3))
4. Increase student knowledge of the broad range of symptoms resulting from various disorders. (Competency in Disciplinary Learning (4), Literacy (3) and Using Resources (3))
5. Familiarize the student with current research in the area of abnormal psychology. (Competency in Disciplinary Learning (4), Literacy (3) and Using Resources (3))
6. Introduce students to a wide range of therapeutic approaches currently used in the treatment of psychological disorders. (Competency in Disciplinary Learning (4), Critical Thinking (3), Literacy (3) and Using Resources (3))

**Course Schedule** (subject to changes announced in class)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Lecture Topics</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
04/08	1	Abnormal Psychology: Past & Present	
04/10	2	Models of Abnormality	
04/15	2 & 3	Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and treatment	
04/17		Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis, and treatment	
04/22	4	Anxiety Disorders	<b>Quiz 1 (1:00-2:00)</b>
04/24		Anxiety Disorders	
04/29	7	Mood Disorders	
05/01	8	Mood Disorders/ Suicide	
05/06		Anxiety Disorders	
05/08		Mood Disorders	<b>Quiz 2 (1:00-2:00)</b>
05/13	7	Mood Disorders	
05/15	12	Schizophrenia	
05/20		Schizophrenia	<b>Quiz 3 (1:00-2:00)</b>
05/22	13	Personality Disorders	
05/27		Personality Disorders	
05/29	10	Substance Abuse	<b>Quiz 4 (1:00-2:00)</b>
06/03	14	Disorders of Childhood & Adolescence	
06/05	15	Disorders of Ageing and Cognition	
06/10		Disorders of Ageing and Cognition	
06/12	16	Law, Society, and the Mental Health Profession	
<b>06/17</b>		<b>Quiz 5 (1:00-2:00)</b>	