PSYC 3018 – Abnormal Psychology

Unit of Study Code: PSYC3018

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Format of Unit: 2 x 1 hour lectures/week x 13 weeks
1 x 2 hour tutorial/week x 10 weeks

Credit Point Value: 6 Credit Points

Prerequisite: 8 credit points of Intermediate Psychology including PSYC (2014 or 2114) and at least one other Intermediate Psychology Unit of study from PSYC (2011 or 2111), PSYC (2012 or 2112), PSYC (2012 or 2113).


References: To be announced in lectures and tutorials.

Assessment: a) Formal Assessment:
60% One 2hr exam
25% One 2000 word essay Due date: Wednesday, 10/9
10% Tutorial presentation Due dates: weeks 3-11
5% Online Quiz Due dates: weeks 8-13

b) Out of class prescribed student workload
2hr/wk library research (essay & tutorial presentation)

Evaluation of teaching and learning:
Date: week 13 of semester
Type: questionnaire
Unit of study general description:

This unit of study critically examines core issues in Abnormal Psychology. These include the conceptual and theoretical bases of the definition and classification of abnormal behaviours, as well as the diagnosis, explanation and treatment of psychological disorders. The unit of study will include topics such as:

(a) Adult abnormal psychology: Anxiety disorders (specific phobias, panic disorder, agoraphobia, OCD); Addictive disorders (drug, alcohol, gambling); Eating disorders (anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa); Mood disorders (dysthymia, major depressive disorder, cyclothymia, bipolar disorder); Schizophrenia, Personality disorders.

(b) Child abnormal psychology: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; Conduct disorder; Anxiety disorders, Depression.

Graduate Attributes and Student Learning Outcomes

This course is structured around the graduate attributes associated with the scientist-practitioner model, the basis for the training of psychologists in Australia and internationally. Graduate Attributes are the generic skills, abilities and qualities that students should acquire during their university experience and the School of Psychology is committed to providing an environment to promote these skills. This unit of study will provide students with generalised and transferable skills that will also be useful in careers outside psychology. The following graduate attributes and student learning outcomes will be developed through the course and assessed primarily in the major essay, tutorial quiz, student presentations, and exam.

1: Knowledge and Understanding of Abnormal Psychology

Display knowledge and understanding of the major concepts, theoretical perspectives, and empirical findings in research on abnormal psychology.

Student learning outcomes:
(ii) Ability to describe, explain and evaluate major theories and research studies examining the definition, causes and treatment of various psychological disorders, including Mood disorders, Anxiety disorders; Addictive disorders; Eating disorders, Schizophrenia, and Personality disorders in adults.
(ii) Ability to describe, explain and evaluate major theories and research studies examining the definition, causes and treatment of common childhood disorders, including Mood disorders, Anxiety disorders, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Conduct disorder.

2: Research Methods in Abnormal Psychology.

Understand and evaluate basic research methods used in Abnormal Psychology, including research design, data analysis and interpretation, and the appropriate use of technologies.

Student learning outcomes:
(i) To develop a critical understanding of the major methods of research in these areas.
(ii) To interpret statistical analyses.
(iii) Use web-search, word-processing, database, and email programs.
3: Critical Thinking Skills in Abnormal Psychology
Respect and use critical and creative thinking, sceptical inquiry, and the scientific approach to solve problems related to thought and behaviour.

*Student learning outcomes:*
(i) Demonstrate an attitude of critical thinking that includes persistence, open-mindedness, and intellectual engagement.
(ii) Evaluate the quality of information, including differentiating empirical evidence from speculation.
(iii) Use reasoning and evidence to recognise, develop, defend, and criticise arguments.

4: Values in Abnormal Psychology
Value empirical evidence; act ethically and professionally; and understand the complexity of sociocultural and international diversity.

*Student learning outcomes:*
(i) Recognise and respect social, cultural, linguistic, spiritual and gender diversity.
(ii) Use information in an ethical manner (e.g., acknowledge and respect the work and intellectual property rights of others through appropriate citations in oral and written communication)
(iv) Be able to recognise and promote ethical practice in research.
(v) Promote evidence-based approaches to understanding behaviour.

5: Communication Skills in Abnormal Psychology
Communicate effectively in a variety of formats and in a variety of contexts

*Student learning outcomes:*
(i) Write a standard literature review or case report using American Psychological Association (APA) structure and formatting conventions.
(iii) Demonstrate effective oral communication skills in various formats (e.g., debate, group discussion, presentation) and for various purposes.
(iv) Collaborate effectively, demonstrating an ability to: work with groups to complete projects within reasonable timeframes; manage conflicts appropriately and ethically.

6: The Application of Abnormal Psychology
Understand and apply psychological principles to personal and social issues.

*Student learning outcomes:*
(i) To develop an awareness of the applications of the theories and research findings of Abnormal Psychology in society.
(ii) To develop an ability to critically evaluate media representations of mental health issues in society.

**Evidence of learning:**

During the semester, the learning outcomes will be assessed through participation in tutorial discussions, presentation, online quizzes, and the written assignment. At the end of semester, a multiple-choice + short answer exam will assess all learning outcomes, including all lecture, tutorial and set reading material.
**SYLLABUS**

The following lecture and tutorial outline contains the entire syllabus. The tutorial program consists of a mixture of class exercises, video demonstrations and discussions of topics related to lectures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>W</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tutorial topic</th>
<th>Lecture topic</th>
<th>Lecturer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>28/07</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Introduction to Abnormal Psychology</td>
<td>Szabó</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30/07</td>
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<td>Classification and Diagnosis 1.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>04/08</td>
<td>1. What is ‘abnormal’?</td>
<td>Classification and Diagnosis 2.</td>
<td>Szabó</td>
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<td></td>
<td>06/08</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Psychotherapy evaluation.</td>
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<td>11/08</td>
<td>2. Diagnosis</td>
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<td>Anxiety Disorders 2.</td>
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<td>18/08</td>
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<td>Anxiety Disorders 4.</td>
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<td>25/08</td>
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<td>Mood Disorders 2: Depression</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>01/09</td>
<td>5. Child Abnormal Psychology</td>
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<td>Child Abnormal Psychology 2.</td>
<td>Szabó</td>
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<td>08/09</td>
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<td>Mood Disorders 3: Bipolar Disorder</td>
<td>Rieger</td>
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<td>Schizophrenia 1.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>15/09</td>
<td>6. Bipolar Disorder/ Psychosis</td>
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<td>Tiliopoulos</td>
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<td>22/09</td>
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<td>Tiliopoulos</td>
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*Mid-session break: Monday 29th September to Friday 3rd October*

| 10| 06/10 | -- no tutorial – | Labour day |
|  | 08/10 | -               | Addictive Behaviours 1. | Rieger |
| 11| 13/10 | 8. Addictive behaviours | Addictive Behaviours 2. | Rieger |
|   | 15/10 | -               | Addictive Behaviours 3. | Rieger |
| 12| 20/10 | 9. Eating Disorders | Eating Disorders 1: Anorexia Nervosa | Rieger |
|   | 22/10 | -               | Eating Disorders 2: Bulimia Nervosa | Rieger |
| 13| 27/10 | 10. Revision / feedback | Eating Disorders 3: Binge Eating D. | Rieger |
|   | 29/10 | -               | Couples and Marital Problems | Rieger |