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).

Textbook:

Assessment:
a) Formal Assessment:
60% One 2hr exam
25% One 2000 word essay Due date: week 8, Tuesday 27 April
10% Tutorial presentation Due dates: weeks 3-11
5% Online Quiz Due dates: week 12

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, Mood disorders, Schizophrenia, Personality disorders; Addictive disorders; Eating 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 quiz, 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 (DRAFT ONLY. SUBJECT TO CHANGE.)

PSYC3018 Abnormal Psychology will introduce students to recent knowledge concerning the diagnosis, causation and treatment of mental disorders. Topics will be covered by lecturers who have an active research interest in the topics they are teaching. The following lecture outline contains the entire syllabus.

Lecture program

Weeks 1-7 (02/03 - 20/04)

Lecturer: Dr Marianna Szabó
Lecture topics: Conceptual issues concerning the definition, classification and diagnosis of mental disorders in general. Anxiety disorders and depression in adults, children and adolescents. Other common childhood disorders, including ADHD.

Weeks 7-8 (22/04 – 29/04)

Lecturer: Mrs Evelyn Smith
Lecture topics: Eating Disorders: Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa, Binge Eating Disorder

Weeks 9-10 (04/05 – 11/05)

Lecturer: Dr Andrew Kemp
Lecture topics: Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.

Weeks 10-11 (13/05 – 20/05)

Lecturer: Dr Niko Tiliopoulos
Lecture topics: Personality disorders

Weeks 12-13 (25/05 - 03/06)

Lecturer: Dr Catalina Lawsin
Lecture topics: Addictive behaviours, Sexual dysfunctions, Couples and marital problems.

Tutorial program

The tutorial program will begin in week 2. It will involve a mixture of class exercises, video demonstrations and discussions of topics related to lectures. Tutorial presentations of set readings by students will form an integral part of tutorials from week 3 to week 12.

A more detailed lecture and tutorial timetable and a list of set readings and additional references will be available during Week 1 of teaching.
School of Psychology Plagiarism Policy information for Students

Plagiarism is not permitted

i) Are you sure you know what plagiarism is?

Please refer to the University policy on plagiarism:


ii) The School of Psychology will penalise all submitted work that is plagiarised;

iii) The School of Psychology is using software to detect all forms of plagiarism.

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**PLAGIARISM**

- **More than 50% plagiarised**
  - Unit Coordinator ensures that the student receives no marks for submitted work and requests a resubmission for a mark of zero

- **Less than 50% plagiarised**
  - Tutor/marker ignores plagiarised section(s) and marks remainder of submitted work, plus 10% penalty
THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY LIBRARY

The University of Sydney Library is a distributed system of libraries with a collection of over 5 million items. Fisher Library has the most resources relevant to Psychology and is located on Eastern Avenue, Camperdown Campus.

http://sydney.edu.au/library

Faculty Liaison Librarian

Your Faculty Liaison Librarian supports the teaching, learning and research needs of staff, students and researchers for the School of Psychology. Contact details are as follows:


Psychology Guide

Includes links to Psychology databases, internet resources, information on tests and more.

http://libguides.library.usyd.edu.au/psychology

Psychology material in high demand

Reserve (located on Level 2 of Fisher Library) is a 2 hour loan collection of required and recommended items on Psychology reading lists. Reading list material can be searched by unit of study or lecturer via the catalogue:

http://opac.library.usyd.edu.au/search/r