

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

PSYC 211 – ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

I. Basic Course Information

- A. Course Number and Title: PSYC 211 Abnormal Psychology
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2023
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2024
- E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Work & Education
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture: 3
 Laboratory: 0
 Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. ☒ Prerequisite (s): PSYC 103 – Introduction to Psychology
 ☐ Corequisite (s):
 ☐ Prerequisite (s) and Corequisite (s):
- I. Additional Fees: None
- J. Name and E-Mail Address of Department Chair and Divisional Dean at time of approval:
Department Chair: Dr. Isabel Gutierrez-Bergman (Isabel.Gutierrez@raritanval.edu)
Division Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks (patrice.marks@raritanval.edu)

II. Catalog Description

Prerequisite: Successful completion of PSYC 103 Introduction to Psychology

This course will provide students with a basic overview of abnormal psychology – which covers abnormal behavior and disorders, discussing the most common methods of identifying/diagnosing abnormal behaviors and disorders. Students will understand the theoretical constructs behind the major treatment approaches, including biological treatment and various therapeutic modalities. Additionally, students will learn about most disorders presented

in the current DSM, understanding etiology, symptom presentation and empirically based treatment options. Case studies are used throughout the course to challenge the students and help them understand presentation of the disorders.

III. Statement of Course Need

A. This course provides students with an introduction to one of the social sciences, thereby satisfying a necessary or general program requirement.

B. This course generally transfers as a social science education course, dependent on the transfer institution. It can also serve as a social science elective or free elective.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

A. Free Elective

B. This course meets a program requirement for numerous programs.

C. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

This course will cover the following topics:

- A. Understanding Abnormal Behavior
- B. Diagnosis and Treatment
- C. Assessment
- D. Theoretical Perspectives
- E. Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- F. Schizophrenia Spectrum and other psychotic disorders
- G. Depressive and Bipolar Disorders
- H. Anxiety, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Trauma
- I. Dissociative and Somatic Symptom Disorders
- J. Feeding/Eating Disorders; Elimination Disorders; Conduct Disorders
- K. Paraphilic Disorders, Sexual Dysfunction and Gender Dysphoria
- L. Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders
- M. Neurocognitive Disorders
- N. Personality Disorders
- O. Ethics and Legal Issues

VI. A. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Define and understand abnormal behaviors. (GE 5)
2. Describe the process of diagnostics via interview and assessments, identifying the various roles of mental health providers as members of a treatment team. (GE 5)
3. Explain the layout of the DSM-5 and its overall function in treating mental health disorders. (GE 5)

4. Identify the etiology, symptom presentation and empirically supported options for each disorder that is covered. (GE 5)
5. Describe the ethical and legal implications of forensic psychology, and the historical evolution of these laws. (GE 5, ER)

B. Assessment Instruments

1. Discussion questions
2. Student collaboration
3. Individual activities

VII. Grade Determinants

Grade determinants:

- A. Exams
- B. Discussion Questions
- C. Participation
- D. Research paper

Primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. simulation/role playing
- F. student collaboration
- G. films

VIII. Texts and Materials

Title: Abnormal Psychology: Clinical Perspectives on Psychological Disorders

Authors: Susan Krauss Whitbourne

Edition: 10th

Publisher: McGraw Hill Education

Copyright: 2023

ISBN-13: 9781265407988

ISBN-10: 1265407983

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

- A. Library databases

- B. Other computer-based resources (e.g., websites, links, and videos)
- C. Various journal and applicable articles

X. Honors Option

N/A