

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College  
Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** PSY 215

**Credits:** 3

**Course Title:** Abnormal Psychology

**Course Description:** Explores historical views and current perspectives of abnormal behavior. Emphasizes major diagnostic categories and criteria, individual and social factors of maladaptive behavior, and types of therapy. Includes methods of clinical assessment and research strategies. Prerequisite: PSY 200, 201, or 202. Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11. Lecture 3 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** This course is designed for students transferring to a 4 yr. institution, students desiring to major in Psychology, students going into Human Services or Social Work, students in the Allied Health fields, and students interested in understanding the history, concepts of, and treatment of disorders found in the study of abnormal psychology.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

Prerequisite: PSY 200, 201, or 202. Placement in ENG 111 or placement in co-requisites ENG 111 and EDE 11.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to

- a. Demonstrate an ability to select from the materials offered in this course the relevant information needed to explain their own interpretation of abnormal behavior to western society;
- b. Develop an appreciation of mental disorders and understand their influence on behavior;
- c. Cultivate an historical perspective on mental disorders and changing viewpoints;
- d. Understand some of the problems that confront individuals with emotional problems;
- e. Demonstrate a knowledge of theories which explain different mental disorders;
- f. Demonstrate knowledge of the effectiveness and side effects of different treatment methods;
- g. Demonstrate knowledge of significant trends of abnormal behavior to include political, economic, social, and psychological aspects of human behavior; and
- h. Integrate knowledge and demonstrate competency in the content areas of abnormal behavior.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

- a. Historical views of abnormal behavior, including spiritual, humanitarian, and scientific.
  1. Theoretical perspectives, research, and recent trends
  2. Psychological classification and assessments (DSM-5)
  3. Neurodevelopmental disorders, psychotic disorders, depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, dissociative disorders, personality disorders
  4. Eating disorders, sexual disorders, substance-related and addictive disorders, neurocognitive disorders
- b. Treatment models and perspectives
- c. Ethical and legal issues in diagnosis, treatment, patient-doctor relationships, and confidentiality
- d. Forensic issues in psychological treatment

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