

**Tompkins Cortland Community College**  
**Master Course Syllabus**

**Course Discipline and Number: PSYC 209**  
**Course Title: Abnormal Psychology**

**Year: 2023-2024**  
**Credit Hours: 3**

**Attendance Policy:** *To maintain good grades, regular attendance in class is necessary. Absence from class is considered a serious matter and absence never excuses a student from class work. It is the responsibility of all instructors to distribute reasonable attendance policies in writing during the first week of class. Students are required to comply with the attendance policy set by each of their instructors. Students are not penalized if they are unable to attend classes or participate in exams on particular days because of religious beliefs, in accordance with Chapter 161, Section 224-a of the Education Law of the State of New York. Students who plan to be absent from classroom activity for religious reasons should discuss the absence in advance with their instructors. See college catalog for more information.*

**Services for Students with Disabilities:** *It is the College's policy to provide, on an individual basis, appropriate academic adjustments for students with disabilities, which may affect their ability to fully participate in program or course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Coordinator of Access and Equity Services, to discuss their particular need for accommodations. All course materials are available in alternate formats upon request.*

### **Course Description**

This course helps students acquire a better understanding of the origins of maladaptive personal reactions to life and its problems. Diagnostic symptoms, etiology, treatment, and prevention of each category of psychological disorders are emphasized. PSYC 209 fulfills the SUNY General Education Social Science requirement. Prerequisites: PSYC 103; MATH 095 and RDNG 116 if required by placement testing; prior completion or concurrent enrollment in ENGL 100. 3 Cr. (3 Lec.) Fall and spring semesters.

### **Course Context/Audience**

For Liberal Arts-Social Science majors, Abnormal Psychology satisfies a social science elective requirement and contributes to student development of six program goals:

- a. the ability to gather, organize, evaluate, and synthesize information from various sources.
- b. the ability to combine formal knowledge with individual experience to reach informed opinions, make decisions, and solve problems.
- c. the ability to use computer technology effectively for communication, research, and data management.
- d. the ability to understand and critically examine multiple perspectives, including one's own
- e. a knowledge of how the scientific method helps us to understand the natural world.
- f. a knowledge of modes of inquiry in the social sciences and experience in their application to issues and events of the contemporary world.

It is also appropriate for any student who has an interest in maladaptive human behavior.

### **Basic Skills/Entry Level Expectations**

**Writing:** WC College level writing skills are required. See course co-requisites or pre-requisites.

**Math:** M0 Course requires very little or no math.

**Reading:** R4 Before taking this course, students must satisfactorily complete RDNG 116 or have assessment indicating that no reading course was required.

### **Course Goals**

The goal of Abnormal Psychology is to expose students to information about the causes, symptoms, and treatments for maladaptive behavior.

To expose students to the DSM classification system for diagnosing mental health conditions.

### Course Objectives/Topics

Objective/Topic	% Course
Students should be able to define mental health and abnormal psychology.	20%
Students will explore the negative effects of stigma for those diagnosed with a psychological disorder.	20%
Students should be able to describe the role of mental health professionals and the diagnostic criteria they use in mental health care settings.	20%
Students should be able to describe epistemological patterns of mental illness in the United States.	20%
Students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the ethical obligations of mental health professionals.	20%

### General Education Goals - Critical Thinking & Social/Global Awareness

CRITICAL THINKING OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<p>Students will be able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ develop meaningful questions to address problems or issues.</li> <li>➤ gather, interpret, and evaluate relevant sources of information.</li> <li>➤ reach informed conclusions and solutions.</li> <li>➤ consider analytically the viewpoints of self and others.</li> </ul>	<p>The course encourages students to process new information, evaluate sources, and draw relevant inferences. Students are taught to use scientific inquiry as it relates to the social sciences.</p> <p>The course encourages students to utilize scientific inquiry and evidence based practice to investigate mental health disorders and treatments.</p> <p>The course requires that students effectively evaluate scholarly sources of information to reach valid conclusions.</p> <p>The course facilitates social engagement through in class discussion and small group activities. These assist students in analyzing varying perspectives.</p>
SOCIAL/GLOBAL AWARENESS OUTCOMES	HOW DOES THE COURSE ADDRESS THE OUTCOMES (Include required or recommended instructional resources, strategies, learning activities, assignments, etc., that must or could be used to address the goal/outcomes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Students will begin to understand how their lives are shaped by the complex world in which they live.</li> <li>➤ Students will understand that their actions have social, economic and environmental consequences.</li> </ul>	<p>The course utilizes both a micro and macro level of instruction to allow students to understand subsystems and the broader socio-political context.</p> <p>The course teaches students about social problems and requires self reflection, personal responsibility, and adherence to professional standards.</p> <p>The course introduces students to the economics of health care and the impact of financial decision making on mental health assessment and treatment.</p>

**Instructional Methods**

- 1) Lecture to provide content knowledge
- 2) Discussion
- 3) Application of core concepts and theories
- 4) Research
- 5) Formal and/or informal collaborative work
- 6) Videos
- 7) World wide web resources
- 8) Case studies
- 9) Biographies

**Methods of Assessment/Evaluation**

Method	% Course Grade
Discussion	5%
Research Projects	20%
Journals	15%
Classroom Observations	15%
Presentations	15%
Case Study Evaluations	15%
Biography Evaluations	15%

**Text(s)**

Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach, Barlow, D.H. and Durand, V.M. (2014), 7th edition. Cengage Learning.

Abnormal Psychology: The DSM 5 Update. Comer, R. (2013). 8<sup>th</sup> ed., Worth Publishers.

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. (Pocket Version), APA.

**Bibliography**

Abnormal Psychology: Clinical Perspectives on Psychological Disorders. Krauss-Whitbourne, S. & Haigin, R. (2012) 7<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw Hill Publishers

Abnormal Psychology by James N. Butcher, Susan Mineka, and Jill M. Hooley (2009)– Allyn & Bacon

Casebook in Abnormal Psychology by Timothy A. Brown and David H. Barlow (2010) – Wadsworth Publishing

[MLA handbook for writers of research papers - Gibaldi, Joseph](#)

[Publication manual of the American Psychological Association - American Psychological Association](#)

**Other Learning Resources**

<http://tc3.libguides.com/psyc209>

**Audiovisual**

The TC3 Media Library maintains the following:  
1) Abnormal Psychology Mediography

Revised Spr 14

2) Adolescent Psychology Mediography

3) World of Childhood (series)

4) The Mind (film series)

5) The World of Abnormal Psychology (series)

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**Electronic**

PsycArticles

Proquest

InfoTrac OneFile

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**Other**