

NORTHEASTERN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

**PSYCHOLOGY 212 -- ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**  
**Spring 2010**

**Course:** Psychology 212-72  
**Title:** Abnormal Psychology  
**Credits:** Three Credit Hours

*Textbooks:* “Abnormal Psychology, fifth edition”, Ronald J. Comer  
“Case Studies in Abnormal Psychology”, Gorenstein & Comer

Access to textbook website through instructor’s web page

Instructor: Lora Chavis  
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E-Mail Address: lchavis@netc.edu  
Office Hours: Will be posted on my office door and on Web site

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**Course Description:** (NETC college catalog) *This course is the study of the nature and development of behavioral disorders, including the investigation of contemporary treatment procedures.*

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**College-Wide Learning Objective for Social Sciences Department:**  
Demonstrate an awareness of an international perspective to include ethnic/cultural diversity.

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**COURSE  
LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

- Define abnormality from the perspectives of deviance, distress, dysfunction and danger in addition to the difficulties in defining abnormality.
- Compare and contrast current theories in abnormal psychology.
- Describe the role of research in the field of abnormal psychology.
- Describe how the treatment of mental illness has changed over time.
- Summarize the multi-axial approach of the DSM and describe the general features of the DSM -IV TR.
- Identify the indicators of various psychological disorders and preferred treatment for each disorder.

## CLASSROOM/COURSE POLICIES

**E-Mail Account:** Students are required to have a **working** e-mail account so that we may communicate throughout the semester. Free e-mail accounts are available through Yahoo or Hotmail.

**Moodle Account:** Required. Some assignments, quizzes and resources will be available online on Moodle. If you have a Moodle account, you do not need to request a new one. If you do not have a Moodle account, go to [www.netc.edu](http://www.netc.edu), click on "Current Students" then click on the Moodle logo and follow the instructions given.

**Required Readings** – Students are required to read chapters from the text and case study books and other readings as assigned. Test questions will be taken from all readings and classroom lecture.

**Student IDs:** Required at ALL times.  
**Please refer to pg. 47 of the NETC college catalog for additional information.)**

**Classroom Etiquette and Conduct of Classes:** The following is expected:

- Attendance
- Timeliness
- Respect for Instructor/Fellow Students
- Being prepared for class
- NO sleeping in class.

**Refer to pages 45 and 51 in NETC Catalog**

**Electronic Devices in the Classroom:** NOT ALLOWED.

Includes:

- Cell phones (Must be turned off.) Families should be instructed to call 921-6900 if an emergency occurs. Security WILL locate you if you are in class.
- PDA
- IPOD/MP3
- Beepers

**Exception:** - Rescue, medical personnel & law enforcement. Must inform instructor if you are required to have pagers, etc. activated while in class.

**(Refer to page 44 of the NETC college catalog.)**

**Students with Disabilities:** are encouraged to contact the Vice-President for Student Services to discuss needs or concerns as they pursue an academic program and participate in campus life. The Vice-President for Student Services will provide guidance regarding official documentation of disabilities and/or accommodation of needs. **See NETC College catalog, page 16 and 31.**

**Attendance:** REQUIRED

- Notify Instructor of extended periods of absence
- It is the student's responsibility to get class notes and other materials missed due to absence. **Refer to page 29 of the NETC college catalog for definitions of attendance requirements.**

**Absence and Tardy Policy:**

There are **NO** excused absences. Because of this, absences should be saved in case of emergencies or illness.

- Required to attend 80% of classes from the date of enrollment.
- Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday have a maximum of 6 absences.
- Evening classes that meet once a week, 3 absences are allowed.
- **Summer school** 8 absences allowed for daytime classes. Summer students in evening classes are allowed two absences.

Students who exceed their absences will be dropped with a grade of "F".

**Tardy Policy:** A student is considered tardy if not in the classroom at the time the teacher begins class instruction. Three (3) times tardy equals one full absence.

**Exceeding the Absence Limit:** Once the absence limit has been reached, students will be dropped from class for excessive absences and the student will receive an F for the course. **See p. 29 of the NETC college catalog regarding absence policies.**

**Withdrawal from Course:**

- **Check first with the Financial Aid Office.**
- **Complete the Drop/Add form & have advisor/instructor sign.**

**BEFORE MIDTERM**

- Grade will be W

**AFTER MIDTERM/BEFORE LAST DROP DAY**

- Grade will be W, if you are passing the course
- Grade will be WF if you are failing the course.
- See **page 30 and 38 of the NETC college catalog.**

**Academic Discipline and Honesty:** The College expects each student to earn his/her own grades; if academic dishonesty occurs, disciplinary action will be taken. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and falsification of information. **Plagiarizing a written assignment will result in a zero "0" for that assignment. (Refer to pp. 27-28 of the NETC college catalog.)**

## **COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES/PROCEDURES**

**Instructional Methods to Complete Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**

Lectures will be supplemented by:

- videos
- assessments
- assigned readings from textbook and other sources
- computer research
- Other materials at the discretion of the Instructor

**Evaluation Methods to Appraise Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**

**TENTATIVE**

1. **Chapter Tests** – 55% of grade. You will be given a Make-up Test Coupon that can be used to make up 1 missed test. \* **See below for instructions.**
2. **Quizzes & Homework** - 25 % of grade.
  - a. You will not be allowed to make up these quizzes. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.
  - b. You will be allowed to turn in ONE late homework assignment with a late assignment coupon.
3. **Research Project** – 20 % of grade – 3-5 pages – more information will be given.

**(The number of tests is subject to change based on the amount of material we are able to cover in the semester.)**

The grading scale is as follows:

90 – 100 = A

80 -- 89 = B

70 -- 79 = C

60 -- 69 = D

0 -- 59 = F

**\*Make Up Tests:** You are allowed **ONE** make-up test

**To make up a test, you MUST do the following:**

1. Contact the instructor (E-mail and voice mail is available at all times.)
2. Your make-up test **coupon must be turned in** with the test to receive credit.
3. You must make up exam within time limit given.

**Late assignments:** You may turn in one late assignment with no questions asked with the “no questions asked” coupon. After the late coupon is used, Late assignments will not be accepted.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF  
CHAPTERS COVERED, TESTS  
AND GRADE SHEET**

		<b><u>Required Readings</u></b>
<b>Chapters 1-2</b>	Abnormal Behavior Past & Present Models of Abnormality	pps. 1-29; 31-61
<b>Chapter 3</b>	Assessment, Diagnosis, Treatment	pps 67-90
<b>Chapter 4-5</b>	Anxiety Disorders PTSD Case Studies 1, 2, 3	pps 94-126
<b>Chapter 7-8</b>	Mood Disorders Suicide Case Studies 4, 5	pps 187-218; 222-244
<b>Chapter 12</b>	Schizophrenia Case Study 12	pps339-370
<b>Chapter 14</b>	Psychological Disorders of Childhood Case Studies 15, 16, 17	pps 407-438

**Grades**

<b><u>Quizzes/Homework</u></b>	<b><u>Tests</u></b>	<b><u>Research Project</u></b>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	
3. _____	_____	
4. _____	_____	
5. _____	_____	
6. _____	_____	
7. _____		

**To obtain grade:** 1. Average each column; 2. Multiply average by %; 3. Add columns

<b>Quizzes/HW X 25%</b>	<b>Tests x 55%</b>	<b>Research x 20%</b>	<b>Total (Grade)</b>
_____	_____	_____	= _____