

Course Description

Abnormal Psychology (427M)

Fall 1989
133 Gilbert, UH 2-3:20
TLN 4303

Prof. Mark Evans
Straub 258, X4964
741-4525 (mess.)

Introduction

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the psychology of unusual and extreme behaviors and states. Within the course, we will look at both traditional and non-traditional approaches to the understanding of abnormal behavior, including some consideration of psychoanalysis and behaviorism, as well as existential, humanistic and transpersonal psychology. Early on we will also address the question: "What is normal/abnormal?", a question which I hope to keep alive throughout the term. Towards the end of the term, we will take up related issues such as the relationship between creativity, spirituality, and abnormal states.

The professor recognizes that while the large lecture format may be conducive to organizing and transmitting the accumulated wisdom about abnormal states, it does not provide students with the experiential base that will allow them to recognize and respond to these states in the social world. For this reason, students are encouraged to explore and apply the issues of the course in a "real world" setting, such as in one of the various mental health agencies in Eugene. Credit for this kind of experience is available in this course and elsewhere. (See Projects below)

Readings

The text for this course is Abnormal Psychology: Current Perspectives (5th Ed.) by Bootzin and Acocella. This text has been used before and students may be able to find a used copy. (Be sure it's the 5th edition!) Students will also be asked to purchase and read a small packet of materials available at the Campus Copy Shop in the EMU. This packet includes a few case studies, as well as other information not provided by the text. These readings are numbered on the syllabus.

Optional Experiential Projects

Students may elect to complete a project that addresses some aspect of the course in detail. This project will be in lieu of one of the exams. This is not meant to be a term paper, but rather an opportunity for students to explore a related interest in an applied setting. For example, students who are working as a volunteer in a mental health setting may wish to keep a journal of their experiences. This journal would be focused on issues related to the course: normality/abnormality, psychopathology, the application of a particular model to behavior observed, etc. Another option would be to view a series of films and to write a set of reaction papers that address issues raised in the class. The instructor has developed a list of feature length films available on video from which these may be chosen. Yet another option would be to write an in-depth journal about an institution or setting that one is a part of with a focus on issues related to normality and abnormality. Other project ideas are welcome.

If you decide to pursue this optional project, you must clear your specific idea with the instructor by the end of the third week. I will be available to meet with you to discuss your project, to help identify relevant questions, and to help give focus to your written report. If you are interested in doing a project, but can't think of an idea, you may also wish to meet with the instructor. It is suggested that you share your ongoing work with me before the end of the term in order to get feedback. Your work will be evaluated subjectively based on its clarity, originality, and insight. Projects will be due on the last day of class.

Exams

There will be three exams: two mid-terms and a final. The final will be cummulative over the lecture material only. Exams will cover the text and readings, as well as material presented in class.

Grading

Final grades for the course will be determined according to the following formula:

(no project) 3 exams x 100pts. each = 300pts. possible

or 2 exams x 100pts. each
+ 1 project 100pts. = 300pts possible

Syllabus

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<u>Class Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings & Exams</u>
Sept. 26&28	Introduction: "What is Abnormal?", Diagnoses	Ch. 1, Ch. 7 pp. 135-43
Oct. 3 & 5	Psychodynamic Approach, Psychological Assessment	Ch. 2, Ch. 7 pp 143-153
Oct. 10&12	Anxiety: Obsessive & Conversion Disorders, Dissociative States	Ch. 8, 1)Georgia M., 2)Metzner: "Fragmentation to Wholeness"
Oct. 17&19	Mood Disorders, Behaviorist Approaches	Ch. 10 pp.227-51, Ch 3 pp. 56-75, 3)School Phobia pp. 288-305
Oct. 24&26	Drugs & Addictions	Ch. 12, EXAM 10/24
Oct. 31&Nov. 2	Personality Disorders, Sexual Variations	Ch. 11, Ch. 13
Nov. 7 & 9	The Psychoses: Schizophrenia	Ch. 14, Ch. 15, 4)Schizophrenia pp. 241-52
Nov. 14&16	Humanistic and Existential	Ch. 4, 5)Laing: Politics of Experience EXAM 11/14
Nov. 21 Nov. 28&30	Film: Asylums Psychotherapy	Thanksgiving Ch. 20
Dec. 5 & 7	Madness, Creativity, & Spirituality	6)Bailey: "Intro. to Rankian Psychology" 7)Laing:"Transcendental Experience", 8)"When the Spirits Come Back"
	Final Exam Dec. 11, 1 p.m.	