

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY – Code 800161

COURSE INFORMATION

Undergraduate Studies: 0812 – Degree in Psychology (Studies Plan 2009-10)

Type: Compulsory

ECTS: 6.0

Module: Basic psychological training

Area: Human diversity, personality and psychopathology

Year: Third

Semester: 1 & 2

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Name: Carmelo Vázquez, Ph.D

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COMPETENCIES

SYNOPSIS

General competencies

GC8: Identify recipients' needs and demands in the different areas of application and establish goals for psychological action.

GC9: Identify the relevant characteristics of individual behaviour.

GC14: Prepare oral and written psychological reports in different areas of activity.

GC15: Know and comply with the requirements of professional ethics in psychology.

Transversal competencies

TC1: Analysis and synthesis.

TC2: Preparation and defence of properly reasoned arguments.

TC3: Problem solving and decision making in Psychology.

TC4: Apply knowledge to own work or vocation on a professional way.

TC5: Looking for information and data interpretation on social, scientific and ethical topics related to the field of Psychology.

TC6: Team work and collaboration with other professionals

TC7: Critical thinking and self- analysis.

TC9: Communication skills, learning how to communicate ideas to both, professional and non-professional audiences.

Specific competencies

SC1: Identify needs and demands of the recipients of work performed by the psychologist in the different areas of application.

SC4: Be able to describe and measure variables (personality, intelligence and other aptitudes, attitudes, etc.) and cognitive, emotional, psychobiological and behavioural processes).

SC5: Be able to identify differences, problems and needs.

SC6: Be able to diagnose in accordance with professional criteria.

SC16: Know how to plan evaluations of programmes and interventions.

SC17: Be able to measure and obtain relevant data for the evaluation of interventions.

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Besides formal presentations from the instructor, in Theory classes, the course includes also the discussion of clinical cases, first-account descriptions of Clinical problems, etc. using videos, written clinical vignettes, etc.

These contents will cover:

1. Definition of abnormal behavior: Limitations, biases and cultural norms
2. Definition of abnormal behavior: A legal view.
3. Psychopathology of cognition: Clinical vignettes
4. Psychopathology of emotions and motivation: Clinical vignettes
5. Psychopathology of basic functions (sleep and eating behaviors): Clinical vignettes
6. Prototypes of the most common clinical syndromes and disorders: Clinical vignettes

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

This is not a course on the description of "disorders" but on the basic descriptive Psychopathology (i.e., symptoms) that are the basics of the definition of the disorders. Much of what we will cover in this class forms the core backbone of a scientifically informed clinical psychology. As a student, you will learn to handle the basic concepts and vocabulary of clinical science.

PRE-REQUISITES

None

OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this class is to learn about, think critically about, the defining features of mental disorders. This introductory course on Psychopathology will stimulate the discussion on the definition of mental disorders. First, we will learn and discuss critically the history of the analysis and study of abnormal Behavior, current models for classification and diagnosis of psychopathology as well as the advantages and disadvantages to the DSM system and possible alternatives and their pros/ cons. Second, we will cover the descriptive Psychopathology of the main psychological functions (attention, perception, thought and language, memory, etc.). Third, we will offer a very brief introductory overview on the most common mental health problems.

TOPICS

1. Abnormal psychology: An historical and conceptual approach
 2. The concept of abnormal behavior
 3. Models of abnormal behavior
 4. Vulnerability factors: Bio-psycho-social elements
 5. Research methods and designs in the study of abnormal behavior
 6. Assessment, classification and diagnosis of abnormal behavior. The Mental Exam State
 7. Disorders of perception, consciousness and attention
 8. Memory disorders
 9. Thought and language disorders
 10. Psychomotor disorders
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11. Emotional and motivational disorders
12. Disorders in sleep and eating behaviors
13. Main psychological disorders: Prototypes and syndromic organization

ASSESSMENT

Source Weight

Final exam: 60%

Home assignments & class quizzes: 25%

Group presentation of selected topics: 15%

It will be also added extra points for participation in experiments conducted in our lab as well as any other contribution (e.g., translation of materials, assistance in current studies, etc.)

Important: To pass the subject, you will have to pass the Final Exam with a score of 5 points out of a maximum of ten). Then, scores on Home assignments, Group presentation, and any other activities will be added.

RESOURCES

Readings will come from various textbooks and journal articles. The reading list, as well as some articles available in PDF, will be put on line and will be available before each corresponding session.

General textbooks:

Barlow, D.H. & Durand, V.M. (2012). *Abnormal Psychology- An Integrative Approach* 6th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Berrios, G. (2005). *The history of mental symptoms. Descriptive psychopathology since the nineteenth century.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Casey, P. & Kelly, BB. (*Fish's clinical psychopathology. Signs and symptoms in Psychiatry.* (3rd edition). London: Gaskell.

Comer, R.J. (2010). *Abnormal Psychology* (7th edition). NY: Worth Publishers.

DSM.IV-TR (2000). Available in Internet

DSM5 (2013). American Psychiatric Association

Hunsley, J. & Lee, C.M. (2010). *Introduction to Clinical Psychology- An Evidence-Based Approach.* NY: Wiley.

Murray, R. et al. (2008). *Essential Psychiatry.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Oyebode, F. (2008). *Sim's symptoms in the mind* (4th edition). New York: Elsevier. (Spanish translation, of the 2003 edition, published in 2008).

Sue, D., Sue, D.W., y Sue, S.(2010). *Understanding Abnormal Behaviour* . Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.