



# Abnormal Psychology

PSY 420

Southwestern College Professional Studies

## COURSE SYLLABUS

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### I. Course Catalog Description

The course offers an examination of classic and current theories and methods of psychological assessment, including personality assessment, interviewing, projective techniques, and observation and behavioral techniques. *Prerequisite: PSY 110.*

### II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Nevid, J. S., Rathus, S. A., & Greene, B. S. (2014). *Abnormal psychology in a changing world* (9th ed.). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education.

### III. Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each course and each [undergraduate](#) and [graduate](#) program of study, as well as [institution-wide outcomes](#) related to the mission and vision of the college. Outcomes can help learners and instructors focus on the big picture of the learning experience and can help inform potential employers about a graduate's knowledge and skills.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

- Describe the contemporary perspectives on abnormal behavior
- Explain how abnormal behavior is classified
- Identify the various treatment methods for abnormal behavior
- Discuss the variety of specific mental disorders
- Explain the development of mental disorders in children and adolescents
- Describe the cognitive disorders related to aging
- Discuss the relationship between abnormal behavior and the legal system

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes. You are more likely to achieve these outcomes only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

### IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

### V. Course Requirements:

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	5	300	30
Quizzes	4	200	20
Writing Assignments	2	200	20
Final Summary Paper	1	300	30
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>1,000</b>	<b>100</b>

VI. Course at a Glance:

Unit	Reading & Preparation Activities	Graded Work Due
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read <i>Nevid, Rathus &amp; Greene</i> Chapters 1-3</li><li>• Read and Study <i>Nevid, Rathus &amp; Greene</i> Ch. 4</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit 1 Discussion</li><li>• Unit 1 Quiz</li></ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read <i>Nevid, Rathus &amp; Greene</i> Chapters 5-7</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit 2 Discussion</li><li>• Unit 2 Writing Assignment</li><li>• Unit 2 Quiz</li></ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read <i>Nevid, Rathus &amp; Greene</i> Chapters 8-11</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit 3 Discussion</li></ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read <i>Nevid, Rathus &amp; Greene</i> Chapters 12 &amp; 13</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit 4 Discussion</li><li>• Unit 4 Writing Assignment</li><li>• Unit 4 Quiz</li></ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read <i>Nevid, Rathus &amp; Greene</i> Chapters 14 &amp; 15</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit 5 Discussion</li><li>• Unit 5 Quiz</li></ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read <i>Nevid, Rathus &amp; Greene</i> Chapter 16</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unit 6 Final Summary Paper</li></ul>

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.