

## Subject Description Form

<b>Subject Code</b>	APSS321		
<b>Subject Title</b>	Abnormal Psychology		
<b>Credit Value</b>	3		
<b>Level</b>	3		
<b>Pre-requisite / Co-requisite/ Exclusion</b>	<u>Pre-requisite:</u> APSS111/APSS1A07/APSS222 Introduction to Psychology		
<b>Assessment Methods</b>	100% Continuous Assessment	Individual Assessment	Group Assessment
	1. Quiz	40 %	--
	2. Group Presentation	--	30%
	3. Individual Paper	20 %	--
	4. Class Participation	10 %	--
	0% Examination	--	--
<b>Objectives</b>	<p>The subject aims to provide students with an overview of major psychological approaches to the explanation of abnormal human behaviors. It is also aimed at equipping students with knowledge and related intervention strategies to help people with “abnormal” labels. As a result, the students can become sensitive to special needs of individuals, and appreciate the importance of applying the acquired psychological concepts in their daily lives, indigenous cultural context, and/ or professional practice.</p>		
<b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	<p>Upon completion of the subject, the students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. acquire an overview of major psychological approaches and concepts to the explanation of abnormal human behaviors; and</li> <li>b. recognize the complex difficulties and interventions associated with behaviors labeled as “abnormal”; and</li> <li>c. sensitize to the special needs of individuals with psychopathological problems; and</li> <li>d. apply the acquired psychological concepts and skills in daily lives, indigenous culture, and/ or relevant professional practice.</li> </ol>		

<p><b>Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus</b></p>	<p>Part One: Theoretical Considerations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Concepts of Normality and Abnormality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Definition, misconceptions, and concepts of mental health</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Perspectives of Abnormal Behavior <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Medical Perspective</li> <li>b. Psychodynamic, Behavioral - Cognitive, and Existential Perspectives</li> <li>c. Family and Interactive Perspectives</li> <li>d. Multiple Causation of Abnormal Behavior</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>Part Two: Problems of Human Behaviors</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Understanding the following disorders in terms of their nature, classifications, characteristics, causation and treatment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Anxiety Disorders</li> <li>- Obsessive Compulsive Disorders</li> <li>- Trauma-related Disorders</li> <li>- Depression Disorders</li> <li>- Bipolar and Related Disorders</li> <li>- Schizophrenia Spectrum and Psychotic Disorders</li> <li>- Neurodevelopmental Disorders (ADHD &amp; ASD)</li> <li>- Personality Disorders</li> <li>- Neurocognitive Disorders</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) Perspectives on Community Mental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concepts of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Prevention</li> <li>Overview of psychological interventions</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p><b>Teaching/Learning Methodology</b></p>	<p>Lectures will be the main component to help students learn and develop a comprehensive understanding of recent approaches in abnormal psychology. In-depth case studies with the aid of audio-visual materials will also be used for teaching materials. The lecturer will analyze and reconstruct the conceptualization of assessment and management of various types of problems. In addition, in order</p>

	to facilitate students to gain practical experiences in application, they will be required to conduct a small scale project on the chosen topic by literature search and case presentations, lastly writing an individual seminar paper for assessment.						
<b>Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes</b>	Specific assessment methods/tasks		% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)			
				a	b	c	d
	1. Quiz		40 %	✓	✓	✓	✓
	2. Group Presentation		30 %	✓	✓	✓	✓
	3. Individual Paper		20 %	✓	✓	✓	✓
	4. Class Participation		10%	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Total		100 %				
<p>Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:</p> <p>The quiz is to help students to develop a firm grasp of basic concepts while the project and individual paper are to help them develop independent and analytical thinking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned;</li> <li>• The completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject; and</li> <li>• Student must pass all of the component assignments at the grade of D (standard of passing) if he/she is to pass the subject.</li> </ul>							
<b>Student Study Effort Expected</b>	Class contact:						
	▪	Lecture	36	Hrs.			
	Other student study effort:						
	▪	Self-Study	42	Hrs.			
	▪	Written Paper	30	Hrs.			
	▪	Group Preparation	30	Hrs.			
	Total student study effort		138	Hrs.			

**Reading List and  
References**

**MAIN REFERENCE:**

Bridley, A. & Daffin, Lee W. Jr. (2020). Abnormal Psychology (2nd ed.).  
Pressbooks. <https://opentext.wsu.edu/abnormal-psych/>

**OTHER REFERENCES:**

**ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**

Jill M. Hooley James Neall Seventeenth edition Butcher; Matthew Nock; Susan  
Mineka; Boston : Pearson 2017 .

(Reserve Collection)

**First Reference Available Online from POLYU LIB**

**BOOK**

[Abnormal psychology](#)

Credo Reference (Firm),

Boston, Massachusetts : Credo Reference 2014 [Enhanced Credo edition].

**BOOK**

[DSM-5™ essentials : the savvy clinician's guide to the changes in criteria](#)

Lourie W. Reichenberg 1956- David Riedy;

Hoboken, New Jersey : Wiley 2014