# **Subject Description Form**

Subject Code	APSS5069					
Subject Title	Advanced Abnormal Psychology					
Credit Value	3					
Level	5					
Pre-requisite / Co- requisite/ Exclusion	Nil					
Assessmen t Methods	100% Continuous Assessment  1. Quiz	Individual Assessment 40%	Group Assessment			
	2. Seminar Presentation	30%	30%			
	0% Examination					
Objectives	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. In particular, the course will help students to develop knowledge of application in the context of the collaboration between health and social services collaboration. Relevance of the subject matter will be addressed with the framework of community care and working with other disciplines.					

# Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the subject, the students will be able to:

- a. acquire an overview of major psychological approaches and concepts to the explanation of abnormal human behaviors;
- b. recognize the complex difficulties and interventions associated with behaviors labeled as "abnormal";
- c. sensitize to the special needs of individuals with psychopathological problems;
- d. apply the acquired psychological concepts and skills in daily lives, indigenous culture, and/ or relevant professional practice;
- e. understanding the implications of increasing collaboration between health and social services as well as community care

# Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus

#### **Part One: Theoretical Considerations**

- 1. Concepts of Normality and Abnormality
  - Definition, misconceptions, and concepts of mental health
- 2. Perspectives of Abnormal Behavior
  - a. Medical Perspective
  - b. Psychodynamic, Behavioral-cognitive, and Existential Perspectives
  - c. Family and Interactive Perspectives
  - d. Multiple Causation of Abnormal Behavior

#### Part Two: Problems of Human Behaviors

- 1. Understanding the following disorders in terms of their nature, classifications, characteristics, causation and treatment:
  - Anxiety Disorders
  - Obsessive Compulsive Disorders
  - Trauma-related Disorders
  - Depression Disorders
  - Bipolar and Related Disorders
  - Schizophrenia Spectrum and Psychotic Disorders
  - Neurodevelopmental Disorders (ADHD & ASD)
  - Personality Disorders
  - Neurocognitive Disoders
- 2. Perspectives on community care for mental health
  - Concepts of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention
  - Critical evaluation of intervention: sustainability and accessibility of care

# Teaching/Learnin g Methodology

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. The lectures will also stimulate reflection on the applications to the subject area to the real world. The seminars will help to consolidate learning and enhance analytical and creative thinking as well as team collaboration in learning. 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.

## Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes

	ı	T				
Specific assessment methods/tasks	% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)				
		a	b	c	d	e
1. Quiz	40%	<b>✓</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. Seminar Presentation	60%	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>√</b>	✓	<b>✓</b>
Total	100 %					

- Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes:
- The quiz is to ensure that the students have a good understanding of the basic concepts of abnormal psychology. The seminar presentation is to enhance analytical thinking and interaction with peers.
- The grade is calculated according to the percentage assigned;
- The completion and submission of all component assignments are required for passing the subject; and

Student must pass all of the component assignments at the grade of D (standard of passing) if he/she is to pass the subject.

### Student Study Effort Expected

Class contact:	
■ Lecture	27 hrs
■ Seminar	12 hrs
Other student study effort:	
■ Self-Study	27 hrs
■ Written Paper	27 hrs
■ Group Preparation	27 hrs

Total student study effort 120 hrs

# Reading List and References

#### **Textbooks**

- Hooley, J. M., Butcher, J. N., Nock, M., & Mineka, S. (2017). Abnormal psychology. (Reserve collection in POLYU)
- Russo, J. A. (2017). DSM5 and Family Systems (Online access POLYU)
- Michael, B., Williams, J. B. W., Karg, R. S. & Spitzer, R. L. (2016) User's guide for the SCID-5-CV: structured clinical interview for DSM-5 disorders, clinician version. (POLYU)

#### Relevant papers

- Au, A., Yip, H. M., Lai, S., , Ngai, S., Cheng, S. T., Losada, A., Thompson, L. & Gallagher-Thompson, D. (2019) *Telephone-based Behavioral Activation Intervention for Dementia Family Caregivers: Outcomes and Mediation Effect of a Randomized Controlled Trial. Patient Education and Counseling*. doi: 10.1016/j.pec.2019.06.009
- Dawson, G., Rogers, S., Munson, J., Smith, M., Winter, J., Greenson, J., Varley, J. (2010). Randomized, controlled trial of an intervention for toddlers with autism: the Early Start Denver Model. *Pediatrics*, *125*(1), e17–e23. doi:10.1542/peds.2009-0958
- Garber J, Weersing VR. Comorbidity of Anxiety and Depression in Youth: Implications for Treatment and Prevention. *Clin Psychol (New York)*. 2010;17(4):293–306. doi:10.1111/j.1468-2850.2010.01221.x
- Kearns, M. C., Ressler, K. J., Zatzick, D., & Rothbaum, B. O. (2012). Early interventions for PTSD: a review. *Depression and anxiety*, 29(10), 833–842. doi:10.1002/da.21997
- Manea, L., Gilbody, S., & McMillan, D. (2012). Optimal cut-off score for diagnosing depression with the Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9): a meta-analysis. *CMAJ*: Canadian Medical Association journal = journal de l'Association medicale canadienne, 184(3), E191–E196. doi:10.1503/cmaj.110829
- Sonuga-Barke EJ, Brandeis D, Cortese S, et al.; European ADHD Guidelines
  Group. Nonpharmacological interventions for ADHD: systematic review and
  meta-analyses of randomized controlled trials of dietary and psychological
  treatments. 2013. In: Database of Abstracts of Reviews of Effects (DARE):
  Quality-assessed Reviews [Internet]. York (UK): Centre for Reviews and
  Dissemination (UK); 1995-.Available from:
  https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK132676/