

COURSE OUTLINE

PSYC-203

Abnormal Psychology

3 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

Through this introduction to the field of abnormal psychology, the student will be able to describe both historical and current issues involved with defining and recognizing mental illness, to describe the causes of mental illness, to compare and contrast the major treatments of mental illness, and to describe some of the ways to prevent mental illness. In addition, the student will learn to be more critical of abnormal psychology information as found in the mass media.

Prerequisite: Completion of PSYC-101 with a C or better or consent of the instructor. (3 hours weekly)

A liberal education prepares students to lead ethical, productive, and creative lives and to understand how the pursuit of lifelong learning and critical thinking fosters good citizenship. General education courses form the core of a liberal education within the higher education curriculum and provide a coherent intellectual experience for all students by introducing the fundamental concepts and methods of inquiry in the areas of mathematics, the physical and natural sciences, the social sciences, the arts and the humanities, and composition. This course is part of the general education core experience at Howard Community College.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. List and explain the topics of the field of abnormal psychology
2. Discuss the difficulties in defining mental illness
3. List various causes of mental illness
4. Compare and contrast various types of mental illness
5. Compare and contrast various views for treating mental illness
6. Analyze the mass media for examples of abnormal psychology concepts
7. Write documented essays (using APA format) on selected topics
8. Report increased confidence in their ability to be responsible for their own education

Major Topics

- I. Defining mental illness
- II. Explaining the causes of mental illness
- III. Depression
- IV. Schizophrenia
- V. Autism
- VI. Anxiety
- VII. Multiple Personality
- VIII. Sexual Disorder
- IX. Physical Treatments
- X. Psychological Treatments
- XI. Case Studies
- XII. Prevention

Course Requirements

The grading system will be explained the first week of class. Consistent class attendance is very important. Weekly written assignments are used in place of tests and are due on specified dates. Mastery learning and specific learning objectives are used. To earn an "A" grade an additional project is expected.

Other Course Information

PSYC-203 is an Arts and Sciences elective.