

# SS3721: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

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## Effective Term

Semester A 2024/25

## Part I Course Overview

### Course Title

Abnormal Psychology

### Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

### Course Number

3721

### Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

### College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

### Course Duration

One Semester

### Credit Units

3

### Level

B1, B2, B3, B4 - Bachelor's Degree

### Medium of Instruction

English

### Medium of Assessment

English

### Prerequisites

SS1101 Basic Psychology or SS2023 Basic Psychology I

### Precursors

Nil

### Equivalent Courses

SS4713 Abnormal Psychology

### Exclusive Courses

Nil

## Part II Course Details

### Abstract

This course aims to provide students with an overview of (a) defining characteristics of major adult and childhood mental disorders, (b) current approach to classify mental disorders, and (c) major psychological theories for explaining mental

disorders. Students will be able to evaluate the current issues in psychological diagnosis, and to analyse case history to understand the symptoms and courses of psychological disorders.

### Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs	Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1 Describe the complexity of psychopathology;	10	x	x	
2 Apply different concepts and perspectives of abnormal psychology to investigation of mental disorders;	10	x	x	
3 Explain the characteristics of major psychopathology with current classification system; and	50	x	x	
4 Discuss issues of psychopathology with theories from different psychological perspectives and discuss their implications in psychological treatment.	30	x	x	

#### A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

#### A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

#### A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

### Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs	Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1 Lectures	Students will engage in lectures to gain knowledge about the defining features of mental disorders, the diagnostic system, the diagnostic criteria of mental disorders and the rationale behind, as well as the major psychological theories for the disorders.	1, 2, 3, 4	

2	Clinical Case Sharing	Students will participate in clinical case sharing led by clinical psychologists or mental health professionals, where students will be guided to integrate textbook knowledge with local practice experience	3, 4	
3	Group Discussions	Students will participate in group discussions to exchange ideas and collaboratively reflect on current controversial issues in mental disorders and their impact on wellbeing.	3, 4	

**Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)**

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks (e.g. Parameter for GenAI use)
1	Quiz	1, 2, 3, 4	40	
2	Case Report	1, 2, 3, 4	30	
3	Paper	1, 2, 3, 4	30	

**Continuous Assessment (%)**

100

**Examination (%)**

0

**Assessment Rubrics (AR)****Assessment Task**

Term Paper

**Criterion**

Apply different concepts and perspectives of abnormal psychology to investigation of psychological disorders. Analyse the characteristics of major psychopathologies with current classification system. Evaluate issues of psychopathologies with theories from different psychological perspectives and discuss their implications in psychological treatment.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Critically compare different theoretical perspectives when attempting to analyse and apply. When analyse and apply, there is strong evidence of original and reflective thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Showing a good ability to distinguish the different theoretical perspectives when attempting to analyse and apply. Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

General ability to distinguish the different theoretical perspectives when attempting to analyse and apply. Students are profiting from learning the course; understanding of the subject; developing solutions to simple problems in the material.

**Marginal (D)**

Ability to spell out the theoretical concepts and models that could diagnose mental health problems. Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

**Failure (F)**

Little evidence of familiarity with mental health problems. Weak in distinguishing the concepts and models that could be used for diagnoses and apply; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

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**Assessment Task**

Case Report

**Criterion**

Apply different concepts and perspectives of abnormal psychology to investigation of psychological disorders. Analyse the characteristics of major psychopathologies with current classification system. Evaluate issues of psychopathologies with theories from different psychological perspectives and discuss their implications in psychological treatment.

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Demonstrate an excellent ability in applying theoretical concepts to diagnose mental health problems. When analyse and apply, there is strong evidence of original and reflective thinking; good organization, capacity to analyse and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Reasonable understanding on how to apply theoretical concepts to diagnose mental health problems. Evidence of grasp of subject, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of issues; evidence of familiarity with literature.

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

General ability to understand the theoretical concepts that could be used to diagnose and apply to mental health problems. Students are profiting from learning the course; understanding of the subject; developing solutions to simple problems in the material.

**Marginal (D)**

Ability to spell out the theoretical concepts and models that could diagnose mental health problems. Sufficient familiarity with the subject matter to enable the student to progress without repeating the course.

**Failure (F)**

Little evidence of familiarity with mental health problems. Weak in distinguishing the concepts and models that could be used for diagnoses and apply; weakness in critical and analytic skills; limited, or irrelevant use of literature.

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**Assessment Task**

Quiz

**Criterion**

Understand the complexity of psychopathology and materials covered in the course

**Excellent (A+, A, A-)**

Excellent knowledge on materials covered in the course

**Good (B+, B, B-)**

Good knowledge on materials covered in the course

**Fair (C+, C, C-)**

Adequate knowledge on materials covered in the course

**Marginal (D)**

Marginal knowledge on materials covered in the course

**Failure (F)**

In adequate knowledge on materials covered in the course

## Part III Other Information

### Keyword Syllabus

Normality and Abnormality, Classification in Abnormal Psychology, Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis, Mood Disorders, Suicide, Anxiety Disorders, Schizophrenia, Personality Disorders, Gender Dysphoria, Eating Disorders, Sleep-Wake Disorders, Somatic Symptom and Related Disorders, Neurocognitive Disorders, Disruptive, Impulse-Control, and Conduct Disorders, Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Physical Disorder and Health Psychology.

### Reading List

#### Compulsory Readings

Title	
1	Barlow, D. H., Durand, V. M., & Hofmann, S. G. (2023). Psychopathology#: an integrative approach to mental disorders (9th edition.). Boston, MA: Cengage.

#### Additional Readings

Title	
1	American Psychiatric Association (2022). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders#: DSM-5-TR. American Psychiatric Association Publishing.
2	Annual Review of Clinical Psychology
3	Behaviour Research and Therapy
4	Clinical Psychology Review
5	Depression and Anxiety
6	Journal of Anxiety Disorders
7	Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology
8	Journal of Psychopathology and Clinical Science
9	Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
10	Psychological Medicine