

**Abnormal Behavior (Psych 37),
Distance Education Course (INTERNET)
Saddleback College, EXAMPLE SYLLABUS
Ticket # XXX**

Instructor: Dr. Amira A. Rezec, Ph.D.

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Office hours:

Some are held in my office, others “on-line” (where you are sure to reach the instructor online during the office hour)

Contacting your instructor:

Email is the best way to contact me. Please email me directly at arezec@saddleback.edu rather than clicking on the link to email me from within Blackboard. Your email will get to me faster that way. Make sure that the first two words in the subject line of your email to me at arezec@saddleback.edu say “*abnormal class*” so that I can filter my email and answer your questions first. I teach 6 courses that all use Blackboard and this will help distinguish your email from my other students’ emails so I know what class you are writing about. I will reply to your email within 24 hours on weekdays, and emails sent on the weekends on Monday afternoons. If you call my office, I will be there during office hours.

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide an introduction to the symptoms, causes, treatment, and prevention of psychological disorders. Disorders covered will include: anxiety, personality, psychophysiological, substance use, sexual, eating, and organic disorders.

Course Goals and Objectives: Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) List and describe the five axes of diagnosis used in the DSM-IV-TR
- 2) Compare and contrast biological, psychological, family, and social views of the causes and treatment of abnormal behavior.
- 3) Identify and compare major scientific methods for gathering and analyzing information to describe abnormal behavior.
- 4) Identify the difference between organic and functional disorders.
- 5) List and/or recognize the characteristics of specific anxiety, somatoform, mood, eating, sleep, sexual-identity, substance abuse, personality, schizophrenic and cognitive disorders.
- 6) Recognize unethical therapeutic practices according to American Psychological Association Guidelines.

REQUIRED Text:

Abnormal Psychology; Clinical Perspectives on Psychological Disorders. Halgin and Whitbourne, fifth edition. The ISBN number for this book is: 0073228729.

This book comes with a free CD that may help you to study, but is not critical or required for the course.

Additional Required Readings: Additional research articles and web site links will be made available to on the course Blackboard website for students to read in order to complete the course Writing Assignments described below.

Blackboard Website Usage: This internet-based system will be used for the entire course. It allows for class/faculty interaction and includes; class email lists, discussion boards, announcements, on-line quizzes and exams, grade posting, etc. Your username is your Saddleback College email address (without the @saddleback.edu) given to you at registration and your password is your *email* password. Note; Blackboard will be my only source of reaching you outside of class, therefore you will need to check your Saddleback college email account through MySite (<http://www.saddleback.edu>) or go through this site once in order to *change* your email options and forward email to an account that you regularly check. Blackboard can be accessed soccd.blackboard.com or through the main saddleback webpage under *Students* tab. Check your user accessibility IMMEDIATELY. Contact the instructor for special directions should you use AOL as your internet service.

Chapter Quizzes: You should read assigned chapter material BEFORE taking the quizzes, as quizzes can only be taken once and will be administered entirely on the internet. There will not be a time limit on the quizzes but they can ONLY be taken once and will be due on Wednesdays at midnight (see course schedule). You will submit your answers through the Blackboard website.. Answers will be submitted through Blackboard. Please note that you should not open another web browser window or click on Save while taking quizzes or exams as this will kick you out of the quiz or exam.

Discussion Board Assignments: The discussion board is the life of our virtual classroom! Students will be required to submit thoughtful and clear answers to the Discussion questions posted each week. You are also encouraged to answer other students' discussion postings to fulfill this requirement. Postings will be due before midnight on the Wednesday evenings. Each posting will be graded on a pass/no pass basis based on a) how well it addressed the specific question, b) quality of thoughts expressed. At least one clear paragraph containing all complete sentences is required.

Exams: There will be a total of three exams in this course. Each one will be worth 100 points. Each exam will cover the chapters and course lecture material described on the Course Schedule and will not be cumulative in nature. Exams will include both multiple choice and essay questions. Exams can ONLY BE TAKEN ONCE and will be administered entirely on the internet, with a two hour time limit to complete the exam once it has been started. There is no scheduled exam time during which the exam must be taken, but the due dates are firm. Be sure to prepare by reading and reviewing chapter materials before taking the exams. You will submit your answers through the Blackboard website. Please note that you should not open another web browser window or click on "Save" while taking quizzes or exams as this will kick you out of the quiz or exam.

Written Assignments: There will be one short written assignments posted that require students to either evaluate and answer questions regarding a clinical interview that you will simulate by interacting with the "*Faces of Abnormal Psychology*" online movies *OR* to read a research article and answer critical thinking questions about the study described. This will be worth 40 points each, and are expected to be typed, up to 2 pages long, and double spaced. Be sure to type your name and section number at the top of the assignment, and to make sure that you turn it in online as directed on the Blackboard website. (DO NOT SEND ASSIGNMENTS VIA EMAIL to the instructor as turning assignments in through the Blackboard system allows for instructors to provide feedback to students in an easily viewable online format).

Missed Assignment/Exam Policy: Late assignments/exams will not be accepted. Do not wait until the last minute.... There is ample time to complete assignments, technical difficulties are not an excuse for late assignments. Students that have extenuating circumstances or valid excuses for missing an assignment (death in the family, etc.) should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

Grading Policy:

There are a total of 530 points available to be earned in this class.

Online Chapter Quizzes	= 20% of course points
Exams	= 55% percent of course points
Writing Assignments	= 10% of course points
Discussion Boards Contributions	= 15% of course points

Final letter grades will be based on the percentage of total points earned in the class. The following scale will be used in assigning final letter grades:

90% - 100%	= A
80% - 89%	= B
70% - 79%	= C
60% - 69%	= D
≤ 59%	= F

Grade posting:

You will find your grades posted under My Grades on the class site. You are the only person who will see your score. An announcement will be posted whenever assignment grades have been updated for the class (usually on Fridays or Mondays).

Academic Dishonesty Policy:

Academic dishonesty in the form of cheating on an exam or plagiarizing the written work of others is considered a *very* serious offense & will not be tolerated in this course. All exams, quizzes, and assignments must be taken by the student who is enrolled in the course. If a student is suspected of or caught cheating on any test or assignment, he/she will receive a grade of zero on that test or assignment and an Academic Dishonesty Report will be filed with the Dean's office to be retained on record. It is very important to avoid putting yourself in the position of even being *suspected* of cheating (e.g., looking at another student's exam or copying homework) or plagiarism (i.e., using another's words as if they were your own written words), as very serious consequences may result and remain on your student record.

Student Support Services

You are encouraged to take advantage of such resources including:

Learning Assistance Program (LAP) Tutoring Center:

The Learning Assistance Program offers free tutoring for Saddleback College students. The LAP is located in Library 114. They offer tutoring in most, not all, subject areas. Let them know if you would like them to offer tutoring in classes for which tutoring is not currently offered, so that they are aware of student needs.

Counseling:

Counselors are available to assist students in the areas of academic advisement, career planning, and personal counseling. For an appointment or for information regarding the availability of drop-in counseling, call 582-4572.

Psychological Services:

Free and confidential psychological services are available on campus through the student health office. One-on-one sessions as well as groups therapy/support groups are available. Call 582-4606 to make an appointment or to learn more..

Special Services for Students with Disabilities:

The Special Services Office can be reached by calling 582-4885 and is located in the Student Services Center, room 113. Students should also speak with the Instructor as soon as possible so that we can work together to make sure that your learning needs are met.