



Iowa Valley Community College District
Course Syllabus

PSY 241-Abnormal Psychology
Fall 2021

Course Information

Course section(s): PSY 241

College, Department, and Division: Social Sciences

Credit hours: 3 Credit Hours

Course dates, days, and times: 7th (M/W: 1:15 pm -2:40 pm; F: 1:15 pm – 1:55 pm)

Building and room: 103 (Oasis Room)

Prerequisites and/or corequisites: : Introduction to Psychology or equivalent. If you are not sure if you have met the prerequisite requirement, please contact me.

Course access: <https://iavalley.instructure.com/>

Instructor Information

Instructor's name: Ms. Earlene Taylor

Email: etaylor@montezuma.k12.ia.us

Office Phone: 641-623-5121

Office hours: Before, after and advisor time

Office location: Room 103

Preferred method of contact: email

Catalog Course Description: History, classification, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness. Includes a discussion of causes and prevention of psychological disorders, and legal/social issues regarding mental illness.

Course Textbooks and Materials

- Title: Abnormal Psychology and Life: A Dimensional Approach
Authors: Kearney, C.A., & Trull, T.J.
Edition: 2nd
Copyright year: 2015
Publisher: Cengage Learning

Quality Standards/Performance Objectives/ Course Objectives:

Upon successfully completing this course, students should be able to:

1. Define a mental disorder, summarize the history of abnormal psychology, and explain how abnormal psychology fits into the broader life themes framework.
2. Summarize the five widely-accepted perspectives on abnormal psychology.
3. Explain the risk factors and prevention possibilities with mental disorders.
4. Summarize how mental disorders are studied, diagnosed, assessed, and classified.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of anxiety disorders.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of dissociative and somatoform disorders.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of mood disorders and suicide.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of eating disorders.
9. Demonstrate knowledge of substance-related disorders.
10. Demonstrate knowledge of personality disorders.



11. Demonstrate knowledge of sexual dysfunction, paraphilia, and gender identity disorders.
12. Demonstrate knowledge of schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders.
13. Demonstrate knowledge of developmental and disruptive behavior disorders.
14. Demonstrate knowledge of cognitive disorders.
15. Explain the relationship between abnormal psychology and consumer behavior.

Performance Standards and Assignments Matrix:

Standard	Exam	Paper	Presentation	Project	Demonstration	Observation	Simulation	Other
ALL	X	X						X

General Course Information and Policies

How to Succeed in This Course

Communication is a huge part of succeeding in this class. If you have questions, please email me. If there is something you are wondering about I can explain it for you. I'm here to help you in the course. Please reach out at any time. If I don't respond to your email within in 24 hours please send me another email.

Cell Phones: Without prior permission, the use of cell phones during class is prohibited. If used without permission, they will be retained for the rest of the day.

Course Content Advisement: This course addresses topics that may be sensitive, offensive, and/or controversial. If you are uncomfortable with any topic or the manner in which it is presented, please discuss your concerns with the instructor.

GRADING AND EVALUATION: All grades are based upon points. Tests will be composed essay questions about the material discussed in the assigned chapters.

GRADING SCALE:

A: 100% - 90% B+: 87% - 89% B: 83% - 86% B-: 80% - 82%	C+: 77% - 79% C: 73% - 76% C-: 70% - 72%	D+: 67% - 69% D: 63% - 66% D-: 60% - 62% F: 59% OR BELOW
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I do not accept late work unless you have prior approval from me. The due dates are posted on the weekly folders on blackboard. "I didn't have time to do it this week" **is not a valid excuse**. Please keep in touch with me if you have a situation that arises that you need an extension. You will be granted one extension per semester without punishment. Please use it wisely.

Class Attendance

Attendance policy is the same as the one in the Montezuma Community School handbook.

Missed or Late Work

I do not accept late work unless I have been notified before the deadline that you need an extension. "I didn't have time to do it this week" **is not a valid excuse**.



Communication Policy

If I don't respond to your email within in 24 hours, please send me another email.

Academic Integrity

The very nature of higher education requires that students adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. The Student Code of Conduct is found in the Student Handbook. Violations include cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, abuse of academic materials, complicity in academic dishonesty, and falsification of records and official documents. Instructors take these violations very seriously, and you should be aware that further administrative disciplinary actions may be taken, up to and including course failure and expulsion from college. **Please learn about plagiarism and how to properly cite other people's work.**

Consequences of Academic Dishonesty

Academic Integrity: The very nature of higher education requires that students adhere to accepted standards of academic integrity. The Code of Academic Conduct for IVCCD is found in the Student Handbook. Violations include cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, abuse of academic materials, complicity in academic dishonesty, and falsification of records or official documents.

Plagiarism/academic dishonesty is a serious violation of IVCCD's Student Conduct Code. Instructors handle violations in various ways, but you should be aware that further administrative disciplinary actions may be taken, up to and including course failure and expulsion from college. Please learn about plagiarism and how to properly cite others' work.

Plagiarism Detection

The Iowa Valley Community College District uses a plagiarism detection system on Canvas, the online learning management system. Students agree that by taking this course, all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the plagiarism detection system on Canvas.

Consequences: Please learn about plagiarism and how to properly cite others' work (Plagiarism.org & Purdue Owl APA). For this course, if you hand in anything that is plagiarized, it will be an **Automatic F on the assignment**. If you have questions about citing, please ask.

Refer to the Student Handbook and the college catalog for all in-depth college policies and procedures which are available on the MCC website.

Academic Support Services

Student Assistance is available at no cost to students. Services include peer tutors, writing, and math assistance.

Ellsworth CC: The Hub

The [Hub](#) is the Academic Support Center. For tutoring and questions, please contact Tracy Crippin, Director of Student Success, at Tracy.Crippin@iavalley.edu.

Marshalltown CC: Tutoring, StAP, and Student Success Center

At MCC, tutors may be requested by visiting the [Student Success Center](#) (Room 406).



MCC Student Assistance Program (StAP): To access the StAP, stop by room 211 on the MCC campus, or to set up an appointment, call 641-844-5753, or email Coordinator Nancy Adams (Nancy.Adams@iavalley.edu).

Iowa Valley Grinnell

Tutoring and academic support is available at IVG, please contact Kelly Davis, Student Advising Specialist, at Kelly.Davis@iavalley.edu.

IT Support

For IT related issues in regard to your email, Canvas access, software, etc., please contact the helpdesk at helpdesk@iavalley.edu.

Course Content Advisement

This course addresses topics that may be sensitive, offensive, and/or controversial. If you are uncomfortable with any topic or the manner in which it is presented, please discuss your concerns with the instructor or the Dean of Instruction.

General College Policies

Student Handbooks

For information regarding the drop/add policy, refunds, academic calendar, weather/school closures, and other general college information, please refer to the Ellsworth Community College Student Handbook which can be accessed on the [ECC Resources for Students](#) website.

The current Marshalltown Community College/Iowa Valley Grinnell Student Handbook can be accessed on the [MCC Resources for Students](#) website.

COVID-19 Procedures

“Because of the unknown situations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, IVCCD reserves the right to transition any individual course, academic semester, portion of a course, or portion of an academic semester to an alternative mode of delivery including virtual delivery (synchronous or asynchronous), hybrid, or online.

IVCCD relies on CDC and Public Health guidelines to inform protocols. As of July 26, 2021, masks are optional but strongly recommended for unvaccinated individuals. Masks may be required in designated areas or at certain events on campus.

Masks should cover both mouth and nose in these designated areas. Refusal to comply with expectations may result in Code of Conduct violations and disciplinary actions. If you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, please do not attend your classes and contact your instructors immediately.

College Plant Services staff strives to maintain a clean and healthy environment. All members of the college community, however, are tasked with assisting with creating a



sanitized environment. The following cleaning process will apply to general college classrooms: 1) Instructor will spray horizontal surfaces at the end of each class; 2) each student in the next class will take paper towels and dry their desk before they sit down.

Education Equity Policy Statement

It is the policy of Iowa Valley Community College District that no individual will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by the District on the basis of actual or potential parental, family or marital status; age; color; creed; gender identity; national origin; physical or mental disability; race; religion; sex; or sexual orientation as required by the Iowa Code §§ 216.6 and 216.9, Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d and 2000e), the Equal Pay Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. § 206, et seq.), Title IX (Educational Amendments, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681 – 1688), Section 504 (Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. § 794), and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (42 U.S.C. § 12101, et seq).

Marshalltown Community College and Iowa Valley Grinnell students who have questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy should contact Dr. Vincent Boyd, Education Equity Officer, at 641-844-5716 or Vincent.Boyd@iavalley.edu. Ellsworth Community College students who have questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy should contact Dr. Amanda Estey, Education Equity Officer, at 641-648-8633 or Amanda.Estey@iavalley.edu. Iowa Valley Continuing Education students who have questions or complaints related to compliance with this policy should contact Jacque Goodman, Education Equity Officer, at 641-844-5640 or Jacque.Goodman@iavalley.edu. Complaints may also be filed with the Director of the Office for Civil Rights U.S. Department of Education, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison St., Suite 1475, Chicago, Illinois 60661-7204 (Ph: 312-730-1560, E: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov) and/or the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 400 E. 14th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319 (Ph: 800-457-4416). Retaliation against any individual for reporting discrimination or assisting in providing information relevant to a report of discrimination is strictly prohibited by IVCCD and constitutes a violation of this policy. Disabilities, Accessibility, and Accommodations Statement

Iowa Valley Community College District (IVCCD) is committed to providing equity in access in all matters relating to the College. By working together, students, faculty and staff strive to provide access to support students in the completion of their studies at IVCCD. The College adheres to all requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and will make reasonable accommodations for any student or patron. If you have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits learning, additional requirements will need to be fulfilled in order to receive services, including the completion of an application, as well as the establishment that the student has a record of such impairment or are regarded as having such impairment.

Ellsworth ADA Contact

ECC students in need of services should contact Wanda Koehrsen (641-648-4611 or Wanda.Koehrsen@iavalley.edu)



Marshalltown/Iowa Valley Grinnell ADA Contact

MCC students in need of services should contact Martha Schwandt (641.844-5769 or Martha.Schwandt@iavalley.edu).

Non-discrimination Statement

Harassment and discrimination are prohibited and will not be tolerated at the College. Students, faculty, staff, administrators, and board members are responsible for promotion, understanding, and acceptance of College policies. Complete information is available in IVCCD Board Policy 517 or by contacting a College official. Refer to this [handout](#) for more information.

Title IX Procedures

Title IX, of the Education Amendments of 1972, is a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity. Issues related to sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic/dating violence and/or stalking are governed by the College's Title IX Policy and Procedures, available from ECC's Title IX coordinator, Tracy Crippin-Haake (Tracy.Crippin@iavalley.edu or 641-648-8513), or at <https://ecc.iavalley.edu/resources-for-students/title-9/>. MCC's Title IX coordinator is Nate Chua (Nate.Chua@iavalley.edu or 641-844-5743). More information can be accessed at <https://mcc.iavalley.edu/resources-for-students/title-9/>.

Tentative Class Schedule

Faculty Statement: The aforementioned requirements, assignments, evaluation procedures, and other contents of this syllabus are subject to change. Students' experiences and needs, as well as emerging knowledge, will be considered in modifying this course syllabus.

Week	Chapter
1	APA
2	Chapter 1
3	Chapter 2
4	Chapter 3
5	Chapter 4
6	Chapter 5
7	Chapter 6
8	Chapter 7
9	Chapter 8
10	Chapter 9
11	Chapter 10
12	Chapter 11
13	Chapter 12
14	Chapter 13
15	Chapter 14
16	Chapter 15
17	Finals



Basic Layout of the class (subject to change)

Exams: The chapters will be broken up into 4 sections, resulting in 4 unit exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points, totaling 400 points for all exams.

Review Papers: There will be 2 review papers that will need to be done. There will be journal articles provided in addition to a writing prompt. There are four possible topics that a student can write about:

- Soldiers and PTSD
- Athletes and eating disorders
- Prisoner rehabilitation
- The hazards of mental health labels

The first paper must be turned in by **Nov. 2nd** and the second paper will need to be turned in by **Dec. 17th**. Each paper will be worth 25 points, for a total of 50 points.

You could get both done prior to those dates. When ready, get one of the topics from Ms. Taylor or download from the Abnormal Psychology page.

Media Project:

Media often portrays mental health issues but, as a good psychologist, you need to examine how accurate those portrayals are in the media, thinking about the far reaching consequences of those portrayals. For this project, you will need to view a movie that includes at least one character with a mental illness. This project needs to include the following:

- Paper (total of 6 pages with title page and reference section)
 - **Title Page**
 - **Synopsis:** Half page objective summary of the movie. This is not an opinion section—watch pronoun usage – it is simply an overview of the movie. Please use your own thoughts, and NOT an outside source. If an outside source is used, it must be cited.
 - **Diagnosis and Justification:** This section should be up to a page in length, looking specifically at the character's behavior, symptoms, cognitions, etc. you need to provide a diagnosis. Remember, co-morbidity could occur and you need to acknowledge this concept. In order to better prepare your thoughts, you will use the 5 Axis from DSM-IV to help classify each section. If one section has none, write "No diagnosis". After listing the diagnoses, you will need to justify it by indicating which criteria the character meets (what symptoms does s/he have that are characteristic of the diagnosis given?).
 - **Critique:** You will write a critique of the movie, focusing on how the mental illness is portrayed. Ideas: Does the movie provide an accurate example of the mental illness? If so, what did they get right? If not, how did they inaccurately portray the character's mental illness? If you were directing the movie or writing the script, what would you have done differently to provide a more accurate portrayal? This section will need to be up to a page in length.
 - **Treatment:** If you were a mental health professional, how would you help this character? What therapeutic approach would you take? What theoretical perspective might you use, and what techniques would you try? Would there be any medications you might recommend, or would you not want to use meds? Does this person need individual therapy, group therapy, hospitalization and inpatient treatment program, institutionalization, family therapy, incarceration or some other kind of treatment? If the



character has received treatment in the movie, what did you think of it? If the treatment was effective, why was it so? Was there anything you would have done differently if the treatment used in the movie were not as effective? This section should be a page in length.

○ **References**

▪ **Movies:** Below is a list of movies. If one is not on the list you'd like to use, please discuss it with me first:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| ▪ A Beautiful Mind | ▪ Rain Man |
| ▪ As Good as it Gets | ▪ Secret Window |
| ▪ Awakenings | ▪ Sybil |
| ▪ Fatal Attraction | ▪ The Woodsman |
| ▪ Girl Interrupted | ▪ Three Faces of Eve |
| ▪ Identity | ▪ Silence of the Lambs |
| ▪ Mr. Jones | ▪ What about Bob |
| ▪ Ordinary People | ▪ When a Man Loves a Woman |

• **Presentation**

You will be asked to prepare a PPT presentation about your media project. This presentation needs to follow closely to the major points of your paper, focusing more on summaries of each section. You will also need to show 3 short clips from the movie depicting the character you are examining. On the day of the presentation, you will need to be in more formal attire while presenting to your peers. There will also be the opportunity for Ms. Taylor and your peers to ask you questions regarding your media project.

The Media Project will be due during the last full week of the semester. The entire project will be worth 200 points.