

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **PSYC 430**

#### **ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of neurotic and psychotic behavior including origin, classification, symptoms and a survey of diagnosis, therapy and prevention.

#### **RATIONALE**

Because of the complexity of modern society and the diversity of today's medical system, the student need a comprehensive understanding and working knowledge of all types of abnormal behaviors. It is also critical to understand both the normal and the abnormal and their relationship to each other. This is essential for any type of psychologically-related work, especially as the student works with other professionals and agencies as part of a "healing team."

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#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio and video equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

#### IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Analyze and interpret the historical background, symptoms, basic theoretical orientations, and established research in abnormal behavior.
- B. Categorize and compare the terminology, concepts, and principles that are used in the identity, study, and treatment of abnormal disorders.
- C. Recognize and evaluate the various psychopathologies and classifications of abnormal psychology.
- D. Recognize and manage deviant behaviors in his/her own life or in the lives of those who may be disturbed or distraught psychologically.
- E. Assess spiritual and religious factors in psychopathology and in its treatment.
- F. Compare and evaluate psychopathologies according to the DSM-V and appraise and assess the abnormal disorders in their proper place within this system.
- G. Demonstrate the skills of gathering information from a library including computerized information sources, bibliographic systems, computerized literacy skills in word processing, APA format, conducting internet/electronic searches, as well as other sources from which one can present a persuasive argument.

#### V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. The student must complete 4 Discussion Board Forums. The forums will cover topics relating to the course material. The student must post a thread for each forum of at least 200 words and reply in at least 100 words each to at least 2 classmates' threads. In the thread, the student must use a reference besides the textbook as well as a Bible passage, including an application of the passage to the forum topic.

- D. Case Studies (3)

The student must complete 3 case study assignments. For each of these assignments, the student will review a case study about 1 type of abnormal behavior and then complete an answer sheet of questions to apply what he/she has learned from the study.

E. References Assignment

The student will decide on a topic and find references for his/her Research Paper. He/she must find and cite at least 5 references in current APA style. Five of the references must be journal articles or book references dated within the past 10 years. (One of these must be theological and/or biblical in nature.) Additionally, 1 reference must be a Bible passage.

F. Research Paper

The student will research a specific mental disorder within the realm of Abnormal Psychology. The topic must be one which is discussed in the Comer textbook and described in the DSM-V. The length of the body of the paper must be 7 pages and must not exceed 10 pages. In addition, the student must include a current APA-style title page, abstract, and references.

G. Quizzes (8)

In each module/week, the student will take a 50-minute, open-book/open-notes quiz based on the assigned textbook readings and media presentations. Each quiz contains 25 multiple-choice questions. Additionally, each quiz will only be available for the full week of the module/week.

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 ea)	200
Case Studies (3 at 50 ea)	150
References Assignment	50
Research Paper	200
Quizzes (8 at 50 ea)	400
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

B. Scale

A = 900–1010 B = 800–899 C = 700–799 D = 600–699 F = 0–599

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **PSYC 430**

Textbooks: Comer, *Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology* (2016).

Gorenstein & Comer, *Case Studies in Abnormal Psychology* (2015).

<b>MODULE /WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Comer: chs. 1–2 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1: Model of Abnormal Psychology Quiz 1	10 0 50 50
<b>2</b>	Comer: chs. 3–4 Gorenstein & Comer: Case Study 1 presentation	Case Study: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder OR Panic Disorder Quiz 2	50 50
<b>3</b>	Comer: chs. 5, 8 1 presentation	DB Forum 2: Stress References Assignment Quiz 3	50 50 50
<b>4</b>	Comer: chs. 6–7 Gorenstein & Comer: Case Study 1 presentation	Case Study: Bipolar Disorder OR Major Depressive Disorder Quiz 4	50 50
<b>5</b>	Comer: chs. 9–10 1 presentation	DB Forum 3: Substance Disorders Quiz 5	50 50
<b>6</b>	Comer: chs. 11–12 1 presentation	Research Paper Quiz 6	200 50
<b>7</b>	Comer: chs. 13–14 Gorenstein & Comer: Case Study 1 presentation	Case Study: Borderline Personality Disorder OR Autism Spectrum Disorder Quiz 7	50 50
<b>8</b>	Comer: chs. 15–16 2 presentations	DB Forum 4: Law, Society, and Mental Health Quiz 8	50 50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week (except Module/Week 1) begins on Tuesday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Monday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.