

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Abnormal Psychology **Course #:** PSY 245

Course Description: (3 Credits) An exploration of the causes, effects and treatment of abnormal behavior. Topics covered include the difficulty in defining normal and abnormal behavior, critical understanding of diagnostic and research tools used by mental health professionals, and discussion of the possible developmental roots of psychological disorders.

Pre-requisite/Co-requisite: PSY 111 with a grade of "C" or better.

- Goals:**
- a. To explore the difficulties in defining abnormal behavior due to overlaps with normal behavior.
 - b. To explore the concepts of stigma and distress as they apply to an individual with a psychological disorder.
 - c. To explore how psychological disorders affect the individual, the family, community and society.
 - d. To explain the assumptions of **DSM-IV-TR & DSM-5**, including the medical model, integrative approach, categorical and dimensional approach and multiaxial system.

Outcomes: By the end of the semester students should:

- a. define the diagnostic process for **DSM-IV-TR & DSM-5**
- b. discuss the ways a clinician arrives at a differential diagnosis
- c. contrast treatment goals, integrative approaches & modalities of treatment
- d. identify the symptoms of each of the major diagnostic categories
- e. discuss advantages and limitations in providing effective treatment.
- f. identify the goals and types of assessment procedures.
- g. compare and contrast treatment choices for each diagnostic category.
- h. discuss basic ethical and legal issues affecting the study and practice of clinical psychology.