

Abnormal Psychology  
Syllabus

Mary G. Montgomery High School  
For Mr. Rose

Course Syllabus  
Fall, 2012

**Course Description:**

Abnormal Psychology is the study of mental illness. This course is an introduction to the psychopathology of human experience. Although we will not become therapists or abnormal psychologists in the course, we will look through the window of abnormal psychology and gain a deeper appreciation for the study and the lives of those that experience the problems of mental illness

This course is the second in the psychology series at Mary G. Montgomery High School. Although not required, many of the people that take this course will go on to take Advance Placement Psychology. It is therefore designed with the needs of the advanced students in mind. At the same time, it is assumed that the student that takes the course has a firm foundation in psychological constructs.

**Course Purpose:**

The purpose of the course is to introduce the student into the community of psychopathology. We will approach the course with the understanding that psychopathology is a very controversial subject. In fact there are those that believe that it does not exist at all.

**Course Goals:**

Students should have a basic understanding and working vocabulary of the following topics.

1. The definitions and basic concepts of abnormal behavior.
2. The research methodology that exists in the study of abnormal behavior
3. The process of diagnosis that is involved in the study of mental illness
4. The developmental abnormalities
5. The organic abnormalities
6. Eating disorders
7. Substance abuse disorders
8. Anxiety disorders
9. Mood or affective disorders
10. Dissociative disorders
11. Somatoform disorders
12. Schizophrenia
13. The personality disorders
14. Therapy
15. Prevention

**Text Book:**

The text for the abnormal psychology course is Abnormal Psychology, by Robert Comer. We will not be reading the entire book, however those sections that are assigned need to be read in detail.

**Contact Me:**

The best way to contact me is by e-mail. My address is [rrose@mcpss.com](mailto:rrose@mcpss.com).

**Disclaimer:**

It would only be reasonable to assume that issues may arise which calls for the syllabus to be amended. I am a reasonable person though and will keep you up to date of any changes that occur. Always check the online calendar.

**Our Schedule for the Fall of 2012**

Unit One: What is Abnormal Behavior?

August 20 – August 25  
Read Chapter 1 and 2

Unit Two: Research in Abnormal Psychology

August 27 – August 31  
Read Chapter 3

Unit Three: Assessment, Interpretation and Diagnosis

September 4 – September 7  
Read Chapter 4

Unit Four: Developmental Disorders

September 10 – September 14  
Read Chapter 19

Unit Five: Organic Disorders

September 17 – September 21  
Read Chapter 20

Unit Six: Eating Disorders

September 24 – October 5  
Read Chapter 12

Unit Seven: Substance Abuse Disorders

October 8 – October 12  
Read Chapter 13

Unit Eight: Anxiety Disorders

October 15 – October 19  
Read Chapter 6

Unit Nine: Mood Disorders

October 22 – October 26  
Read Chapter 8

Unit Ten: Dissociative Disorders

October 29 – November 9  
Read Chapter 18

Unit Eleven: Somatoform Disorders

November 13 – November 16  
Read Chapter 11

Unit Twelve: Schizophrenia

November 19 – November 30  
Read Chapter 15

Unit Thirteen: Personality Disorders

December 3 – December 7  
Read Chapter 17

Unit Fourteen: Therapy

December 10 – December 14  
Read Chapter 5

Unit Fifteen: Prevention

December 17 – December 21  
No Assigned Reading

## Course Policies and Procedures:

Obviously these are not all of the policies, procedures and subtle nuances that exist in my classes but these are a fair example of what I expect to happen in my classes. The bottom line is that I expect you to take your educational experiences seriously. You are your responsibility, not mine, not your parents, not this school's, not the government's. Do your best.

1. Attendance is a serious matter. It is your responsibility to attend class. There will be some type of activity that will require your attendance every single day that the class meets. In addition, credit for this class will be given according to the schools attendance policy.
2. In the event that you are absent, go to the website and get the materials that you have missed. Copies of the materials will also be place in the file at the back of the classroom.
3. Tardies will be recorded daily and will be dealt with according to the school's policy. Please read it and be aware that it is being followed to the letter. The working definition of tardiness is that you must be in the classroom when the bell stops ringing.
4. ALWAYS SIT IN YOUR ASSIGNED SEAT. I take attendance using the seating chart. As a result, it is very important that you sit in the correct seat.
5. If you are planning on spending time in retract, you should be aware of my feelings regarding retract. Retract is not study hall! It is not a place to catch up on your home work! It is supposed to be place of incarceration. Since there is some type of meaningful activity happening everyday in psychology, if you miss it, you are truly missing out!
6. I do not like early dismissals. Again remember that if you are gone for more than half of my class period, I will mark you absent.
7. Your attitude in class is important to me. I expect that you will have a great attitude while in my classroom. An attitude of apathy or disrespect will not be tolerated. I will be assigning additional reading assignments to those students with attitude problems. Do not attempt to take a nap in psychology class. In the event that you attempt to sleep in class, I will assume that you need to learn about the reticular activating system, a system in the brain that regulates attention.
8. Come to class with your materials everyday. Your materials include the following things: The courses text book, A three ring binder, A number two pencil, a pen, plenty of three ring binder style paper, your homework assignment, your assignment calendar, your uniform, etc.
9. I have a learning disability when it comes to names and faces... NO REALLY! Please be patient with me if I call you by the wrong name. I will be taking a significant amount of time at the beginning of the semester to learn your names. This is very important to me and will help you as well.
10. Assignments are to be turned in on the day that they are due. I will not accept assignments that are turned in late unless the circumstance warrants it. If you are absent, I expect that you will turn in your late work after school on Thursday during the tutorial session. That way I can give you any extra assistance that you might need catching up.

## My Grading System:

### Tests are worth 60% of your grade.

Chapter tests in psychology are administered weekly, usually on Fridays. For most students, the tests are taken on a computer system. We'll talk more about that later. Tests are figured at 60 percent of the final grade before the midterm or the final exam.

### Other scores are worth 40% of your grade.

Other grades for the class make up 40 percent of the final grade before the midterm or the final exam. These assignments are as follows:

Terms and Jargon assignments are worth 50 points. Crossword review assignments are worth 40 points. Film study guides are worth 10 points. Pre-Lecture Assignments are worth 20 points.

### Determining Your Grade

<u>Tests (60%)</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Possible</u>
Test 1	97	100
Test 2	82	100
Test 3	57	100
Test 4	80	100
Test 5	<u>75</u>	<u>100</u>
Totals	391	500

To get your test average, add up all of your earned points and divide by the possible points.

$$391 \text{ points} \div 500 \text{ points} = 78.2\%$$

<u>Other Grades (40%)</u>	<u>Earned</u>	<u>Possible</u>
Terms 1	50	50
Review 1	40	40
Film 1	10	10
Terms 2	40	50
Review 2	<u>36</u>	<u>40</u>
Totals	176	190

To get your "other" average, add up all of your earned points and divide by the possible points.

$$176 \text{ points} \div 190 \text{ points} = 93\%$$

To get your class average, take your test average and multiply by 0.6. Then take your other average and multiply by 0.4. Lastly add those two numbers together. This is your class average.

$$78.2 \times 0.6 = 46.9$$

$$93 \times 0.4 = 37.2$$

### Class Average = 84.1 (Quarter Net Average)

This is your average going into the CRT (also called QNA). To get your grade after the CRT you take your QNA and multiply it by 4. Then you add your CRT grade. Finally, you divide that number by 5. This is your final quarter average.

For example, you have an 84.1 going into the CRT and you make a 65 on the CRT.

$$(84.1 \times 4) + 65 = 401.4$$

Now divide by 5...

$$401.4 \div 5 = 80.28$$

This is your final quarter average.

**Final Quarter Grade = 80%**

**Assignment Descriptions:**

1. Study Guides, which include the Terms and Jargon Sheets, Crossword Reviews, Film Study Guides

**Materials:**

1. You will need the following things to succeed in this class:

A 1 or 1.5 inch three ring binder

A bunch of lined paper

A pencil and or pen

Access to internet is suggested

A good attitude is required.