COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to provide the student with the opportunity to:

1. Develop a broad theoretical knowledge in the area of psychopathology, the empirical study of psychological disorders.

2. Be exposed to and develop an advanced understanding of abnormal psychology as it relates to the etiology, development and sustaining factors contributing to a wide range of psychological dysfunctions.

3. Learn from the existent biological, social, psychological, and spiritual areas of explanation and research in psychopathology and to integrate such areas.

4. Focus on specific conditions and to learn to utilize the available systems of classification, such as DSM IV, in a functional way.

5. Integrate theoretical, clinical, and practical knowledge in the formulation of cases, diagnosis and selection of proper modalities in treatment. Students are required to practice in writing at the graduate level as to learn to express the events and process of therapy in terms case presentations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Textbooks:


The manual is a functional tool that serves as a common denominator to
providers of health services among psychologists, psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, clinical social workers, and counselors. The student is expected to be acquainted with the manual as it refers to areas of diagnosis, research, and common classification as a means of communication in interdisciplinary settings.

Recommended:


Readings

To develop a solid background, the student is encouraged to read from a variety of sources. Books, journals, and monographs are to be chosen from the bibliography attached to this syllabus or from personal choices, provided that these represent adequate material. It is expected that the student will read 2000 pp. for this course. A reading log is required and should include the following:

1. Date
2. Author
3. Name of book, chapter, article in journal
4. Number of pages - individual entries per reading and total number of pages at the end.

Due: **April 20, 2009.**

Exams

A Mid-term exam will be given on **March 2nd**; take-home type, and will be due on **March 9th**, 2009. A final take-home exam will be administered on **April 6th**, to be returned by **April 13th**, 2009. Short essay-type answers and conceptual answers will comprise most of the content of both mid-term and final exams.

Term Paper

A term paper is required for the course which is to be 12-14 pp. in length (double spaced) and should be completed in APA style. It is due on **April 20th, 2009.** The topic is open to the student's choice; it must deal with a discrete psychopathology (illness, syndrome, or dysfunction), mainly from areas such as mood disorders, anxiety disorders, psychosis, or character pathology. As an example, it may include the following:
1. Description of the issue/problem/dysfunction with etiological considerations (dynamic/social/physiological/spiritual explanations as to probable origins and development of psychopathology).

2. Current research done in the area, with treatment available and with a theoretical/practical emphasis. Issues and problems in classification and description of symptomatology, mental status, diagnosis, choice of treatments, outcomes, may be included. Brief statements as to the current approaches utilized in treatment of the problem described may be included. The utilization of journals in the field is expected, beyond textbooks and topical texts.

3. In case of uncertainty, the topical title may be presented to the instructor.

**Class Format**

The first hour will be introductory, with presentations of the topics, focusing upon the problems, and some background information.

The second hour will focus on the outlined issues and problems, with topics to be assigned for each week. Students will interact in small groups, each assigned to describe, critique and/or defend a particular theoretical position related to the topic. The material for these discussions will be found in the textbook, in recommended readings, as well as from any relevant source such as the DSM IV, journals, etc..

The third hour will be dedicated to integrating ideas, concepts, and to develop a comprehensive view of the previous discussions.

**Attendance**

The student is expected to attend all classes and participate in the classroom experience. There will be one or two breaks each class period.

**Final Grade**

The final grade will reflect the results of the combined efforts represented by the quality of the term paper, the results of the take-home and final exam, and attendance/participation/the reading log. The composite score is derived from the following: Term paper 30%. Take home midterm 25%. Final take home exam 25%. Reading log/bibliography 20%

**Office Hours**
While the ultimate responsibility for how well a student does in the course lies with the student, the instructor is available to help students succeed along the completion of the course in whatever ways he can. To that end, sign-up office hours are available, to be arranged through the Counseling office. Other special needs of an academic nature which necessitate further attention may be arranged by appointment.
CO 710 Psychopathology
Course Outline

Proposed Topics

1. Introduction to the course; Psychopathology in perspective. Definitions and classifications. Nosology and diagnosis. Multiaxial Classification (DSM-IV) and nomenclature.


3. Anxiety disorders, panic disorders, and phobias. Issue: obsessive compulsive disorders; spirituality and the quest for perfection and existential anxiety.


6. Personality disorders. Character pathology: Schizotypal, narcissistic, and borderline conditions. Antisocial, avoidant, and dependent characters; Issue: Dissociative disorders; Multiple personality disorders; Psychopathology vs. other explanations. Extremes: Sadducees vs. zealot exorcists.

7. Disorders in childhood, adolescence. Eating disorders: Bulimia, anorexia


10. Integrative efforts. Is an integrative approach to psychopathology possible? Course summary and concluding comments: The fall and the need for redemption, restoration to wholeness.
CO 710 PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

BIBLIOGRAPHY


**Journals:**

*American Psychologist*
*American Journal of Psychiatry*
*Archives of General Psychiatry*
*British Journal of Psychiatry*
*Clinical Psychology Review*
*Journal of Abnormal Psychology*
*Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*
*Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*
*Journal of Personality Disorders*
*Psychological Bulletin*
*Schizophrenia Bulletin*