

**NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
PSY 215 - PSYCHOPATHOLOGY (3 CR.)**

Revised 8/2023

Course description

Explores historical views and current perspectives of psychopathology. Emphasizes major diagnostic categories and criteria, individual and social factors of maladaptive behavior, and types of treatments. Includes methods of clinical assessment and research strategies. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Students will acquire a broad understanding of the etiology, epidemiology, assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and prognosis of major psychological diagnostic categories.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Prerequisites: PSY 200 or permission of instructor.

Course Objectives

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

Civic Engagement

- Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical implications of mental health diagnoses and treatment
- Identifying personal and collective actions that could be taken to address injustices related to stigma

Critical Thinking

- Critically examine theoretical perspectives and research questions in this field
- Critique myths and misconceptions of psychological diagnoses
- Apply critical thinking skills to the methods used to diagnose and treat individuals with mental/behavioral disorders

Quantitative Literacy

- Interpret and apply basic statistical information in order to support conclusions about etiology, diagnostic criteria, and treatment standards

Scientific Literacy

- Describe and differentiate research methods used in psychopathology, explaining strengths and limitations of each
- Discuss the role of evidence-based research as it applies to diagnosis and treatment of mental/behavioral disorders

Written Communication

- Develop, convey, and exchange ideas relevant to psychopathology through writing

Major Topics to Be Covered

Abnormality
Historical and current models and perspectives
Research methodology
Assessment and diagnosis
Mental/behavioral disorders
Treatment
Ethical and legal issues

Social, cultural and individual contexts