

1991-92

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
Grande Prairie, Alberta

PROPOSAL TO OFFER A SENIOR COURSE

COURSE TITLE : ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY (PY 389)

RATIONALE :

Currently, there is a limited number of senior psychology courses available to B. A. students in their second year at the College. Consequently, the majority of these students choose to transfer to other institutions after successful completion of their first year of study. Increasing the variety of our senior course offerings will likely improve the College's student retention rate.

The course itself is a logical sequel to the study of personality theories (PY 383) which is its prerequisite. During the past four years PY 383 was usually offered as an evening course in the fall semester but nothing followed it in the winter semester. If offered also as an evening course in the following semester, Abnormal Psychology will be available not only to full-time B.A. students but also to part-time students who are perhaps already employed in various human service agencies in the city.

With the student quota policy currently being implemented in several departments at the University of Alberta, students need to stay longer at the College (at least for one more year) before transferring to other institutions. This course is a suitable addition to our senior course offerings that will help meet students' program requirements and justify the financial expense of staying for another year at the College.

COURSE DESCRIPTION, CONTENT, AND OBJECTIVES

(See attached Course Outline.)

PREREQUISITE : Personality (PY 383)

DATE TO BE OFFERED: Winter, 1992

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
PSYCHOLOGY 389: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR : DR. KENDEL TANG
OFFICE NUMBER : 301 OFFICE PHONE NO. : 539-2981

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is intended to enable students to achieve a deeper understanding and a broader perspective of mental disorders than what general introductory psychology courses usually provide. After a review of the relevant theories of abnormal behavior and their historical perspective, the course will focus on the psychological disorders themselves - - their assessment, diagnosis and various treatment modalities, with emphasis on the multimodal treatment approach based on the principle that many disorders have a complex etiology and require an equally complex treatment response based on eclectic combinations of theories about the disorders.

The content of the course includes some common psychological disorders such as adjustment, anxiety, phobic, dissociative and somatoform disorders; those that involve psychosis, such as schizophrenia, paranoid, and affective disorders; and those that involve some violation of legal or social standards, such as sexual variations, alcohol and drug abuse patterns, and impulse disorders and violence. Various syndromes of central nervous system impairments and related behavior patterns are also included. Finally, legal and ethical issues will be examined and debated especially those related to controversial cases involving the "criminally insane".

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of this course are as follows:

1. To enable students to achieve familiarity with the concepts and theories in the field of abnormal psychology.
2. To enable students to identify and differentiate the various psychological disorders, list and explain their possible causes or correlates, and evaluate proposed treatment approaches and techniques.
3. To analyze published actual cases and apply etiologic, diagnostic, and therapeutic criteria of the major theoretical perspectives.
4. To acquaint students with the various measures and procedures for assessing mental disorders and the classification system employed by DSM-III-R.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Meyer, R.G. and Salmon, P. Abnormal Psychology (2nd ed.). Toronto: Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1988.

Meyer, R.G. and Osborne, Y. H. Case Studies in Abnormal Psychology. (2nd ed.). Toronto: Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1987.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS:

1. The student of the course is required to write a term paper on a relevant topic after consultation with the instructor. This paper should be typewritten (double-spaced) and should not exceed 10 pages in length.
2. The class will be taken on a tour of Alberta Hospital in Edmonton and each student is required to write a report of his/her observations, reactions, or comments.

GRADING SYSTEM:

SCALE	TRANSLATIONS	APPROXIMATE % EQUIVALENT
9		90 - 100
<u>8</u>	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>80 - 89</u>
7		72 - 79
<u>6</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>65 - 71</u>
5		57 - 64
<u>4</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>50 - 56</u>
<u>3</u>	<u>Failure</u>	<u>45 - 49</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>Failure</u>	<u>26 - 44</u>
1		0 - 25

NOTE: A minimum overall G.P.A. of 7.0 and a 7.0 G.P.A. or better on all Psychology courses is required for admission to the Honors in Psychology program at the University of Alberta. (See University of Alberta calendar).

Marks in the course will be weighted as follows:

Average of three tests	30%
Term Paper	15%
Facility Visit & Report	10%
Subjective Evaluation (partly based on quality of class participation)	10%
Final Exam	<u>35%</u>
	100%

TIMETABLE

Winter, 1992

PY 389: ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY
TOPICS

TESTS, PAPER,
REPORT, & FINAL EXAM

DATES	TOPICS	TESTS, PAPER, REPORT, & FINAL EXAM
January 3 - 4	Abnormal Behavior: Historical & Scientific Issues	
6 - 10	Theoretical Perspectives on Abnormal Behavior	
13 - 18	Assessment of Abnormal Behavior	
20 - 24	Treatment Approaches (Tues.)	Test # 1 on Jan. 28
27 - 31	The stress, somatoform, and adjustment disorders	
February 3 - 7	The anxiety and dissociative disorders	
10 - 14	The schizophrenic disorders	
17 - 21	The paranoid disorders	Test #2 on Feb. 18 (Tues.)
24 - 28	The affective disorders and suicide	
March 3 - 7	Sexual variations: dysfunctions & disorders	
10 - 14	The substance abuse disorders	Test #3 on March 11 (Tues.)
17 - 21	Personality disorders, violence, & the impulse disorders	Visitation Report Due: Mar. 20 (Thurs.)
24 - 28	Neuropsychological deficits associated with central nervous system impairment	
31 - Apr. 4	Mental retardation & psychological disorders of childhood	Term Paper Due: April 3 (Thurs.)
April 7 - 8	Psychological disorders of adolescence through old age and legal and ethical issues	FINAL EXAM (Date to be announced by the Registrar's Office)

This timetable is tentative. Any future changes in it will be announced in class.