



**PCP 662 Child And Adolescent  
Psychopathology  
SYLLABUS**

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Spring 2009  
Wednesdays 6:00 pm to 8:45 pm

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a study of child and adolescent psychopathology. The assessment, diagnosis, etiology, disorder maintenance, and intervention/treatment of child and adolescent disorders will be explored within a developmental context.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Discriminate between the most common childhood and adolescent psychopathologies by applying the DSM-IV's diagnostic criteria for the major child and adolescent diagnostic categories.
2. Select appropriate assessment techniques for use with children and adolescents to arrive at an appropriate diagnosis.
4. Make appropriate multiaxial diagnoses as prescribed by the DSM-IV.
5. Identify the etiological factors involved in the development of child and adolescent disorders.
6. Create an intervention/treatment plan for an adolescent or child who is presenting behaviors characteristic of the most common childhood and adolescent disorders.
7. Select appropriate mental health professionals to cooperate with in a multidisciplinary treatment team.
8. Successfully answer the abnormal psychology questions of the National Counselor Examination as it applies to child and adolescent problems.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

A \$25.00 fee will be required of students to contribute to the costs of testing materials that will be used as a part of the course structure.

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of*

*mental disorders, text revision (5<sup>th</sup> ed.)*. Washington, DC: Author.

OR

American Psychiatric Association (2000). *Desk reference to the diagnostic criteria from DSM-IV-TR*. Washington, DC: Author.

Jongsma, A.E., Peterson, L.M., McInnis, W.P. & Bruce, T.J. (Contributing ed.) (2006). *The child psychotherapy treatment planner (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Mash, E. J., & Wolfe, D. A. (2005). *Abnormal Child Psychology (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.)*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

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### **METHODOLOGY**

The format of the course will consist of lectures, guest speakers, class discussions, case studies, multi-media presentations, assignments, a midterm examination and a final comprehensive examination.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Professionalism and courtesy in regard to class attendance is expected.
2. Active participation in class discussions is expected and will account for 10% of the overall grade for the class. The quality of these participations will also be evaluated when the grade is determined.
3. Periodic class tests on prescribed subject matters will account for 25% of the overall grade.
4. A midterm examination covering all text, lecture, class discussions, speakers, and multimedia presentations will account for a further 20% of the overall grade.
5. A final comprehensive examination covering all text, lecture, class discussions, speakers, and multi-media presentations will account for a further 20% of the overall grade for the class.

6. A 12 to 15 page research paper on one of the topics in the following list will be submitted during the course of the semester. Topics will be allocated on a “first-come-first-served” basis to ensure that all the topics will receive attention during the semester.
  1. Sleep deprivation and behavioral problems
  2. Influence of TV and video games on behavior
  3. Children’s diets and behavior
  4. Lead paint behavioral problems
  5. Exercise and sport participation and behavioral problems
  6. Clubs/scouts and its protective effect on childhood pathology
  7. Single parent homes and behavior problems
  8. Divorce and family violence and childhood adjustment
  9. Extended hospital stays and behavior problems
  10. Death in the family and behavioral problems of siblings
  11. Anti-natal maternal behavior and childhood pathology
  12. Urbanization and behavioral problems
  13. Poverty childhood pathology
  14. Gang membership and psychopathology
  15. Smoking and drug abuse
  16. Juvenile delinquency

It will be expected of the student to provide a literature review on the latest research on the subject that is available in the peer-reviewed literature. The paper should also include

- a. Presentation of a case study
- b. Description of the symptomology
- c. Assessment techniques for this disorder, where applicable
- d. Preferred therapeutic interventions of treatment
- e. Prognosis
- f. Your personal reaction, opinion, Christian perspective of the disorder and your vision of how the church can play a role to prevent, or ameliorate the effects of this disorder (you may write in first person, here).

Papers will be typed, double-spaced and properly referenced using the guidelines of the current APA style manual.

- All documents and assignments must be submitted electronically by email, double-spaced, in a Word format and written in New Times Roman (12 points). ***No paper copies will be marked.***
- The subject line of your email must include the words “PCP 662 Psychopathology/your name”. Nothing else should be written in the subject line.
- The email address to which the professor must reply must be included on the front page of the document. Failure to do so will result in the paper not being returned to the student.

- The reference list will consist of at least 12 resources (none older than 10 years old) and at least 8 being professional, peer-reviewed journal articles. Unless it can be substantiated, none of these resources will be internet-based resources

The paper will account for 25% of the overall grade for the class. The grade will be based on the correct use of APA guidelines, for the readability of the document (including spelling, vocabulary, syntax, logical presentation of ideas and paragraph structure) and the utility of the information that is presented in the document. The student will make a presentation on their research the week following their date of submission. The class presentation need not be more than 15 minutes and should provide the students in the class a summary of your research results. The use of a case study for this purpose is encouraged.

The paper will be due on dates to be determined by the professor. These dates will be determined by the date when the student will be expected to do the oral presentation of their research to the class. Eight days before the date of the class presentation the student will be expected to submit their paper.

Because these papers will form the basis of the class presentation the next week, any delays in submitting the research paper on time will result in one grade reduction for each day that exceeds the due date. Exceptions to this rule can be made under abnormal circumstances and should be addressed to the professor. The submission of your paper the week earlier will allow the professor to make copies available to each person in the class.

## **GRADING PROCEDURES**

Here is a summary of the weighted distribution of each element that will contribute to the overall class grade:

Spontaneous classroom participation	10%
Weekly class tests	25%
Midterm	20%
Final examination	20%
Research Paper	25%

## **GRADE BREAKDOWN**

The following grade breakdown will be used in the course:

- A+= Work is publishable
- A = 94-100% (Excellent Work)
- A- = 90-93% (Excellent, but...)
- B+ = 87-89% (Very good work)
- B = 84-86% (Good work)

B- = 80-83% (Good work, but...)  
C+ = 77-79% (Fair, but almost good enough)  
C = 74-76% (Fair work)  
C- = 70-73% (Just passable)  
D+ = 67-69% (Poor but almost made it)  
D = 64% -66% (Poor)  
D- = 60%-63% (Highly questionable)