

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## PCP 663 Psychopathology

Thursday @ 6:00 – 8:45

Melody Palm, Psy. D.  
AGTS 268-1071  
e-mail [mpalm@agts.edu](mailto:mpalm@agts.edu)

Spring 2009

### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a study of adult psychopathology and behavioral disturbance in the context of the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. Each major diagnostic category will be studied emphasizing the definitions, etiology, and disorder maintenance, assessment by symptom recognition, differential diagnosis and preferred therapy.

#### OBJECTIVES

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

1. Define mental disorder
2. Describe the history of the DSM
3. Identify the five axes of the DSM
4. Describe how and why the DSM is used.
5. Describe criteria for the major diagnostic categories.
6. Identify etiological factors involved in each major disorder.
7. Identify dominant treatment modalities for each major disorder.
8. Accurately diagnose mental disorders after review of case studies.

#### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Sarason, I. G. & Sarason, B. R. (2005). *Abnormal psychology: The problem of maladaptive behavior*. (11<sup>th</sup> ed.). Upper saddle River, NJ: Prentice-Hall.

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

#### RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

American Psychological Association. (2001) *Publication Manual of American Psychological Association*, (5th ed). Washington DC: Author

## **BASIC COURSE OUTLINE**

- 1/8 Introduction to Course & Review of Syllabus  
**Ch. 1** Introduction
- 1/15 **Ch. 2 & 3** Theoretical Perspectives & the Therapeutic Enterprise  
1/22 **Ch. 4 & 5** Classification & Assessment  
“ Stress, Coping, and Maladaptive Behavior
- 1/29 DAY OF RENEWAL (NO CLASSES) Chapel 6:30 PM
- 2/5 **Ch. 6** Bodily Maladaptations: Eating, Sleep, and Psychophysiological Disorders  
2/12 **Ch. 7** Disorders of Bodily Preoccupation  
2/19 **Ch. 17** Society's Response to Maladaptive Behavior  
2/26 NO Class Spring Study Break
- \*\*February 23<sup>rd</sup> February 27th -- SPRING STUDY BREAK
- 3/5 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION** (*Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 4,5,6,7 & 17*)
- 3/12 **Ch. 8** Anxiety Disorders  
3/19 **Ch 9** Sexual Variants and Disorders  
3/26 **Ch.10** Personality Disorders  
4/2 **Ch.11** Mood Disorders & Suicide  
4/9 **Ch.12** Schizophrenia & Other Psychotic Disorders;  
4/16 **Ch.13** Cognitive Impairment Disorders
- 4/23 **FINAL EXAMINATION** (Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13)

## **METHODOLOGY**

The format of the course will consist of lectures, class discussions, multi-media presentations, homework assignments, and examinations.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Professionalism and courtesy in regard to attendance is expected.
2. Active participation in class discussions is expected. Students who attempt to monopolize discussions will be asked to limit their contributions to class discussions.
3. Completion of all readings as assigned is expected.
4. Completion of all papers and assignments on time is expected. (Late papers/assignments will be lowered one letter grade for each date late.)
5. Completion of two comprehensive examinations based on the assigned readings, lectures, class discussions, and multi-media presentations is expected.
6. Student will write a three page interaction paper on chapter 17 of the text book titled, *Society's Response to Maladaptive Behavior*. Student will interact with the content of the chapter as well as reflect on the church's response to maladaptive behavior. Student will

incorporate creative recommendations as to how the church could more effectively respond to the mentally ill and those who struggle with emotional and psychological difficulties. Paper is due at the beginning of class, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008

7. Student will write one major research paper on a mental disorder. Paper will be a minimum of 13-15 pages. Paper should cite twelve or more key references in the paper. (Text book does not count as a reference.) Prominent names in the field should be cited. The paper must be well written, researched, and strict adherence to APA will be expected. Topic of paper must be approved by professor. Paper is due on April 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 PM. Paper will be reduced a letter grade for each day it is late. Grades will assigned as following:

- A Paper is publishable
- B Above average paper
- C Meets basic requirements
- F Fails to meet graduate level quality

Following are areas to address in the research paper.

- a. Description of symptomology—physical, emotional, behavioral, indicators
- b. Significant factors in differential diagnosis.
- c. Latest research on disorder
- d. Possible etiological factors and assessment issues.
- e. Preferred therapeutic interventions of treatment.
- f. Basic treatment recommendations and prognosis for recovery.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

The final course grade will be determined based on the combined scores on all exams, homework assignments, and papers. Grades will be calculated by dividing the total number of points accumulated by the total possible points. Attendance and class participation will be considered in cases of borderline grades. It is hoped that students will not miss any class sessions. When it is necessary to be absent, students should send an e-mail to the professor prior to the class session if possible to maintain communication regarding material covered in class. Excessive absences may result in the student being dropped from the course.

**Professional and Ethical Conduct:** Students will conduct themselves in this course as Professionals, preparing projects as directed and in a timely manner. They will complete assignments and exam in an ethical manner. Plagiarism, the presentation of another's work as your own, will be considered a serious violation of the Code of Ethics and may result in failure for the course.

**Disability Accommodation:** Any student who because of a disability may need special Arrangements or accommodation to meet the requirements of this course is encouraged to see me before or after class to discuss accommodations.

### **CELL PHONE POLICE**

**Please turn off cell phones before the beginning of class.** Leaving class to answer a call disrupts the class and distracts from your classroom participation. Arrangements for your personal communication need to be made before or after class and not during class. Please do not talk on the phone during class.

### **SPECIFIC DATA**

Syllabus prepared by Melody Palm, Psy.D., November 2008

This document is intended to provide a general orientation to the course. The instructor reserves the right to make modifications to the schedule and specific assignments during the semester.