

**RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC COURSE OUTLINE**

**PSYC 211 - ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY**

**I. Basic Course Information**

- A. Course Number and Title: PSYC 211 Abnormal Psychology
- B. New or Modified Course: Modified
- C. Date of Proposal: Semester: Fall Year: 2017
- D. Effective Term: Fall 2018
- E. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Science, and Education
- F. Semester Credit Hours: 3
- G. Weekly Contact Hours:
  - Lecture: 3
  - Laboratory: 0
  - Out of class student work per week: 6
- H. Prerequisite: PSYC 103 Introduction to Psychology
- I. Laboratory Fees: None
- J. Department Chair: Prof. Brandyn Heppard, [brandyn.heppard@raritanval.edu](mailto:brandyn.heppard@raritanval.edu);  
Divisional Dean: Dr. Patrice Marks, [pgmarks@raritanval.edu](mailto:pgmarks@raritanval.edu)

**II. Catalog Description**

Prerequisite: PSYC 103 Introduction to Psychology

This course examines psychological dysfunction within the context of psychological, biological and sociocultural influences. In addition, different therapeutic approaches used to improve individual functioning will be studied.

### **III. Statement of Course Need**

- A. This course is a standard psychology course offered at virtually all community colleges, four-year colleges and universities. Serving as the general introductory course to psychological disorders and their treatment, this course consistently attracts students who are interested in majoring in psychology or related health science disciplines, in addition to those who are seeking to increase their general knowledge in this area.
- B. There is no lab component
- C. This course may or may not transfer as a psychology elective, but if it is not accepted for the psychology major, it will be given free elective credit..

### **IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum**

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course is not granted General Education status
- C. This course is not a requirement in any degree program
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, [www.njtransfer.org](http://www.njtransfer.org); b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

### **V. Outline of Course Content**

- A. Understanding abnormal behavior
- B. Diagnosis and treatment
- C. Assessment
- D. Theoretical perspectives
- E. Neurodevelopmental disorders
- F. Schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders
- G. Depressive and bipolar disorders
- H. Anxiety, obsessive-compulsive, and trauma- and stressor-related disorders
- I. Dissociative and somatic symptom disorders
- J. Feeding and eating disorders; elimination disorders; sleep-wake disorders; and disruptive, impulse-control, and conduct disorders
- K. Paraphilic disorders, sexual dysfunctions, and gender dysphoria
- L. Substance-related and addictive disorders
- M. Neurocognitive disorders
- N. Personality disorders
- O. Ethical and legal issues

### **VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes**

**A. General Education Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Demonstrate how psychologists use research to answer questions relevant to this area of study. (GE 3)
2. Identify the ways in which both the number and type of disorders, as well as the therapies used to treat these disorders, have evolved throughout the history of this field (GE 5,7)

**B. Course Learning Outcomes:**

**At the completion of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Accurately apply diagnostic criteria while assessing whether or not/to what degree behavior and cognition are considered psychologically disordered
2. Compare and contrast major therapeutic approaches regarding approaches in conceptualizing and treating disorders .

**C. Assessment Instruments**

1. Exams
2. Research papers
3. Individual/group presentations

**VII. Grade Determinants**

- A. Exams
- B. Projects
- C. Presentations

The primary formats, modes, and methods for teaching and learning that may be used in the course:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. student oral presentations

**VIII. Texts and Materials**

The following course material will be used.

- A. Textbooks in this area tend to overlap greatly in content and quality; no specific suggestion is offered

Additional course materials may be selected to augment learning:

- B. Journal articles
- C. Memoirs of people suffering with disorders
- D. Video
- E. Web sources

Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.

#### **IX. Resources**

No additional resources are needed.

#### **X. Honors Option: N/A**