



COURSE EXPECTATION LETTER

Subject:

PSY 114 - Introduction to Abnormal Psychology

Email Contact Information:

tashaw@riohondo.edu

Catalog Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the study of abnormal behavior for psychology majors, those with an interest in abnormal psychology, or anyone with a desire to further their understanding of abnormality. The classification, assessment and treatment of psychological disorders will be explored. Students will not only develop an understanding of the etiology and diagnosis of such disorders, as based upon DSM-5 criteria, but develop an appreciation of the cultural, historical and theoretical influences that affect the definitions and treatment of abnormal behavior. 3 units, 54 lecture hours, Transfer UC, CSU, Advisory ENGL 035 or ENLA 100 or appropriate assessment; READ 043 or appropriate assessment

Student Learning Outcomes:

A Student Learning Outcome (SLO) is a statement about what a student will think, know, or be able to do as a result of an educational experience. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Nature vs Nurture Students presented with research findings and theories on psychological disorders will describe and/or evaluate the role that both genetics and environment (nature and nurture) play in the development, diagnosis, and treatment of psychological disorders.
2. DSM Knowledge Students will demonstrate a knowledge of the DSM-V-TR classification system for mental disorders by identifying the major categories of psychological disorders.
3. Applying Perspectives to Treatment Students will demonstrate a knowledge of, and discuss, the relationship between each major perspective's tenants and their influence on treatment for particular psychological disorders.
4. Defining Abnormal Behavior Students will identify and compare the criteria used to determine whether a behavior is abnormal.
5. Research Methods Students will identify and evaluate the particular research methods that are used in research on psychological disorders

By logging into Canvas you affirm that you are the student who enrolled in the course(s) and are the person who will complete the assigned work. Furthermore, you agree to follow the regulations regarding academic integrity, personal identification and the use of student information as described in BP 5500 (Standards of Conduct) and AP 5520 (Student Conduct Procedures) which are the Rio Hondo College student conduct codes that govern student rights and responsibilities. You acknowledge that failure to abide by the regulations set forth in BP 5500 and AP 5520 may result in disciplinary action, including expulsion from the college.

This is **NOT** a self-paced course. There are firm deadlines in this class. There are assignments due on a regular basis. Please plan your time carefully!

Textbook: Please consult the Bookstore for information at (562) 463-7345 or go to [Rio Hondo College Online Bookstore](#)

Over the course of the semester there will be regular instructor student contact.

Methods of student contact include:

The following is an explanation of the various ways in which students will be able to interact with the instructor and peers. By attending to the purpose and expectations for each avenue of communication, everyone is assured the most respectful, efficient and effective communication experience.

Instructor-Student

- Course Announcements Throughout the course, students are expected to check the student email regularly for Canvas notifications or log into Canvas – failure to check is not an excuse for being unaware of information sent there. Students are asked to resort to email to contact the instructor only if there is a Canvas system outage/inability to access Canvas and the question cannot wait until the technical issue is resolved. Under those circumstances, follow the same guidelines above for using Inbox. Please allow at least two (2) business days (excluding weekends, campus holidays and semester breaks) for a response before sending a follow-up email.
- Canvas Inbox Use Inbox to send private messages to the instructor about progress in the course. Include a subject in the subject box that describes the message content, for example: PSYC 114 CH 2 TEST, QUESTION 4. Do not submit coursework here (other than when necessary to provide evidence it was completed on time); use the designated assignment links to submit coursework. Please allow at least one (2) business days (excluding weekends and campus holidays) for a response before sending a follow-up message. Additionally, check for announcements and messages from the instructor regularly – failure to check is not an excuse for being unaware of information shared. Please do not send a follow-up message within the timeframe of the established expectation.
- Grades and Feedback In general, scores and feedback will be available within one week of the course requirement due date. This applies even when the assignment is submitted in advance of the due date. Access the Grades page from the course navigation menu to view scores and feedback. It is the student's responsibility to monitor progress, note instructor feedback and ask questions about progress and feedback as needed. Please do not inquire about grades within the timeframe of the established expectation. See the GRADING section for additional information.

Student-Student

- Graded Discussion Forums are an opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery of course material and earn credit, while engaging with peers and thinking critically about course material. Before posting, complete the assigned reading and review The Core Rules of Netiquette.
- Ungraded Discussion Forums are an opportunity to ask questions about, share reactions to and engage with peers around instruction material (e.g., assigned reading, videos, lectures). Before posting, complete the assigned reading and review The Core Rules of Netiquette.

NOTE Social media sites (e.g., Discord, GroupMe, etc.) are not substitutes for instruction. Students are strongly advised not to rely on these sources for accurate and appropriate course communication. Due to the inappropriate communication that is typical of such sites, students are advised to utilize the ungraded discussion forums embedded in the Canvas course to ensure appropriate student-student interaction that is academically honest and respectful. In addition, remember that anything posted to these sites can be shared. This means that any academically dishonest conduct may be reported and appropriate action will be taken. (See COURSE POLICIES – Academic Dishonesty for further details.) Additionally, the College is limited in its ability to intervene on behalf of students who are the targets of inappropriate communication (e.g., discrimination, harassment, etc.).

The instructor may drop you for non-participation.

There will be a one to three business day delay after an add code is used before a student may be able to log on to Canvas.

For students new to online classes, it is highly recommended that you take the Online Orientation through our Online Education website. This will help explain what online classes are like and familiarize you with how the class is laid out. The orientation can be found at: <http://www.riohondo.edu/canvas-orientation/>

Email Responses: Instructors will make every attempt to respond to students in a timely fashion. Responses can take up to 48 hours before a response is received, excluding weekends and holidays.

Disability: A Student with a verified disability may be entitled to appropriate academic accommodations. Please contact your instructor and/or the [Disabled Students & Programs](#) office at 562-908-3420 for more information.

Modifications and Disclaimer: The instructor reserves the right to modify the content of the course or any course procedure. It is the responsibility of the student to keep apprised of all changes. If the student wishes to drop the class he/she is responsible for initiating the drop. Do not take it for granted that you will be dropped. If you stop working and do not drop the course, you may get an undesirable grade.

Additional Information:

Workload: This is a challenging class and will require consistent effort throughout the semester. Be realistic in adjusting outside responsibilities (work, family, and social obligations, etc.) to allow sufficient time for education. Set the stage for success by taking on what is realistic. As a rule, plan to spend two to three hours outside of class on preparation and study for each hour spent in class. Know that difficulty balancing outside commitments with studies will not excuse missing deadlines. Those who are unable to devote the necessary time to studies will not succeed in the course, and deferring to a more ideal time to take the course may be the best option.

Study Skills: Refer to the study skills videos in the Canvas course for practical recommendations for improving reading comprehension, note-taking, test preparation and focus and concentration. Additionally, contact the Tutoring Centers for tutor availability for this course.

Notice of Test Proctoring, Anti-Plagiarism Review & Assessment Availability: To maintain academic integrity, tests will be completed online using Proctorio software. To successfully complete tests, Google Chrome and the Proctorio extension are required. In addition, photo identification is required at the beginning of each test, and leaving the test window before completing the test is not permitted. All tests are timed, one-attempt. Additional time will only be provided to students who submit an accommodation letter stating additional time is to be given within two business days of the test close date. In addition, assignments will be reviewed with anti-plagiarism software prior to grading. All assessments will be available for the duration of the module. In fairness to all students, assessments cannot be made available after the assessment window is closed. Any student with an objection to proctoring or anti-plagiarism review should enroll in a different section.

Academic Accommodations: To obtain accommodations, students must first contact the Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS), Room SS330, Phone (562) 908-3420, Local Video Phone (562) 364-8433 (for Deaf and Hard of Hearing ONLY). The college is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to effectively matriculate into the mainstream of college and community life. This is achieved by providing services and instruction that promotes equal access to educational programs, self-advocacy, and personal growth opportunities that foster individual student success. NOTE Accommodations are limited to what is listed in the accommodations letter. Accommodations for extended time on tests apply to tests only. Concessions such as additional time to complete assignments and changes to course requirements (e.g., reweighting/substituting assignments, completing extra credit beyond any made available to the entire class, etc.) are not included in academic accommodations, and requests such as these will not be granted. Students with academic accommodations are asked to consult with the DSS counselor to clarify the scope and limitations of any accommodations.

COURSE POLICIES