



Abnormal Psychology Online Syllabus

Therapeutic Writing Institute
www.TWIInstitute.net

Course Title: **Abnormal Psychology Online**
Hours: 45 contact hours
Length: 10 weeks
Start-End: Thu Sept 6-Wed Nov 14, 2012
OR Thu Sept 27-Wed Dec 14, 2012
OR Independent Study (self-paced)
Final Paper Due: Sunday following last day of class
Meeting Place: Fully online on a discussion forum learning platform
Instructor: Kathleen Adams LPC or TWI faculty
Phone: 888-421-2298 or 303-986-6460
Email: info@journaltherapy.com
Required Texts: Internet reading; one book of choice for critical review/analysis

Course Description:

We are each the product of biology, neurology, personality, environment, heredity, family influence, and the unplanned/ unexpected/ intrusive experiences of life. Abnormal Psychology Online offers a window into contemporary issues of behavioral health and a holistic view of psychological and neuropsychological challenges across the lifespan. The purpose of the course is to orient substance abuse counselors to the most common psychological/emotional difficulties that they may encounter in people with whom they work and to offer insight and awareness about individuals struggling with the disorders under discussion. For each lesson, participants will participate on interactive online discussion boards to demonstrate essential understanding of the material.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

- Describe the diagnostic process of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual 4th Edition (DSM-IV) for the psychological conditions under study
- Discuss the effects of commonly occurring behavioral health challenges (e.g. depression, anxiety, traumatic response) when co-existing with substance abuse
- Recognize when to make referral to a clinician, or seek consultation with a supervisor, with regard to client symptoms and behaviors
- Discuss the impact on individuals, families and society of untreated behavioral health disorders

Expectations for Completion:

- Attend all sessions and submit all assignments on time
- Class participation: minimum 30 hours (minimum 3 hours per week). Required for maximum credit: All required reading, plus weekly response of 250-500 words (1-2 pages) posted to the discussion boards. Responses will display critical thinking or/and synthesis skills.
- Book review (10 hours): Students select a book (suggested reading list will be provided; students may also suggest own books) that explores some aspect of the topics under study. Students will post to the discussion boards a 500-750-word (2-3 page) critical review/analysis.
- Final paper (5 hours): Students will submit a final paper synthesizing. The paper will reflect on personal learning as well as address how the student will apply the learning to current or future work as a substance abuse counselor. The final paper is the evaluation method to assess successful attainment of learning objectives.

Grading Scale:

- **Pass:** At least 80% of work done with sufficiency
- **NP:** Not pass. Less than 80% of work done, or work done insufficiently.
- **I:** Incomplete. Given when valid circumstances have prevented student from completing course within the 10-week class time. Work must be completed within a contracted time or additional tuition will be charged. Incompletes will be converted to independent studies.

Weekly Topics:

Week 1: Intro, Defense Mechanisms, Medications, DSM-IV

Week 2: Mood Disorders

Week 3: Substance Abuse/Eating Disorders

Week 4: Trauma & Dissociation

Week 5: Domestic Violence & Dysfunctional Families

Week 6: Disorders of Childhood & Adolescence

Week 7: Disorders of Aging & the Elderly

Week 8: Axis II Disorders: Borderline & Narcissism

Week 9: Axis II Disorders: The Schizo-disorders and Schizophrenia

Week 10: Axis II Disorders: Cluster C

Course Evaluations:

Therapeutic Writing Institute utilizes online course and faculty evaluations. An evaluation is required before a CE certificate will be issued.

Continuing Education Certificate:

The continuing education certificate will be emailed to the student within two weeks after all requirements for a passing grade are met. Records will be kept on file for at least four (4) years, per CFAAP/CAADAC requirements.

Technical Support:

Training on the online learning platform and technical support are available to all students at no additional charge. Therapeutic Writing Institute office hours are 9-5 M-F, Mountain time zone.