



PSYC 203- Abnormal Psychology (3 Credits)

Fall 2014

Instructor: Joe Swope
Class time: W 6:00-9:15
E-mail address: jswope@howardcc.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment
Office Mailbox: Room 205 (Laurel Center)
Required Text: *Fundamentals of abnormal psychology* (7th edition), Ronald Comer

Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of psychological disorders. During this semester we will be discussing how we assess, diagnosis and treat psychological disorders. We will be studying mood, anxiety, stress and substance related disorders; eating disorders; psychotic disorders; and disorders we see at various times during the life-span. We will also discuss how these disorders impact laws and society. You will have a chance to study a disorder of interest to you in depth through a research paper and presentation. (Prerequisites: PSYC-101)

PSYC 203 is designated by HCC as a “writing intensive” course. Such courses require that at least 60% of the student’s final grade be attributable to written work and that there is a total of at least 2,500 words of formal graded writing.

Class Policies

1. ***Learning is an active process. It is very important that you come to class prepared and ready to learn.*** To get the most out of this class, you must read and study the assigned reading *before* you come to class.
2. Class begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. Plan to arrive on time! See note on **LATE** below
3. ***Attendance/Late policy***
Each student may miss one class with no point penalty; after that each **ABSENCE** will result in a 5-point deduction from the participation grade. For each two **LATE** arrivals to class, an **ABSENCE** will be noted and points will be deducted as mentioned above. Coming back late from break counts as a **LATE**. Any student missing more than 1 hour of class will be marked absent for that day

4. ***Conduct/Behavior Policy****

Class sessions require the display of professional, adult on-task behaviors. In accordance with the college's Standards for Classroom Behavior, outlined in the Student Handbook, disruptive behavior is prohibited, and can result in a student's removal from class. Display of any of these behaviors will automatically result in a 5-point deduction from your participation grade anytime they occur. Disruptive behavior, which can be determined at the instructor's discretion, may include but is not limited to the following:

- Texting or taking phone calls during class
- Refusing to participate in class activities
- Failing to remain attentive in class
- Carrying on private conversations during class
- Leaving class without permission
- Using a laptop computer or tablet in class
- Eating disruptively in class

*The instructor will specify any other discretionary policies during the first week of class

5. ***Class Assignments***

All outside written assignments must be computer-generated, double-spaced, and 12 point font with 1-inch margins. Grammatical accuracy is mandatory and will be taken into account during grading.

Assignments must be turned in **ON TIME**. Assignments will be collected at the beginning of the class period in which they are due; they are considered **late** at any point after this collection. Points will be deducted for late assignments using the following schedule: $\frac{1}{4}$ of the possible points will be deducted if the assignment is turned in on the due date after homework is collected; $\frac{1}{2}$ of the possible points will be deducted if the assignment is turned in the day after the due date; $\frac{3}{4}$ of the possible points will be deducted if the assignment is turned in on the 3rd day after it is due; any assignment turned in on the 4th day after it is due receives a zero. **Late points are deducted based on the number of days the assignment is late, not each class period.** The only exception to this is the use of the NQA Homework coupons.

Being absent is not an excuse for turning any homework in late! If you miss class the day an assignment is due, the assignment must be e-mailed to me by 6:00 pm the day it is due, otherwise it loses late points (see paragraph above). Please note: If you are in class, it is your responsibility to print out your assignments and hand them in on time. I do not take assignments by e-mail on a regular basis, but will take them occasionally by e-mail due to illness or emergency.

6. ***No Questions Asked (NQA) coupons***

I understand that things can happen during the course of a semester that are out of your control. Therefore, the last page of the syllabus contains 1 No Questions Asked Homework coupon. An NQA coupon allows you to turn a homework assignment in the class after it is due with no late points deducted. Homework assignments must be turned in at the beginning of the next class after it is due, or it receives a zero. Once you have used the coupon, no more will be issued. If you do not use your NQA coupon during the semester, you will be eligible to receive 5 extra credit points at the end of the semester. **You must turn in your NQA coupons to receive your extra credit points. You cannot use the NQA coupon for any part of the Research paper!**

7. ***Extra credit*** is not given; more effort should be put into getting class assignments in on time.
8. ***Exams***
Exams must be taken on the specified day. In case of an emergency, if you notify me **before the exam starts and have a valid excuse** (e.g. death in family, extreme illness) a make-up exam can be taken. You must provide documentation that verifies your excuse (e.g. a written doctor's note, hospital documentation, etc.). Generally any make-up exam is different from the one given in class, is usually essay, and must be taken in the Test Center at HCC.
9. ***Students with Disabilities***
Students with documented accommodations from HCC's or PGCC's Disability Support Services should advise the instructor ASAP to discuss accommodations. Those who are eligible for accommodations but have not contacted Disability Support Services should do so ASAP.
10. ***Academic Honesty/Cheating and Plagiarism***
Academic honesty, as defined in the HCC Student Handbook, is expected of all students. All forms of cheating and plagiarism are unacceptable and may result in the student's dismissal from the college. Broadly speaking, breaches of the academic honesty policy will result in a failed grade for the assignment and possibly the course. Furthermore, serious breaches of college policy must be reported. Please review the Policies and Procedures section of the Student Handbook for specific details/penalties regarding this policy which is available here:
http://www.howardcc.edu/students/student_handbook/Policies1213.pdf
11. ***Campus inclement weather policy*** – PLEASE NOTE: Laurel Center follows the openings/closings of either Prince Georges Community College or the LCC itself NOT HCC. You can always log on to the LCC web for information: www.laurelcollegecenter.org
In terms of homework, if we ever miss class because the college is closed, all homework due the day missed is due the next time the class meets ALONG WITH any homework due that next time we meet.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE

Requirements	Point Value
Library Assignment	30 points
Case studies and Homework	45 points
Film Analysis - <i>The Soloist</i>	50 points
Research paper (75 pts)	75 points
Class Participation (Attendance policy states that deductions from this grade will take place for absences and late arrivals)	50 points
Exams (3 @ 50 points each)	150 points
Total points	400 points

GRADING

Your final grade will be based on the total number of points from the above chart. See below for letter grade distribution:

360 – 400	A
320 – 359	B
280 – 319	C
240 – 279	D
Below 240	F