Course Description:
This course examines abnormal behavior and psychopathology, including diagnoses, causes and treatments. The role of society and culture in determining definitions of abnormal behavior and approaches to treatment is also addressed. Students successfully completing the course will be able to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of the etiology, prevalence rates and treatment of a variety of major psychological disorders and critically discuss social and cultural facts relevant to psychopathology.

This course fulfills requirement for Human Relations degree.

Purpose: Delineate theories of abnormal psychology and relate such theories to students’ current work environments. While not a study of theories for clinical diagnosis, students will be able to clarify abnormal psychological behaviors and discuss possible approaches to dealing with such behaviors.

Course Materials:
Additional book: Go Ask Alice, Anonymous (1994). (Not required to purchase; may check out at a public library.)

Course Objectives:
1. Define abnormal behavior (psychological disorder) and describe psychological dysfunctions, distress, and atypical or unexpected cultural responses.
2. Describe psychological and biological similarities and differences between anxiety, fear and a panic attack.
3. Describe the possible social, psychological and neurobiological causes of several psychological disorders.
4. Examine methods and theories related to abnormal psychology.
5. Identification of students’ top one or two theories or methodologies.

Learning methods to reach objectives include:
1. Weekly textbook reading assignments and class discussion.
2. Students’ presentations on scholarly articles related to abnormal psychological theories.
3. Mid-term and final exams with questions submitted by students.
Course Requirements:
1. Attendance: Attendance is required for all eight sessions. (20% of grade)
2. Readings, Class Discussion and Class Activities: Students are expected to complete required readings prior to class and be prepared to actively discuss subject matter with instructor and fellow students. (20% of grade)
3. Students will select one related topic to research and present a scholarly article to the class on that topic. (15% of grade)
4. Reflection Paper: A reflection paper (minimum two pages, double spaced) on the book, Go Ask Alice, will be submitted on Week 6 of the term. (15% of grade)
5. Passing grade on mid-term and final exams (total 30% of grade). Students will submit their suggested questions for the exams based on:
   a) Something new that they learned from the reading assignment
   b) Something they want to remember
   c) A new concept with some degree of difficulty in understanding.

Grading Criteria:

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Academic Integrity Policy:
The Doane College Academic Integrity Policy will be adhered to in this class. All projects and tests will represent your own work. Any use of others’ ideas and words without proper citation of sources is plagiarism and will result in penalties to be determined by the instructor and/or the dean of undergraduate studies.