

**Module Title and Code**

Psychological Disorders BCPS3

**Lecturer(s)**

Prof Mac MacLachlan and Dr James McElvaney

**Contact Hours**

One semester: (Hilary) 11 x 2 hour of lectures; 103 hours independent study

**ECTS Value**

5 ECTS

**Rationale and Aims**

This module is designed to introduce students to the field of psychological disorders. This course aims to provide a broad introduction to the major conceptual approaches, theories, principles and research domains of psychology applied to mental health problems.

**Are there prerequisites?**

No.

**From a teaching point of view, what are the intentions of the lecturer?**

To orient students to the field of abnormal psychology as a whole and to introduce them to the core topics in the discipline.

**Course Content**

- Introduction
- Theoretical Approaches
- Legal and Ethical Issues
- Research Methodologies
- Diagnosing Mental Illness
- Clinical Assessment
- Substance Abuse
- Aging
- Eating Disorders
- Psychophysiological Disorders
- Somatoform Disorders
- Culture & Disorder
- Schizophrenia
- Childhood Disorders
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Personality Disorders

- Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders
- Evaluating Psychotherapy

### **Indicative Resources**

Recommended text:

Kring, A., Davison, G. C., Neale, J. M. & Johnson, S. (2010) *Abnormal Psychology*, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition. International Student Version. Asia: Wiley & Sons.

Web Resources:

<http://www.wiley.com/college/davison>

(contains links to sites related to abnormal psychology)

Other readings are given as the module progresses and supporting additional reading resources are made available to students in the School resource room.

### **Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- describe and outline major theoretical approaches to psychological disorder [PO2,4];
- identify contemporary diagnostic criteria for a range of disorders [PO1,2,3];
- critically evaluate the role of social, cultural, and economic influences in defining and diagnosing psychological disorders [PO2,4];
- describe the application of research methodologies to studying psychological disorders [PO2];
- appreciate the contribution of psychological factors in the cause, expression, and treatment of a range of clinical problems [PO2];
- critically evaluate the efficacy of psychological intervention [PO2,4].

### **Methods of Teaching and Student Learning**

The format of lectures is conventional but students are encouraged to ask questions and to engage the lecturer in discussion where practicable.

Inclusive curriculum: Each lecture and any supporting and accompanying documentation is posted on our school website to facilitate independent study and self-paced learning.

### **Methods of Assessment**

There is a 100 Question Multiple-Choice Questionnaire examination in the annual session that constitutes 100% of the assessment of this module. The exam is 2 hours in duration.