Course Outline for: PSYC 2200 Psychological Disorders

A. **Course Description**
1. Number of credits: 3
2. Lecture hours per week: 3
3. Prerequisites: PSYC 1110 Introduction to Psychology
4. Corequisites: None
5. MnTC Goals: Goal #5 – History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
   Goal #7A - Human Diversity, Race, Power, and Justice in the United States

Nearly half of adults in North America are expected to experience a psychological disorder at some point in their lives. Studying psychopathology involves exploring how conditions like OCD, depression, and schizophrenia are defined, diagnosed, explained, and treated, as well as social issues involving the disorders, and the struggles and contributions of people with diagnoses. By examining scientific research, exploring case histories, and having discussions, students gain insight into the complexity, meaning, and critical importance of mental disorders.

B. **Date last revised:** October 2025

C. **Outline of Major Content Areas:**
1. Defining "abnormal"
2. Historical views of abnormality
3. Classification of disorders
4. Cultural aspects of psychological disorders
5. Characteristics of major disorders
6. Causes of disorders
7. Evaluating disorders, treatments, and diagnosis methods
8. Legal and ethical issues in Abnormal Psychology

D. **Course Learning Outcomes:**
Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:
1. Evaluate the major theoretical explanations and treatments that have defined and currently define mental illness in U.S. history and culture. (Goal 2a, 2b, 2c, 5a, 5b, 5c, 7Aa)
2. Identify principal research methods and types of questions that emerge in the science of psychopathology. (Goal 2a, 5a)
3. Analyze the development, characteristics, and cultural influence of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders in its multiple versions. (Goal 2a, 2d, 5a, 5b, 7Aa, 7Ab)
4. Distinguish psychopathological behaviors and mental processes from non-psychopathological ones. (Goal 2a, 2b, 5a, 5b, 5c, 7Aa)
5. Describe characteristics of mental disorders as understood by psychological science (i.e., their epidemiology, etiology, assessment, symptoms, and scientifically validated treatments). (Goal 2a, 5a)

6. Examine how identity factors (e.g., age, race, gender, culture, and class) relate to psychopathology. (Goal 2a, 5a, 7Aa, 7Ab)
7. Discuss how important ethical and legal principles guide Psychologists in both clinical and legal situations. (Goal 2b, 2d, 5a)
8. Apply psychological concepts to instances of psychopathology. (Goal 2a, 2b, 5a, 5c, 5d)
9. Reflect about how one's own personal biases and stigma relate to mental health and personal identity. (Goal 2b, 2c, 2d, 7Ac)
10. Describe the experiences (e.g., stigmatization, discrimination, and exclusion) and contributions (social, political, intellectual, etc.) of people with mental disorders. (Goal 2a, 2c, 2d, 5b, 7Ad)

E. **Methods for Assessing Student Learning:**
Methods for assessment may include, but are not limited to, the following:
1. Unit exams
2. Midterms
3. Comprehensive final
4. Class assignments and projects.

F. **Special Information:**
None