

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA ASHEVILLE
FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number SD0623F

Date of Senate Approval 11/02/2023

Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 4:

Change the title of PSYC 208

Effective Date: Fall 2024

1. **Delete:** On page 281, the title for **PSYC 208, Abnormal Psychology:**

208 Abnormal Psychology (4)

Addresses the symptoms, possible causes and treatments of mental disorders, including depressive, anxiety, stressor-related, psychotic, and personality disorders. Course involves exploration of major controversies in the field, including diagnostic and categorization systems. Students will complete writing and application projects emphasizing critical thinking and reflection. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. Every year.

Add: On page 281, in place of deleted entry:

208 Psychopathology and Clinical Science (4)

Addresses the symptoms, possible causes and treatments of mental disorders, including depressive, anxiety, stressor-related, psychotic, and personality disorders. Course involves exploration of major controversies in the field, including diagnostic and categorization systems. Students will complete writing and application projects emphasizing critical thinking and reflection. Prerequisite: PSYC 100. Every year.

Impact: *State the impact this change will have on students, faculty, and the university as a whole. Should address planned resources that will support the requested change.*

The description and fundamental content and themes of the course will not change, and there is no expected impact on the department or university. (The course fulfills a major requirement.)

Rationale: *State the rationale as to why the change is being requested.*

This change was prompted for two reasons:

1. This change will provide students with a course title that avoids the pejorative connotation of the term “abnormal.”
2. The new title expresses the scientific state-of-the-art with greater statistical accuracy—abnormal indicates that only the extreme tails of the population experience mental disorder and so inaccurately

indicates that mental illness is an unlikely event. However, research now clearly shows that past year prevalence for experiencing a psychological disorder, as defined by the Diagnostic Statistical Manual, is currently 22.8%*.

*Prevalence of Any Mental Illness (AMI) represented 22.8% of all U.S. adults. The prevalence of AMI was higher among females (27.2%) than males (18.1%). Young adults aged 18-25 years had the highest prevalence of AMI (33.7%) compared to adults aged 26-49 years (28.1%) and aged 50 and older (15.0%).

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>