



## New York Mills High School

### Curriculum Document

Curriculum Area: Social Studies

Course Name: Abnormal Psychology

Common Course Catalog Number: 04255

Length of Course: 1 Semester

Pre-Requisite: None

Grade Level: 10-12

**Course Description: Note to student: Psychology is not a prerequisite to Abnormal Psychology.**

"Are you crazy?" "That guy must be nuts!" "She certainly is not playing with a full deck." "He is neurotic." "We live in a sick society."

Think about the number of times you've heard these expressions, and picture in your mind the image of someone you would label as "crazy" or abnormal. Our society is full of terms/phrases to describe behavior outside the norm; our interactions are loaded with judgments of it. We often make evaluations based on first impressions and preconceived notions.

Actually, we often evaluate behavior of all others we meet as normal or abnormal. There is no clear distinction between normal and abnormal, sane and insane, mental health and mental illness. The culture, the times, the situation, the individual profoundly influences the classification.

This course aims to emphasize the difficulty of ascertaining who is psychologically disordered by presenting the major classifications and types of psychological disorders currently under investigation in our medical and psychological community.

Researching case studies, class discussions, and inquiry-based projects represent most of the activities of the course. Among these activities, students will have the opportunity to read and research J.D. Salinger's classic novel *The Catcher in the Rye* and view the movie and research the history behind the movie *A Beautiful Mind*—to name just two of the major projects of the course.

## **Essential Learner Outcomes (5 to 7)**

- 1. The student will be able to explain what abnormal psychology is and how it differs from normal psychology.**
- 2. The student will be able to observe behavior carefully and objectively, observing patterns in behaviors.**
- 3. The student will be able to understand the behavior in context for that individual, setting and culture.**
- 4. The student will be able to identify developmental and cultural norms and compare their behavior to these.**
- 5. The student will be able to understand the major types of psychological orders; included, but not limited to: anxiety disorders, somatoform disorders, dissociative disorders, affective disorders, psychotic disorders, and personality disorders.**
- 6. The student will be able to discuss what we know about the causes of these disorders (listed in #5).**

## **Units of Study:**

**Unit 1: What are Psychological Disorders?**

**Unit 2: Anxiety Disorders**

**Unit 3: Dissociative Disorders**

**Unit 4: Somatoform Disorders**

**Unit 5: Mood Disorders**

**Unit 6: Schizophrenia**

**Unit 7: Personality Disorders**