COURSE DESCRIPTION:
“Students study the symptoms, causes, treatments and prognoses of behaviors categorized as ‘abnormal.’ Topics include historical perspectives on abnormal behavior, the emotional, social, psychotic, and organic disorders, and treatment. Abnormal behavioral patterns are discussed in theory and illustrated by case example.” (Prerequisite: PSY 105) (College Catalog)

TEXTBOOK AND ASSIGNED READINGS:
Required:
Ronald J. Comer, The Fundamentals of Abnormal Psychology, Worth Freeman Publishers, 2010 (sixth edition) Additional readings will be handed out in class or available on reserve in the MWCC library. The DSM-IV is available in the MWCC library.

COURSE WEBSITE
Worth Publishers has created a Website that offers resources for students. The site contains web links, chapter summaries and quizzes, and suggested readings. The address for the site is. http://bcs.worthpublishers.com/comerfund5e/
I encourage you to use this site to enhance your learning and understanding of the text and abnormal psychology concepts and diagnoses. The site has free resources including chapter outlines, flash cards, quizzes and interactive exercises and activities. Additionally, for some assignments, we will be using PsychPortal for some work and assignments.

Additionally, I have a Website for this course at http://bb.mwcc.edu; click on Abnormal Psychology and you will find my Psych Café! This course will appear on your list of courses and you will use your Bb user name and password to access the account after the first full week of classes. Use this site to access copies of my syllabi as well to find other helpful information like my writing lab (help with APA style and sample papers) and “bonus” work for the course.

GENERAL EDUCATION OUTCOMES FOR MWCC
Mount Wachusett Community College has developed four competencies which are aimed at “equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and intellectual understanding that they need to function effectively in a dynamic, complex and interdependent world.” You will need to demonstrate competence in these outcomes in this course and others, which you will enroll in at MWCC. This course has been designed to help you achieve the following competencies:

1. Written and oral communication in English 2. Quantitative reasoning and scientific modes of inquiry 3. Information literacy 4. Understanding self

SPECIFIC COURSE OBJECTIVES:
1. To be able to define abnormal behavior and develop an understanding of the historical and contemporary perspectives of abnormal behavior.
2. To understand past views and treatments as well as current trends in mental health and the tasks of clinical researchers.
3. To be able to apply the different psychological models/perspectives to the understanding of abnormal behavior (biologic, psychodynamic, humanistic, behavioral, social consequences, and biopsychosocial models).
4. To gain knowledge about psychological, behavioral and brain disorders, diagnosis and assessment and the use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
5. To gain an understanding of the following: generalized anxiety disorders and phobias, panic, obsessive-compulsive and stress disorders, mood disorders, suicide, eating disorders, schizophrenia, dissociative, somatoform and personality disorders.
   a. To think critically about and develop ideas about social, multicultural and controversial issues as they relate to abnormal psychology. To be able to think reflectively about abnormal psychology and its implications and issues.
   b. To examine each disorder and to apply the different psychological models to enhance your understanding of causes, treatments and prognoses.
   c. To be able to apply knowledge to individual case studies to enhance your understanding of the causes, diagnosis and treatment of the various disorders.
5. To learn about and be able to access treatment and other resources available in the community.
6. To familiarize yourself with technology and on-line resources.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:
The classroom time will be composed of a combination of lectures with student discussions, discussions of articles and additional reading materials, in-class group work, role plays and discussion of case studies and films. Class participation is an important part of the learning process and is encouraged and expected. You are also required to complete reading assignments on time so that you will be able to be an active participant in class. Active note taking and critical thinking are strongly suggested.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
It is important that you attend all classes since participation is vital and since not all of the lecture information will be covered in your text. While it is not encouraged, you will be allowed to miss three (3) classes for any reason. There are no excused absences, (except in the event of absence because of religious beliefs—please see college catalog for details), so every absence counts! Each miss over the allowed three misses will result in a deduction of three points off your final grade. Please see me during the semester if you have over three absences. I strongly suggest that you reserve your “cuts” for illnesses and emergencies.

Excessive absenteeism (seven or more absences) will result in my withdrawing you from this course. NOTE: the last day to withdraw from a class is ____________. After ____________ excessive absenteeism will result in failure of the course. You are responsible for ALL class work/lectures and assignments given during any class you have missed. MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE GIVEN, EXCEPT IF THE STUDENT HAS MISSED THE EXAM DUE TO WHAT WE BOTH AGREE IS AN EMERGENCY (e.g., serious illness or death in the family). You will receive a “0” for any missed exams. You are allowed only one emergency make-up exam per semester. There will be no make-up for the final exam. If you miss the final, you will receive a “0.”

You are required to be on time for class. If you are not present when attendance is taken, you will be considered absent. Of course, inclement weather or some other emergency would allow for exceptions to this rule. If you come in a few minutes late, at the end of the class, please make sure that I have marked you “present” in my attendance book. If you know that you will be late for a particular class or that you will have to leave a class early, please inform me before class. Otherwise, it is expected that you will remain for the entire class. Excessive tardiness may adversely affect your final grade.
METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Your final grade will be based on the following:

1. Exams: Three general exams (one will be a take-home), and a comprehensive final examination (100 points each).
   Each general exam will cover assigned textbook readings, case studies, lectures and classroom work. The exams will consist of a combination of objective questions (i.e., multiple choice, matching, true and false questions) and essay questions. In addition, exams may include case vignettes. Each exam will be graded on a scale of 0 to 100 points. If you have a course average of 93 or better, you will be exempt from the final exam. The exams will be averaged and will account for 50% of your final grade.

2. Homework Assignments:
   You will have 7 written homework assignments. You will be given a choice of at least two assignments per chapter and will need to complete a total of seven (select 7 chapters, only 1 assignment may be completed per chapter. For example, you may do one homework assignment for chapter 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9 and 13. A homework packet with multiple selections will be handed when we begin each new chapter. We will be covering the following chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 13. I will only count seven assignments; you cannot do extra.
   
   - Only one late assignment per semester: Your one allowed late assignment will receive a 5 point deduction per late day and will not be accepted after one week. I will not accept more than one late assignment. Therefore, you will receive a “0” for any additional late assignments. Assignments should be typed and double spaced with one inch margins, using Times New Roman 12 pt font. There are some assignments that may be handwritten (activity worksheet assignments only). The assignments must be in your own words. You may use resources other than your text for some of the homework assignments, and some of the assignments require you to have references. If you use references, be sure to properly cite the sources using APA format. Failure to use proper documentation (plagiarism) will result in failure of the assignment, and possible failure of the course. Please see schedule for due dates.
   
   Your six assignment grades will be averaged to yield one grade that will account for 50% of your final grade.

Note: I do NOT accept papers via email unless you have prior approval from me! If you send me a paper via email without approval, I will count it as late until I receive a hard copy of the paper from you.

Note: You will only be allowed one late assignment per semester. Additional late papers will receive grades of 0.

Please save all of your returned papers and exams. Please do not discard any papers or exams until after the semester is over and final grades are posted and seen by you.

NOTE: YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL THE WORK FOR THIS COURSE. If you do not complete all assignments, you may receive a failing grade for the course.

Participation:
   Based on the frequency and quality of your participation, you may receive bonus points, added at my discretion, to your final grade.

The college utilizes the following grading system:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A grade of Incomplete (I grade) may be given at my discretion. You would have thirty (30) days from the date of the final exam to complete all of your work. If you receive an Incomplete, it is your responsibility to contact me to arrange for the completion of your work, and it is my responsibility to provide you with an opportunity to complete the course requirements. If you do not finish your work at the end of the thirty-day extension, your grade may automatically convert to an F.

Withdrawal from this course:
You may formally withdraw from this course through the end of the 9th week. You are required to speak with me before withdrawing. A grade of W will be recorded. Please be advised that if you stop attending class after the ninth week, you cannot receive a W for a grade, but will receive an F grade. This is a college policy.

ADDITIONAL STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:
Please adhere to the following in my classroom.

- Once class has begun, it is expected that you will remain for the duration of the class.
  “Coming and going” disrupts class
- Please turn off all cell phones, pagers and all electronic devices during class time. Do not leave on vibrate. Texting in my classroom is prohibited.
- You may bring your laptop computer to class. However, you should use it during class only for note taking. If you are surfing the internet, instant messaging friends or doing other work that is not part of the class, you will no be allowed to bring your laptop to class again.
- Classroom Atmosphere: Any good classroom discussion involves personal exposure and thus the taking of risks. Your ideas and beliefs may differ with others students’ ideas and that is ok! As long as your points are honest and supportable, they need to be respected by all of us. Encouragement, questions, discussion, and laughter are all an important part of this class, but rudeness and mockery are never allowable, just as disruptive behavior is grounds for dismissal. Please be attentive in class and respect other students’ needs and differences. Talking while I am talking or while another student is speaking is not acceptable behavior.
- Academic Honesty: MWCC policy: “Students enrolled in this course are responsible for academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism (any forms of presenting someone else’s work as one’s own) are serious offenses and will not be tolerated.” If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please see me, or go to the Academic Support Center for assistance.

“Students enrolled in MWCC’s courses are responsible for academic honesty. All members of the MWCC community strive to promote honesty in scholarship and research. The primary responsibility for maintaining standards of academic integrity rests with the individual student. Academic honesty is required of all students at MWCC. The Academic Honesty Policy is intended to establish and enforce uniformly just and equitable procedures for resolving allegations of dishonesty. Students must also become knowledgeable about what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, and fabrication by asking the instructor and consulting with the academic support center. Students are instructed to resolve questions or confusion about appropriate documenting and referencing techniques before submitting assignments. The instructor reserves the right to fail students who cheat, plagiarize, or fabricate.”

(College Catalog, 2010-2011)

“Academic dishonesty is prohibited at MWCC and includes but is not limited to:
- Cheating: intentional use and/or attempted use of trickery, artifice, deception, breach of confidence, fraud and/or misrepresentation of one’s academic work. Includes giving or receiving aid during examinations or in completing laboratory assignments, computer programs, or other work assigned in courses, unless given explicit permission by the instructor.
- Examples: use of books, notes, or other materials during an examination, unless permitted; copying others’ work or unauthorized cooperation in doing assignments or during an examination; use of purchased essays, term papers, or preparatory research for such
papers; submission of work originally done by someone else; submission of the same written work in more than one course without prior approval from the instructors involved; falsification of experimental data or results; unauthorized use of username or password; use of false signatures or initials on course related material.

- **Plagiarism**: using another person’s words or ideas without acknowledgement.
- **Fabrication**: intentional and unauthorized falsification and/or invention of any information or citation in any academic exercise.
- **Examples**: the use of “invented” information in any laboratory experiment or academic exercise without notice to and authorization from the instructor; alteration and resubmission of returned academic work without notice to and authorization of the instructor; misrepresentation of the actual source from which information is cited.” (College Catalog, 2010-2011).

**Plagiarism Policy**: “Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic honesty and is not tolerated at MWCC. If a faculty member suspects that a student has engaged in plagiarism, it is the student’s responsibility to provide the sources the student used in preparing his/her project. If the faculty member suspects that plagiarism is involved, he/she will follow this procedure:

**Stage One**
- The faculty member will notify the student within 10 days of the alleged incident and arrange for a meeting with the student.
- If, after an informal meeting the faculty member and the student cannot reach a resolution of the incident, the faculty member will fill out a student plagiarism report available from the division dean.
- Once the plagiarism report has been issued, to overcome the accusation of plagiarism, the student must provide proof of his/her sources.
- If, upon investigation by the faculty member, the student has been found to be not responsible, the student will be notified by the faculty member in writing by means of the student plagiarism report. If the student has been found not responsible, the report will be expunged.
- If the student is found responsible, the student will be offered an opportunity to sign the report. If the student does not accept the finding of responsibility, the student has the option of accepting the report’s finding or appealing the decision to the appropriate division dean.
- The student receives a copy of the report and the faculty member keeps a copy of the report as part of the class record and forwards the report to the vice president of academic affairs and a copy to the appropriate division dean.

Students found to have engaged in plagiarism based on the evidence may be subject to, but not limited to, the following sanctions that are to be imposed by the faculty member:
- Receive a grade of zero for the assignment.
- Receive a grade of F for the course.
- Refer the case to the division dean for further action through the student disciplinary procedures.
- At the faculty member’s discretion, a temporary file will be maintained in the vice president of academic affairs’ office outlining the facts of the incident and its resolution.
- This record will be maintained for the duration of the student’s enrollment not to exceed two years.
- If the student drops out and does not enroll for the succeeding semester, the student retains the right to appeal the decision for a period not to exceed 12 months.

**Stage Two**
Upon referring the case for student disciplinary action, the faculty member agrees that the disposition of the case including the imposition of any sanctions or actions will be determined by the committee” (College Catalog, 2010-2011).

- **Students with Disabilities**: 
  Students with documented disabilities (physical, emotional, learning, and/or others) who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Counselor for Students with Disabilities, extension 120, as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.
This syllabus contains a lot of valuable information. Please read it and keep it. On a more informal note, I welcome you to this course and look forward to an exciting and interesting semester. Please do not hesitate to ask for help if you need it. I am always available for extra guidance and assistance. Good luck to all of you and I hope you have a productive and rewarding semester.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
This is a tentative schedule. Updates, changes may be made at my discretion. Readings from the Textbook and handouts are required. NOTE: WE WILL BE COVERING 10 CHAPTERS. YOU WILL NEED TO COMPLETE 7 OUT OF THE TEN HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introducing the course, syllabus, defining abnormal</td>
<td>Chapter 1: 1-18</td>
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<td>Chapter 1: Abnormal Psychology: Past and Present</td>
<td>Chapter 1: 19-29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Abnormal: Past and Present</td>
<td>Chapter 2: 30-44</td>
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<td>Chapter 2: Models of Abnormality</td>
<td>Chapter 2: 45-65</td>
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<td><strong>Homework for Chapter 1 is due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Models of Abnormality</td>
<td>Chapter 3: 66-79</td>
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<td>Chapter 3: Clinical Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment</td>
<td>Chapter 3: 80-93</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment</td>
<td>Chapter 4: 94-111</td>
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<td><strong>Homework for Chapter 2 is due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Chapter 4: Anxiety Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 4: 112-131</td>
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<td><strong>Exam 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, Lecture notes, handouts</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Homework for Chapter 3 is due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Anxiety Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 5: 132-151</td>
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<td>Chapter 5: Stress Disorders</td>
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<td>Week 7</td>
<td>5: Stress Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 6: 162-191</td>
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<td><strong>Homework for Chapter 4 is due</strong></td>
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<td>Chapter 6: Somatoform &amp; Dissociative Disorders</td>
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<td>Week 8</td>
<td>6: Dissociative Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 7: 192-205</td>
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<td><strong>Homework for Chapter 5 is due</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 7: 206-227</td>
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<td>Chapter 7: Mood Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Mood Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 9: 256-274</td>
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<td><strong>Homework for Chapter 6 is due</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Exam #2: Chapters 4, 5, 6, lecture notes and handouts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Chapter 9: Eating Disorders</td>
<td>Chapter 9: 275-283</td>
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<td><strong>Homework for Chapter 7 is due</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 12: 356-371</td>
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<td>9: Eating Disorders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Chapter 12: Schizophrenia</td>
<td>Chapter 12: 371-391</td>
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<td><strong>Homework for Chapter 9 is due</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>12: Schizophrenia</td>
<td>Chapter 13: 392-401</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Week 13: Chapter 13: Personality Disorders
Exam 3 Take-home is due (Chapters 7, 9, 12)
Homework for Chapter 13 is due

Week 14: Personality Disorders
Review for final

Week 15: Final Exams; Good luck!
This portion of the syllabus is to HELP WITH RESEARCH AND WRITING
GUIDE TO WRITING YOUR Homework Assignments

**General Information regarding assignments:**
- All assignments should be typed, double spaced, 12 point font Times New Roman only, with 1 inch margins. Include a Reference (works cited) page.
- For those assignments which require research, documentation must be according to APA (American Psychological Association) format. (See below and see detailed handout I will provide). If a paper is submitted without documentation (i.e., no bibliography attached and/or no internal documentation), the paper will receive a “0.” My website has many examples of APA format, and the APA guide is online there. Not all assignments will require research.
- Homework should have a cover page, with the title centered, and your name, the course name and date below the title.
- Pages should be stapled together in upper left hand corner. No folders or plastic covers please.
- Resources should be “recent,” that is, within the last six years, unless you need “historical” data. You should use a minimum of four resources for each paper. Our textbook does not count as a resource. You should use information from a variety of sources, not all from the internet. You should use journal articles (scholarly) and books…
- You should not use textbooks or encyclopedias as primary, professional resources. Do not use Wikipedia!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Do not overuse quotations; Paraphrase or summarize the ideas to show that you understand the material, and be sure to site in-text for all borrowed ideas.
- Please see me if you need help with any assignments. The Writing Center is also open daily for assistance in room 115/116.

**Example (APA format):**
- Works should be listed in alphabetical order, second and third lines are indented. Double space entire References page.
- Authors’ Names: Note that first names are not used, only initials.
- Capitalization: Books and journal articles: Only the first word of titles of books and journal articles are capitalized. Journals: Each word of the title of a journal is capitalized.
- Titles of books and journals are italicized; volume numbers of journals are italicized.
- See APA Style Guide handout for more examples

**References (SAMPLE)**


*Neuropsychiatry, Neuropsychology and Behavioral Neurology, 8*(1), 53-60. Retrieved on January 7, 2010 from PsychologyOnline Database.

**For Internal Citation**

**Do not use footnotes**, but use the following: “Cocaine produces few congenital malformations, but it can dramatically affect nervous system development” (Lacayo, 2010, p. 224). Or, for internet, use para # instead of page number.

Or Lacayo (2010) explored the effects of cocaine on the brain.
Homework Assignment Checklist

Use the following checklist each time you submit an assignment to make sure that you are adhering to guidelines and following proper formatting tips.

Your homework will be graded on the following dimensions:
Comprehensiveness, Depth of understanding, Accuracy, Presentation (including grammar, spelling, length of assignment and proper use of APA documentation)

Before submitting your paper, please make sure that it meets the following criteria:

_____ Cover page follows correct format (see syllabus)
_____ Times New Roman font, 12 point, 1” margins
_____ Entire paper is double spaced
_____ Paper has no typographical and/or grammatical errors (use spell check and read your work to proof it!)
_____ Quotations are not overused
_____ For homework requiring research, work is properly documented according to APA style (in-text citations for summarized, paraphrased and quoted ideas)
_____ If you use references, the paper includes a “References” page which conforms to APA style
_____ Paper is stapled in upper left corner and does not have a cover (plastic…)
_____ Facts, data etc. are accurate. Directions for each homework assignment are followed; Paper is at least one page in length, ideally 2 to 3. For “fill in” activity assignments that do not have to be typed: work is accurate, neat (no crossouts or messiness) and directions are followed.
_____ Paper is well organized and establishes and maintains a clear focus; paper is comprehensive
_____ Ideas are well-developed; depth and complexity of ideas supported by rich, and/or pertinent details; paper shows reflection and insight; paper does not include personal, anecdotal information unless requested.