

## INDEPENDENT STUDY PROPOSAL

### *INTRODUCTION TO ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY*

**Semester:** Fall 2017 & Spring 2018

**Teacher:** Ms. Sherry Mohr

**Student:** Olivia Ryan

The **PURPOSE** of this course is to provide the student with an introduction to the area of abnormal psychology/psychopathology that goes beyond the combined course content of Psychology and Dual Enrollment Psychology, both of which Olivia has completed successfully. The course will also strive to prepare the student for successful study of psychology and related courses at the college level and potentially for a related career.

Some of the **TOPICS** covered in this course will include psychological disorders (including their diagnoses, symptoms, causes, treatments, effects on functioning, and related issues), the insanity defense/guilty but mentally ill, and case studies of individuals with mental illnesses. There will be a research focus in the course; we will explore online databases to locate the most recent research on various topics and related psychological issues. Under most circumstances, the independent study participant may provide input regarding the topics covered in the course, which allows the opportunity to cover information that particularly interests him/her. In this area, Olivia has identified the following areas of interest: Anxiety Disorders, Dissociative Disorders, Mood Disorders, Personality Disorders, Schizophrenia, and Substance-related and Impulse Control Disorders.

**ASSESSMENT** will be accomplished through both written and oral evaluations, written assignments, and hands-on, real world assignments. The student will be required to complete various reading and writing assignments, current events article journal entries, a career exploration paper, and a final research paper on an abnormal psychology issue of the students' choosing. If the student does not attend scheduled meetings, does not complete assignments, or if he/she demonstrates a poor attitude or a lack of effort, he/she will lose points and may also lose the privilege of having an independent study.

The **GRADING SCALE** for this class is the standard high school grading scale:

93-100%	A
85-92%	B
77-84%	C
70-76%	D
0-69%	F

Attachment X-3B

If the student successfully completes this independent study, he/she will receive 1 Social Studies CREDITS (full year course).

The TEXTBOOK to be used for this independent study will be the following:

Durand, V.M. & Barlow, D.H. (2013). *Essentials of abnormal psychology*. New York: Wadsworth/Cengage Learning.

(or a comparable abnormal psychology textbook)

Other MATERIALS/RESOURCES will include online news sites, research databases, reference books, and other psychology and social science textbooks.

The MEETING TIME for this independent study will be weekly (at minimum) during the student's study halls, before school, or after school. Online communication will also be utilized.

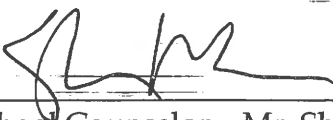
**REQUIRED SIGNATURES:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Student - Olivia Ryan

8/30/17  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Teacher - Ms. Sherry Mohr

8/29/17  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
School Counselor - Mr. Shane Mascho

8/30/17  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Principal - Mr. Rob Kreger

8/30/17  
Date