

WHAT IS ABNORMAL?

Definition: Abnormal Psychology is the scientific study whose objectives are to describe, explain, predict and control behaviors that are considered strange or unusual.” Sue et al

OBJECTIVES CONSISTENT WITH THE SCIENCE OF PSYCHOLOGY

**DESCRIBING
EXPLAINING
PREDICTING: Prognosis
CONTROLLING**

HOW DO WE DEFINE WHAT IS ABNORMAL?

**STATISTICAL DEVIATION
DEVIATION FROM IDEAL
MENTAL HEALTH
MULTI-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE**

PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS
DISCOMFORT
DEVIANCE
(BIZARRE, UNUSUAL OR ECCENTRIC)
DANGEROUSNESS
DYSFUNCTION
MALADAPTIVE

INTEGRATED DEFINITIONS

- 1. That of society**
- 2. That of the individual**
- 3. That of the mental health profession**

CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT
SUB-CLINICAL

DIAGNOSTIC AND STATISTICAL MANUAL
American Psychiatric Association