

Class Objectives:

- What are anxiety, fear and panic?
- What are Phobias?

What is Anxiety?

As college students, you have probably experienced <u>anxiety</u>...



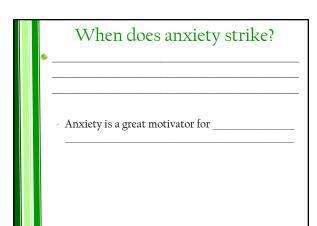
True or False?

There is only one type of anxiety disorder.

Anxiety disorders often occur with other illnesses.

- Most people successfully take control of the symptoms of anxiety disorders by sheer willpower and personal strength.
- Anxiety disorders are rare.
- Anxiety disorders are part of your personality. They can't be changed.

Women and men are affected by **anxiety** disorders at the same rates.



When does it become <u>TOO</u> much anxiety?

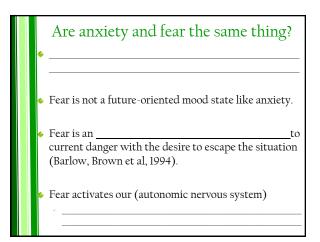
 When we examine "anxiety disorders" we're talking about ______

These are disorders in which anxiety is a characteristic feature or the avoidance of anxiety seems to motivate abnormal behavior.

Anxiety Disorders

Anxiety disorders involve clinically significant distress and impairment in daily function:

- Phobias
- Panic disorder
- Generalized anxiety disorder
- Obsessive-compulsive disorder



"OK, try not to panic!!"

Fear is closely associate with <u>panic</u> which is a sudden ______

When panic is experienced, the intense fear and discomfort can produce a number of



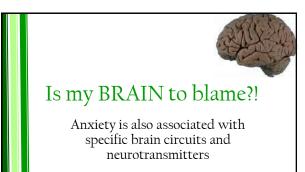
Does anxiety live inside my genes?

Biological Contributions to Anxiety and Panic

Genetic Vulnerability

There is increasing evidence that suggests that we _____

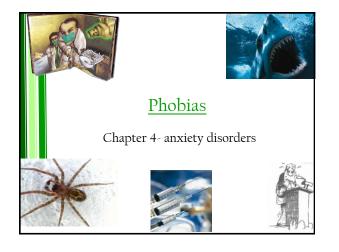
As with almost all psychological disorders, _____



-such as

Could my environment make me anxious?

 Research suggests that our environment can change the sensitivity of our brain circuits, making you more or less susceptible to developing anxiety disorders (Francis et al., 2002).





- What is a Phobia?
- How are Phobias diagnosed?
- Can Phobias be treated?
- NEXT Class:
 - What causes Phobias?
 - What Is PTSD?

What is a phobia?

- A <u>specific phobia</u> is an
 - Significantly interferes with ones ability to function.

<u>RUN!!!</u>

necessary to meet the criteria for a phobia.

 Most persons with specific phobias recognize that the fears are <u>unreasonable</u> and <u>irrational-</u>but try to escape anyway.



is

Phobic Disorders

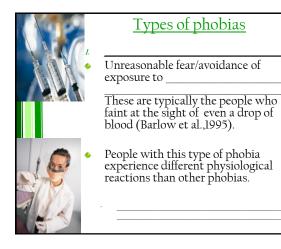
- 🔹 The
 - People with phobias often adapt their lives and simply work around it.
- The physical symptoms of this type of anxiety are:
 - Increased heart rate
 - Blood pressure
 - Irregular breathing patterns,
 - Thoughts of disaster.

Diagnosing Phobias

- To qualify for a diagnosis of phobic disorders is that the fear must be _____
- Unlike generalized anxiety, the anxiety is focused on some <u>specific</u> object or situation.

Different types of phobias

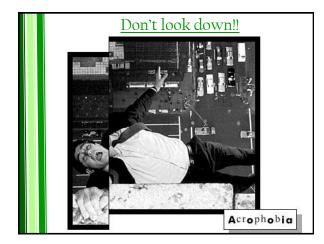
DSM IV first defined phobias as a classifiable disorder in 1994



Blood-Injury-Injection Phobias

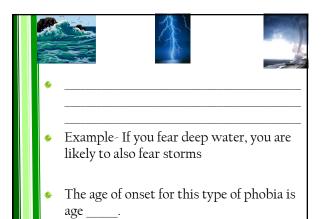
- This type of phobia runs in families and has a strong genetic component.
- The average age of onset for this type of phobia is 9.











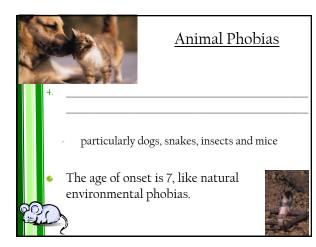






Situational phobia

- Situational phobias tend to emerge in the early to ______
- People with situational phobias never experience a panic attack outside the context of their phobic object/situation.



Statistics

The APA reports that in any given year,

- They are the most common psychiatric illness among
- The sex ratio for specific phobias is _____

Since people tend to work around their phobias, only the most severe cases tend to seek treatment.

Will I have to live with this forever?

Once a phobia develops, _____

_making treatment very important.

 With proper treatment, the vast majority of phobia patients can completely overcome fears and live symptom-free.

Treatment

 The treatment for phobias is agreed on by most of the psychological community.

exercises.

This should be done under professional supervision, so the patients are not exposed to too much at once, which could lead to escape and this would only

New developments in treatment make it possible to treat many specific phobias in an intensive, one day session participating in exposure exercises with the phobia/situation.

Treatments

- It is now clear, based on brain imaging that these treatments ______

Where do phobias come from?

It was once believed that phobias developed after a traumatic

event._

Where did this come from?

 Traumatic experiences can result in phobic behavior, developed by

where danger results in an alarm response.

 <u>Example</u>- many people who have choking phobias have experienced choking at some time.

Developing phobias

- Vicarious experience -_
- Seeing someone else have a traumatic experience is enough to instill a phobia in the watcher.
 - can sometimes produce a phobia, this is referred to as *information transmission*.

It's all in the breeding...

- 31% of first-degree relatives of people with specific phobias also had a phobia, compared to only 11% of first relatives of normal controls.
- This research suggests that relatives were likely to have that exact type of phobia (Frye et al., 1990).

Next Class...

- ♦ (OCD)- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
- (PTSD)-Post Traumatic Stress Disorder