

How do we diagnose psychological disorders?

Chapter 3- Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis

Class Objectives

- How are psychological disorders diagnosed?
- What is Clinical Assessment and why is it used?
- What methods do professionals use to assess?

What is Clinical Assessment?

Clinical assessment is a systematic evaluation and measurement that measures:

Clinical Assessment



This is the process of determining whether a _____ a specific psychological disorder

Universal standards

History of “Insane Asylums”



To be diagnosed with a psychological disorder very specific criteria must be met.

What makes an assessment method valuable?



- Is the degree of measurement consistent?

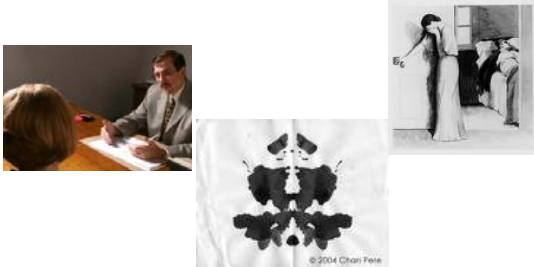
Validity

- _____



- Does this device meet the standards to be used consistently across different measurements?

Different Forms of Assessment



Clinical Interview

Information is gathered by the professional to make a clear picture of the client's life:

- Current and past behavior
- Attitudes and emotions
- Social and interpersonal history
- Presenting problem
- Orientation

Organized as the mental status exam

Mental Status Exam

A systematic observation of a person's behavior

Used by clinicians to determine whether or not a psychological disorder may be present.

Most people do this everyday...including you 😊

Mental status exams cover five general areas:

1. Appearance and behavior

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

2. Thought Processes

- Are thoughts linear and organized?
- _____
- Are there delusions/hallucinations present?
- _____
- _____

What are we looking for here?

- _____ (irrelevance)
- Flight of ideas (change topics)
- Racing (rapid thoughts)
- Word salad (_____)
- Clanging (rhyming words)
- _____ (limited content)

Mental Status



3. Mood and affect:

Mood is the emotion the patient is feeling

- Is it "appropriate"? You feel sad...you look sad.
- Euthymic (normal), blunted (minimal variation), and flat affect (no variation).

Mental Status

4. Intellectual functioning:

Vocabulary and memory testing are used to help determine level of intellectual functioning

- Examples: _____

Mental Status

5. _____ refers to our general awareness to our surroundings.

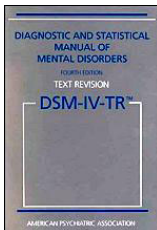
"Is the person oriented times 3?"

Diagnosing Psychological Disorders

How are disorders diagnosed?


 The DSM IV (APA, 2000) is the most widely used _____ to make a diagnosis.


_____ (_____)



This manual that contains a listing of _____

DSM IV

 Each disorder is defined by a set of diagnostic criteria and text containing information about the disorder.

 No information about treatment or *etiology* is included.

History of the DSM

The first edition of the DSM was published in 1952 and contained about 60 disorders.

The DSM -I and II were very influenced by the _____

- All disorders were considered reactions to the environment.

DSM

In 1980, the Psychodynamic view was abandoned and a _____

Changes were made to the diagnostic system based on scientific data, not consensus of experts.

Research that was comprised of field trials examined the _____, as well as creating new diagnoses (Wildiger et al., 1998).

DSM IV

Example in the _____ was listed as a psychological disorder, but was removed by the APA in 1973.

The *DSM-V* is in progress (2010)

DSM IV Axes

Axis 1

Axis 2

Axis 3

Axis 4

Axis 5
(GAF)

Is this system perfect?

One criticism of the DSM IV is the notion of

Some criticize this categorical system because it can lead to labeling.

Next class...
