What is Abnormal...anyway?
Chapter 13 - Psychological Disorders

CLASS OBJECTIVES:
How do we define abnormal behavior?
What are Anxiety Disorders?
What are Mood Disorders?
What is Schizophrenia?

What percentage of the population would you guess have a psychological disorder?

People tend to believe that psychological disorders affect a small percentage of people, but this is not so.

The Midtown Manhattan Study (1962) reported that 55% of the general population have some form of mental illness.
The Human Perspective

One of the most important objectives for this class is for students to recognize how psychological suffering is everywhere.

You will learn about clusters of symptoms that characterize different psychological disorders, but most importantly PEOPLE suffer with these disorders everyday.

Sensitivity Please!

The language we use when discussing psychological disorders is very important; people are not just their disorders!

The Disclaimer

Please do not start diagnosing yourself, your family, friends, boyfriends/girlfriends, neighbors, classmates, professors or anyone else you can think of... 😊

This chapter will not make you a psychologist!
How are people with psychological disorders portrayed in our culture?

Why is this front page article acceptable?

ROASTED NUTS
General-alarm fire at Trenton Psychiatric

Are all disorders viewed the same?
Who's Normal?

- Your neighbor has physical complaints and sees several doctors weekly.
- A 22 year-old college student smokes 4-5 marijuana joints per day, has a 3.8 GPA, has a part-time job and a solid long term relationship.
- Rachel has been caught several times urinating in the corner.
- A 35 year-old very happily married man enjoys wearing women's clothes and underwear on the weekends when he and his wife go out on the town.

Who decides what’s “NORMAL”?

WE do!

What Is Abnormal Behavior?

- Abnormal behavior is characterized as:
  - Non-typical
  - Socially unacceptable
  - Distressing to the person who exhibits it or to the people around them
Criteria for abnormal behavior include statistical infrequency, dysfunction, personal distress, and violation of norms.

None of these criteria alone is adequate for classifying abnormal behavior.

What do we call people labeled as abnormal?

Labels, Labels, Labels...

These words are used to dismiss and dehumanize people who we consider different.
Abnormal Psychology

- Is the field of psychology concerned with assessment, treatment, and prevention of maladaptive behavior.
  - “Clinical Psychology”

How are Psychological Disorders Diagnosed?

- The American Psychiatric Association (APA) has devised a system for diagnosing maladjusted behavior
  - The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
    - Referred to as the DSM IV (4th edition)

Why do we need a system to diagnose psychiatric disorders?
Goals of the DSM IV

- To provide a system for diagnosing disorders
- To improve the reliability of diagnoses
- To make diagnoses consistent with research evidence and clinical experiences.

History

- The mentally ill were once subjected to terrible conditions in “insane asylums”
- This resulted in Deinstitutionalization:
  - This effected treatment methods
  - Accounts for a large majority of the homeless population.

Feeling Anxious?
What does anxiety feel like?

- Anxiety is a generalized feeling of fear and apprehension that may be related to a situation or object.
- Anxiety is often accompanied by increased physiological arousal
  - increase heart rate, blood pressure, and respiration

Anxiety

There are several types of anxiety disorders:
- (GAD) Generalized Anxiety Disorder
- (PTSD) Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- (OCD) Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder
- Phobic Disorder

Specific Phobias
What are Phobias?

Phobic disorders are excessive, irrational fear and avoidance of specific objects or situations.

- Affects 7.8% of the U.S. population (APA, 2005)

Phobias should not be confused with “normal fears”

What can we learn from the Maury show?
Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder

I am not obsessive
I am not obsessive
I am not obsessive
I am not obsessive
I am not obsessive
I am not obsessive
I am not obsessive
I am not obsessive
I am not obsessive
I am not obsessive

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

- OCD involves persistent, uncontrollable, thoughts and irrational beliefs
- The obsessions are intrusive thoughts cause compulsive rituals that interfere with daily life
- 2.6% of the U.S. population suffers from this disorder (Karno & Golding (1991).
I just can't stop myself!!

- The ritual behaviors are **compulsions** that are performed by the person to reduce anxiety.
- These compulsions are repetitive behaviors or mental acts a person feels they **MUST** perform.

What does OCD look like?

Mood Disorders

**Class Objectives:**
- Depression
- Bipolar Disorder
Depressive Disorders

Depression is included in the category of mood disorders in which people show:

- Extreme and persistent sadness
- Despair
- Loss of interest in activities once considered pleasurable.

“Depression is like falling into a deep, dark hole that you cannot climb out of. You scream as you fall, but it seems like no one hears you. Some days you float upward without even trying; on other days you wish that you would hit bottom so that you would never fall again.”

Depression is so prevalent that it is known as “the common cold” of psychiatric disorder.

- 14 to 15 million Americans are affected each year
How depressed can you be?

- The severity of depression varies because this is a spectrum disorder.
- Severe depression sometimes includes thoughts of death and suicide.
- People with depression may have delusions.
  - False beliefs.

Bipolar Disorder

- Someone who alternates between periods of depression and mania has “Bipolar disorder”.
- This disorder is essentially a roller-coaster ride of mood.

What does Mania look like?

- The manic phase involves:
  - rapid speech and “flights of ideas”
  - inflated self-esteem
  - decreased need for sleep.
Stop and Think…
How would you describe Schizophrenia?

How would you describe a person with this disorder?

Who has Schizophrenia?

- A middle-aged man walks the streets of New York with aluminum foil under his hat, so the Martians can’t read his mind.

- A young woman sits in her college classroom and hears the voice of God telling her she is a vile and disgusting person.

- You try to strike up a conversation with the supermarket bagger, but he stares at you vacantly and will say only one or two words in a flat, monotone voice.

They ALL do!

Most people think of Schizophrenia as a singular disorder. We will examine the different types of Schizophrenia and how they are not all the same.
Stop and Think...
What do we think about people with Schizophrenia?

How would you feel if you were asked to show a person who was recently released from Trenton Psychiatric Hospital?

Society devalues and dehumanizes those with schizophrenia.

- People with these severe mental disorders are twice as likely to be harassed in public as people without schizophrenia (Berzins et al., 2003).

Schizophrenia

- Schizophrenia is the most extreme of all psychiatric disorders
  - Affecting 1% of the population about 2 million Americans each year (Ho et al., 2003).
  - 1 in 100 people

- Schizophrenia is a devastating brain disorder that impacts almost every area of functioning.
“You are such a psycho!”

Schizophrenia is a **psychotic disorder**, which comes from the Greek word “split mind”

- Schizophrenia is **not** multiple personality disorder

The symptoms of this disorder can be either **positive** or **negative**

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Symptoms of Schizophrenia

- **Positive symptoms** (in addition to what is typical)
  - hallucinations, delusions, racing thoughts

- **Negative symptoms** (the absence of what is typical)
  - apathy, lack of emotion, poor or non-existent social functioning

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**Hallucinations** - Sensory perceptions that occur without external stimulus. Causing people to hear, see, taste, touch or smell what others do not.

- Auditory hallucinations are the most common.
Hi, Jesus Christ...nice to meet you.

- Delusions: A fixed, unshakeable false belief
  - “I'm the King of England”
  - “That streetlight is sending me secret messages”
  - “I'm from the planet “Gwarnon”
  - The CIA, FBI, and mafia are “out to get me!”

Negative Symptoms

- Negative symptoms of schizophrenia indicate the absence of normal behavior.
  - Emotional and social withdrawal
  - Poverty of speech or thought
  - Inappropriate /lack of emotion
The many faces of schizophrenia

This disorder is divided into several subtypes:

- **Paranoid**: “The FBI has this room bugged! You may be in on it…”

- **Disorganized**: “The Dahl, Dahl, Dahl is the ultimate makeup...Elvis Presley IS John Travolta, the eagle is the mail in the home!”

Catatonic Schizophrenia

This type of schizophrenia effects the motor functions/responses.

This can be displayed in *waxy flexibility*

Name that Psychotic Disorder!

- Chris has started spending large amounts of time guarding his home. “They” have bugged his phone and are sending cars past his house. He believes that the CIA, FBI and mafia are “after him” for witnessing a drug deal. People everywhere are in on the plot and want to kill him.
  - **Paranoid Type**

- Sally appears statue-like, often staying in the same unusual position for hours. When asked, “how are you Sally?”, she replies, “how are you, Sally?”
  - **Catatonic Type**

- At Grandma’s funeral, John walks up to the casket and begins to laugh hysterically. When he is asked why he is laughing, he replies “the lemon is the way! When it fell on the ship of the Yoda night owl.”
  - **Disorganized Type**
How many genes?

- The more genes you share, the more likely you will develop schizophrenia.
  - You have the greatest chance (48%) of having schizophrenia if your identical twin does.
  - If both of your parents have schizophrenia you have a 46% chance of developing the disorder.

There is NO cure and even with treatment people with schizophrenia are likely to experience life-long difficulties.

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What’s Next?

Personality