

Chapter 14: Psychological Evaluation

- Cultural context of psychopathology
 - Culture
 - Prevalence rate - % of population with the disorder
 - Vary considerably across cultures
 - Cultural construction
 - Labeling theory - a psychiatric diagnosis is a way to stigmatize people society considers deviant
 - Rosenhan - "on being sane in insane places"
 - 1973 - 8 people fake symptoms to get into mental hospital
 - Diagnosed with schizophrenia after admitted, acted normally
 - Many other patients realized they were faking, but no medical professional did
 - Support for Labeling
 - Many disorders show up cross-culturally
 - See physiological differences - differences in brain functioning
 - Gives us common terminology
- Contemporary Approaches to Psychopathology
 - Psychodynamic perspective
 - Focus on unconscious
 - Types of Psychopathology
 - Neuroses - problems in living, phobias
 - Personality disorders - enduring maladaptive patterns that lead to problems in everyday functioning
 - Psychoses - gross disturbances that involve a loss of touch with reality
 - Assessment - psychodynamic formulation
 - 3 questions
 - Greatest wish and biggest fear?
 - What psychological resources does this person have? Can they function?
 - How does the person experience self and others?
 - Cognitive behavioral theorists (learned)
 - Classical conditioning - a previously neutral stimulus becomes paired with an emotional stimulus
 - Operant conditioning - runs on negative reinforcement
 - Increase behavior by taking something bad away
 - Avoiding social situations - anxiety goes down avoidance goes up
 - Biological Approach
 - Neural circuits - look at areas of the brain that are responsible for "normal" functioning
 - Diathesis - stress model
 - Underlying vulnerability (diathesis) + stress = disorder
 - System approach - look at the individual behavior in context of a social group
 - Family systems - treat family not just individual

- Evolutionary perspective
 - Random - likely to be weeded out
 - Are some trade-offs - too much anxiety is maladaptive but too little anxiety is too.

- Descriptive diagnoses
 - DSM - Diagnostics and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders - 4th edition
 - Provides a descriptive diagnosis classification of mental disorders
 - Multiaxial system of diagnosis
 - Axis 1 - symptoms
 - Axis 2 - personality disorders and intellectual disability - chronic problems
 - Axis 3 - medical conditions that are relevant
 - Axis 4 - psychosocial and environmental problems
 - Axis 5 - global assessment of functioning
 - First year medical student syndrome
 - Childhood Disorders
 - ADHD
 - Inattention, impulsiveness, hyperactivity
 - 5% of school aged children
 - Genetic component
 - Conduct Disorder
 - Physical aggressive, violation of norms, lack of remorse
 - 6-16% boys
 - 2-9% girls
 - Genetic + environmental
 - Substance Related Disorders
 - Alcoholism - use or abuse of alcohol to the level of social dysfunction
 - 18 million people in the U.S.
 - Other drugs
 - 2.5% of U.S. have been drug dependent at some point in their life
 - Schizophrenia - psychotic disturbance definition - disturbances in thought, perception, behavior, language, communication, and emotion