

Goal: To learn about and evaluate explanations and treatments of abnormal behavior that come out of an applying a social perspective

PART IIIC: SOCIAL PERSPECTIVES

Social Perspectives

- ① The biopsychosocial approach requires that we look beyond the individual to consider the wider social environment
- ① To do so benefits from adopting a developmental perspective, to examine the changing influences of family, peer group, neighborhood, society, and culture
- ① Of particular importance is consideration of the role of stress

Social Perspectives

- ① The developmental perspective
 - Family influences
 - Peer influences
 - Developmental challenges/stresses
 - Growing up: childhood and adolescence
 - Many forms of psychopathology have their onset during these times
 - Childhood adversity—linked to many forms of psychopathology

Social Perspectives

- Social and cultural sources of life stress
 - General Adaptation Syndrome revisited
 - The link between “life change units” and the risk of major illness (including psychological)
 - Variations in stressors: acute vs. chronic, mild vs. severe, brief vs. sustained
 - Predictable and controllable vs. unpredictable/uncontrollable: studies using the “triadic design”
 - The role of individual differences: people respond to stress in different ways

Social Perspectives

- ① The role of culture: the shared attitudes, beliefs and customs that connect people into discrete groups--does culture influence psychopathology?
- ① Social changes: as the U.S. undergoes rapid technological and social change, how does that influence us?
- ① The demographics of stress: income levels, race, gender, immigrant status, etc.