

Key Dates

- TU Apr 25 Begin Social Perspectives, Unit IIC and 26
- TH Apr 27 (last class) Unit 27; Social Perspective Assignment in class ; **Term Paper Step 4** (*attach graded Steps 1 and 3 with my “Term Paper Grading” sheet*)
- WE May 3 11:30-2:30 Final Exam (Part I Multiple Choice, Part II Short Essays); **Term Paper Step 4** (slight penalty) (*attach graded Steps 1 and 3 with my “Term Paper Grading” sheet*)

Goal: To learn about and evaluate the role that might be played by social factors in the origins of different forms of psychopathology

UNIT 26: SOCIAL INFLUENCES ON PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Learning Outcomes

- By the end of this class, you should be able to:
 - Define how psychologist use the term “attachment” and why they regard it as important.
 - Explain how stress and trauma might operate as precipitating factors in combination with predisposing factors in the development of psychopathology.
 - Describe some of the ways that gender, race, and ethnicity might play a role in a wide variety of areas of psychopathology.
 - Differentiate two very different ways in which researchers have explained the correlation that has been shown to exist between schizophrenia and socio-economic status.
 - Explain the many ways in which cultural/sub-cultural forces might influence psychopathology.

Social Influences

- ◎ The family and psychopathology
 - Review Freud's emphasis on the importance of the first 5 years of development
- ◎ The family and schizophrenia
 - Theories: "Schizophrenogenic" mothers, marital skew, the double bind model
 - Family-focused research in schizophrenia
 - Family dysfunction as a predictor: not clear
 - Expressed emotion (EE): possible connection to relapse

Social Influences

- The family and depression
 - Infant-mother *attachment*
 - Spitz's study of institutionalized infants
 - Experimental studies with monkeys
 - The influence of neglect
- Family origins of conduct and antisocial disorders
- Early sexual experience and sexual dysfunctions and paraphilia disorders

Social Influences

- ① Stress and psychopathology
 - Researchers have developed many tools for the measurement of life stress
 - Many studies have shown significant positive correlations between stress and psychopathology:
 - As a precipitating factor
 - As an aggravating factor
 - Early life stress, especially trauma, can also be a predisposing factor

Social Influences

- Stress and psychopathology
 - The role of life stress in precipitating depressive episodes
 - Stress and trauma as possible contributors to schizophrenia
 - Possible primary cause
 - Or, possible secondary cause, linked more to severity of psychotic symptoms, poor prognosis
 - Trauma as a factor in dissociative disorders

Social Influences

- Environmental factors
 - Substance use disorders: availability, peer group influence. modeling
 - Schizophrenia
 - Studies of “discordant” twins and perinatal stressors
 - Links to SES—but social causation or social drift?
 - Intellectual disability
 - Early deprivation, lack of stimulation

Social Influences

○ Cultural factors

- Gender and race or ethnicity show significant variations in many areas of psychopathology:
 - Anxiety disorders
 - Substance use disorders
 - Eating disorders
- Cultural variations in schizophrenia from cross-national studies
- Eating disorders and the American ideal of female beauty

Social Influences

- Do symptoms of mental disorders vary across cultures/sub-cultures?
- DSM-5 includes “culture-related issues” and “gender-related diagnostic issues” for almost every disorder
- Culture can influence not just the symptoms but how, or whether, they are understood and acknowledged; for example, perceiving them as medical or psychological, or seeking/not seeking help
- Unique syndromes: e.g., *ataque de nervios*