

# Key Dates

- TU Jan 24 Unit 3; “The myth of mental illness” (on course website)
- TH Jan 26 Unit 4
- TU Jan 31 Begin Dimensions-Emotion, Units IIA, 5; MW Ch 3 Paul
- TH Feb 2 Unit 6; MW Ch 3 Agnes, Bess

Goal: To show how our understanding of abnormal psychology has changed over time

# UNIT 2: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

# Learning Outcomes

- By the end of this class, you should be able to:
  - Explain the significance of the discovery of a link between general paresis and syphilis
  - Describe how Charcot's experiments with hypnosis and Pavlov's experiments with dogs led to a growing interest in psychological factors in psychopathology

# Historical Perspectives

- Changes in models and metaphors
  - An interesting example: The Salem witchcraft trials and abnormality as devil-possession
  - Paradigms: a framework for how we try to understand certain phenomena
  - Supernatural influences (gods or devils)
    - Biblical themes
    - Dance manias
    - Witchcraft
    - The persistence of exorcism, modern cult phenomena, Satanic rituals

# Historical Perspectives

- ◎ Naturalistic models
  - Hippocrates
  - The origins of controlled observations: Weyer
  - Asylums and humanitarian reforms: Dix, Pinel
  - The beginnings of classification: Kraepelin

# Historical Perspectives

- The organic/biological perspective
  - Early medical explanations (masturbation, the moon and “lunacy”) and treatments (bleeding)
  - Rush and the emphasis on medical science
  - General paresis, syphilis, and penicillin: underlying disease, biological cause, biological cure)
  - BUT, since the paresis breakthrough, very few others

# Historical Perspectives

- The psychological perspective
  - Mesmer and *mesmerism*
  - Charcot and studies of “hysteria”
  - Charcot’s influence on Freud: focus on psychological origins (“psycho”-analysis)
  - Experimental psychology and the study of learning and behavior: Pavlov and classical conditioning
  - Thorndike and the law of effect
  - Skinner and the experimental analysis of behavior