Mental disorders
(psychopathology, abnormal psychology)

Outline
• What is an “abnormal” behavior or mental process?
• Examine the nature and treatment of three quite different mental disorders:
  – Schizophrenia
  – Depression
  – Anti-social personality disorder

What is “abnormal”?
• Not a simple question
  – Important to get the answer as right as possible
• Psychiatrists and clinical psychologists are licensed to diagnose mental disorders
• They use the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)
  – Produced by the American Psychiatric Association

“Abnormal” per the DSM
• A behavioral or psychological syndrome
  – Syndrome (fr. Greek) = things that “run together”
• … associated with present distress or disability, or increased risk of such
  – To self or others
• … and not an expectable or culturally sanctioned response to an event

Schizophrenia
• A family of severe mental disorders
  – About 1% lifetime prevalence
• Concordance rates:
  – Fraternal twins: 0-28%
  – Identical twins: 41-65%
    • 60% for 1-placenta twins (2/3rd of pairs),
      11% for 2-placenta twins (1/3rd of pairs)

Schizophrenia
• Positive symptoms
  – Delusions: Fixed false beliefs
    • E.g., grandiosity, paranoia
  – Hallucinations: False sensory experiences
    • Auditory, visual
  – Disorganized behavior
Schizophrenia

- Negative symptoms
  - Flat affect: Absence of expression
  - Catatonia: Absence of movement
- Cognitive symptoms
  - Disordered language
  - Disordered thought
  - Psychosis: loss of contact with reality

Jerrold S.

Clinician: How are you doing?
JS: Not doing so hot. I think and feel as though people have called me here to electrocute me, judge me, put me in jail, or... kill me, electrocute me, because of the sins I've been in.
C: Is this a new feeling for you?
JS: Main thing is, don't get excited, but the thing is is, uh... Not a new feeling, no. I uh, I'm scared of people.
C: Must be very frightening for you, if you feel you're about to get killed.
JS: I'm so scared I could tell you that picture's got a headache.
C: Can you tell me more about that, the picture's got a headache?
JS: Do you want to know?
C: Yes I do.

Jerrold S.

JS: Ok, when a sperm and an egg go together to make a baby, only one sperm goes up in the egg, and when they touch, there's two contact points that touch before the other two, and... then it's carried up into the egg, and when they fuse, it's like nuclear fusion except it's human fusion, there's a mass lost the proton one heat abstraction goes up in the electron, spins around, comes back down in the proton to form the mind, and the mind can be reduced to one atom.

Dopamine hypothesis

Schizophrenia is linked to oversensitivity to dopamine

Augustine

C: You seem kind of down today.
A: Mm hmm.
C: ... Could you share with us something that's going on in your mind, or your feelings?
A: I'm feeling ok, basically, but mentally I'm a mess, all I have is thoughts going across my head, of all sorts.
C: Do they make sense?
A: No.
C: Is there anything you'd like to tell us or ask us?
A: ... No.
C: ... You're getting ready to change your medications, aren't you?
A: Yes... I'm looking forward to that.

Augustine, changed medication

A: I wanted to become a painter, a doctor of the church, a world leader, things of that sort.
C: Fairly grand ideas.
A: Yeah, I don't have them any more.
C: Back then, did you really believe those things? Were you really caught up in them?
A: I was caught up in them but I didn't believe I could make it.
C: You didn't think you'd make it.
A: Right.
C: What do you think now? What do you think the future holds?
A: Work.
C: Work?
A: Work.
Some structural brain abnormalities

- Enlarged ventricles (smaller brain)
- Scrambled neurons in the hippocampus

(Images from Fig. 16.28)

Heather

Ok and so that’s the problem, isn’t it? That’s the complaint, right? Well, uh, I have kryptonite in me. You know what that is, don’t you, kryptonite? And, uh... so if I have kryptonite in me and I drink coffee and soda, and no one else knows what to eat, I mean, you never had raw eggs? Do you ever have raw eggs? Do you eat raw eggs? When I was pregnant – I think boys get pregnant and girls don’t, yeah, it’s true – but I ate raw eggs, but uh, do you eat raw eggs?

Schizophrenia

- A family of devastating diseases
  - Symptoms are often pronounced
  - But not every case has all of them
- Cases are often associated with clear brain abnormalities
  - Could be cause or effect or both