Unit 6: Psychological Disorders and Treatment
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Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s): **AP Psychology**
Time Period: **February**
Length: **4 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Transfer Skills

Psychological Disorders and Treatment: The wounded and the healers

Enduring Understandings

Behaviors that result in significant and persistent discomfort or harm for a person or others is considered abnormal behavior.

Attempts to understand why people behave abnormally have led to different models or perspectives of abnormal behavior.

The purpose of therapy is to help people overcome psychological problems.

Biomedical therapies use physical and medical procedures such as drugs and surgery.

Psychotherapy or talk therapy is a nonmedical technique used to help people overcome their problems.

Essential Questions

Why can diagnostic labels sometimes be dangerous?

Why do you think medication should or should not be mandatory for people suffering from psychological disorders?

Why should or shouldn’t society have a right to define what is considered normal or abnormal behavior?

How should the criminally insane be treated?

Content

Vocabulary

Anxiety Disorders, Mood Disorders, Personality Disorders, Psychotic Disorders, Dissociative Disorders, DSM-IV, Hallucinations, Delusions, Behavioral Therapy, Biomedical Therapy, Client Centered Therapy, Electroconvulsive Therapy, Group Therapy, Cognitive Therapy, Gestalt Therapy, Humanistic Therapy, Psychotherapy, Psychoanalysis, Transference, Countertransference, Dream Analysis, Free Association, Resistance, Rational Emotive Therapy.

People

Carl Rogers, Sigmund Freud, Albert Ellis, Aaron Beck, Fritz Pearls.

Skills

Define what a psychological disorder is and the criteria used to judge psychologically disordered behavior.

Explain the purpose, uses, and criticisms of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

Define the different types of anxiety and mood disorders.

Describe the symptoms and causes personality and psychotic disorders.

Describe the symptoms and causes of dissociative disorders.

Describe the different types of personality disorders.

Describe the psychotherapies of psychoanalysis, behavioral therapy, cognitive therapy and humanistic therapy.

Describe the biomedical therapies.

Discuss the use and effectiveness of electroconvulsive therapy.

Resources

Standards

XII. Abnormal Behavior

AP students in psychology should be able to do the following:

- Describe contemporary and historical conceptions of what constitutes psychological disorders.
- Recognize the use of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) published by the American Psychiatric Association as the primary reference for making diagnostic judgments.
- Discuss the major diagnostic categories, including anxiety and somatoform disorders, mood disorders, schizophrenia, organic disturbance, personality disorders, and dissociative disorders, and their corresponding symptoms.
- Evaluate the strengths and limitations of various approaches to explaining psychological disorders: medical model, psychoanalytic, humanistic, cognitive, biological, and sociocultural.
- Identify the positive and negative consequences of diagnostic labels (e.g., the Rosenhan study).
- Discuss the intersection between psychology and the legal system (e.g., confidentiality, insanity defense).

XIII. Treatment of Abnormal Behavior

AP students in psychology should be able to do the following:

- Describe the central characteristics of psychotherapeutic intervention
- Describe major treatment orientations used in therapy (e.g., behavioral, cognitive, humanistic) and how those orientations influence therapeutic planning.
- Compare and contrast different treatment formats (e.g., individual, group).
- Summarize effectiveness of specific treatments used to address specific problems.
- Discuss how cultural and ethnic context influence choice and success of treatment (e.g., factors that lead to premature termination of treatment).
- Describe prevention strategies that build resilience and promote competence.
- Identify major figures in psychological treatment (e.g., Aaron Beck, Albert Ellis, Sigmund Freud, Mary Cover Jones, Carl Rogers, B. F. Skinner, Joseph Wolpe).

2.C.2	Create positive and supportive relationships with other students
2.C.4	Demonstrate empathy
SCI.9-12.IV.4	Psychological Disorders
SCI.9-12.IV.4.1	Perspectives on abnormal behavior
SCI.9-12.IV.4.1.1	Define psychologically abnormal behavior
SCI.9-12.IV.4.1.4	Discuss how stigma relates to abnormal behavior
SCI.9-12.IV.4.1.5	Discuss the impact of psychological disorders on the individual, family, and society
SCI.9-12.IV.4.2	Categories of psychological disorders
SCI.9-12.APS.1	Treatment of Psychological Disorders
SCI.9-12.APS.1.3	Legal, ethical, and professional issues in the treatment of psychological disorders