PSY 327 – Abnormal Psychology
Module 2 Outline

I. Causes and Risk Factors for Abnormal Behavior
   A. Necessary, Sufficient, and Contributory Causes
   B. Feedback and Bi-directionality in Abnormal Behavior
   C. Diathesis-Stress Models

II. Viewpoints for Understanding the Causes of Abnormal Behavior
   A. The understanding and treatment of abnormal behavior has moved from
      biological, to unconscious psychological forces, to sociocultural influences on
      behavior. Today the field takes a more inclusive interactionist perspective.
   B. The biopsychosocial viewpoint incorporates the biological, psychological and
      sociocultural factors and looks at how nature and nurture interact to produce mental
      health issues.

III. The Biological Viewpoint and Biological Causal Factors
   A. Mental disorders are viewed as disorders of the central nervous system, the
      autonomic nervous system, and/or the endocrine system that are inherited or
      caused by some pathological process.
   B. Imbalances of Neurotransmitters and Hormones
   C. Genetic Vulnerabilities
   D. Temperament
   E. Brain Dysfunction and Neural Plasticity
   F. The Impact of the Biological Viewpoint

IV. The Psychosocial Viewpoints
   A. The Psychodynamic Perspectives
   B. The Behavioral Perspective
   C. The Cognitive-Behavioral Perspective
   D. What the Adoption of a Perspective Does and Does Not Do

V. Psychosocial Causal Factors
   A. Early Deprivation or Trauma
   B. Inadequate Parenting Styles
   C. Marital Discord and Divorce
   D. Maladaptive Peer Relationships

VI. The Sociocultural Viewpoint
   A. Uncovering Sociocultural Factors through Cross-Cultural Studies

VII. Sociocultural Causal Factors
   A. Low Socioeconomic Status and Unemployment
   B. Prejudice and Discrimination in Race, Gender, and Ethnicity
   C. Social change and uncertainty
   D. Urban stressors: Violence and homelessness
   E. Impact of the Sociocultural Viewpoint

IX. The Basic Elements in Assessment
   A. The Relationship between Assessment and Diagnosis
   B. Taking a Social or Behavioral History
   C. Ensuring Culturally Sensitive Assessment Procedures
   D. The Influence of Professional Orientation
E. Reliability, Validity, and Standardization

X. Assessment of the Physical Organism
   A. The General Physical Examination
   B. The Neurological Examination
   C. The Neuropsychological Examination

XI. Psychosocial Assessment
   A. Assessment Interviews
   B. The Clinical Observation of Behavior
   C. Psychological Tests
   D. Advantages and Limitations of Objective Personality Tests
   E. Case of Esteban For Case of Andrea

XII. The Integration of Assessment Data
   A. Integration of assessment data prior to treatment allows the clinician to formulate
      a plan for treatment and allows for the discovery of gaps or discrepancies in
      knowledge about the client
   B. Additional assessment data collected during treatment can allow clinician to
      determine how effective treatment is and allow for modification to improve success
   C. Ethical Issues in Assessment

XIII. Classifying Abnormal Behavior
   A. Classification allows communication, improves research, and is required by many
      insurance companies for reimbursement
   B. Classification systems are ongoing works-in-progress as new knowledge allows
      more precision
   C. Differing Models of Classification
   D. Reliability and Validity