

## **Module Handbook Psychopathology (PS4095) 2017-2018**

### **Module overview**

The module (Lecturer: Dr Reiner Sprengelmeyer) takes place in the Seminar Room in the School of Psychology, Mondays from 9:15 to 11:45.

**If you have any questions, feel free to ask. I will always be available after the lectures in the Seminar Room, you can come along to my office (Room 2.68), or you can email me at any time.**

### **Continuous assessment: proposed deadline 3rd of April**

Describe in 2500 to a maximum of 3000 words the clinical features of Autistic Spectrum Disorder, discuss and integrate explanatory approaches and suggest a comprehensive treatment plan.

**Exam:** Seen Exam with 3 questions with a word limit of 500 words per question.

Good basic Textbooks for this module are:

**Davey, G. (2014) Psychopathology: Research, Assessment and Treatment in Clinical Psychology. 2nd Edition. Blackwell.**

**Kring, A.M., Johnson, S.L., Davison, G.C., and Neale, J.M. (2014) Abnormal Psychology, 13th Edition, Wiley.**

### **The seminar aims to cover the following topics:**

- General introduction: Defining - Explaining - Treating Psychopathology
- Autism
- Schizophrenia
- Depression
- Anxiety Disorders
- Neurological Disorders (including one session with Test demonstrations/hands on approach in small groups)
- Eating Disorders

## **1 Introduction into Psychopathology**

This lecture contains 2 sections - the first section tries to define psychopathology, looking at it from different angles, after that, an overview over classification systems for mental disorders is given with focus on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (the DSM 5), is given.

The second section looks at historic and current biological and psychological approaches to explain psychopathology, such as Demonology, Psychoanalysis, Behavioural approaches and Cognitive and Humanistic concepts. An overview over treatment strategies based on these explanatory approaches will be given.

Treatment strategies in the biological domain are ECT, Neurosurgery, and medication. In the psychological domain, we look at psychoanalytical, behavioural, cognitive and humanistic approaches for explaining and treatment of psychological disorders. Important treatment approaches are illustrated with film clips.

**This section covers 3 teaching sessions.**

### **Autism Spectrum Disorders**

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a wide field of communicating disorders which range from severely impaired people with deficits in all domains of social communication and cognitive deficits to high functioning autism and people with Asperger's Syndrome, whose impairments are difficult to spot for the uninformed.

This lecture gives an overview over the various forms of ASD and focuses on people with Asperger's syndrome. The clinical symptoms of Asperger's syndrome will be presented in detail – Lack of theory of mind, the separation of unimpaired emotional empathy and cognitive empathy, and weak central coherence. This will be exemplified with a single case description.

Various ways to diagnose the disorder will be presented.

**This section covers 1 teaching session.**

### **Schizophrenia**

The first part of the lecture on Schizophrenia looks at the development of the concept of the disorder from Bleuler and Kraepelin to the modern Definition of the DSM-5. The change of focus in describing the disorder from negative symptoms to positive disease signs such as delusions and hallucinations will be highlighted.

Biological explanations such as genetics, brain abnormalities and brain differences, the dopaminergic hypothesis, as well as Psychological explanatory approaches with focus on dysfunctional family interaction will be introduced.

Part 2 of the Schizophrenia lecture looks at behavioural (Token economy), biological (Neurosurgery, Medication), and psychological (Family therapy) treatment approaches.

**This section covers 2 teaching sessions.**

### **Depression**

Clinical Features of different Mood disorders (Major Depressive Disorder, Bipolar disorder and Schizoaffective disorder) are described, supplemented by current DSM 5 Definition. Biological Theories (Genetic predisposition, Neurotransmitter imbalance, Depression as a Neuropsychological Syndrome), and Psychological Theories (Lack of Reinforcement, Cognitive Schemas, Learned Helplessness) will be presented. The different explanatory approaches will be summarised in an integrated concept of the disorder, which fosters a better understanding of the disorder and helps to organise effective, multifaceted treatment.

After that, various ways (biological and psychological) ways to treat depression based on an integrated view on the disorder will be discussed. At the end of the lecture, I will speak about suicide and self-harm, which form important aspects of depression.

**This section covers 2 teaching sessions.**

### **Specific Phobias**

This lecture picks the specific phobias out of the wider field of anxiety disorders. Clinical features of phobias will be presented and various explanatory approaches presented. These are behavioural explanations (Mowrer's two factor model incorporating classical and operant conditioning, biological preparedness, and the emotion of disgust). Behavioral and cognitive treatments will be presented and illustrated with short film clips.

**This section covers 2 teaching sessions.**

### **Neurological Disorders**

This lecture gives an overview over various pathologies which can impact on the normal functioning of the brain – these are brain tumours which arise from the coverings as well as from the supporting structure of the brain (Meningiomas, Astrocytomas, Oligodendrogliomas) and metastatic tumours, as well as rupture and occlusion of brain vessels, inflammation of the brain, and traumatic brain injuries.

Emphasis will be on neurodegenerative disorders (Huntington's Disease, and Alzheimer's Disease). The focus here will be on the underlying neuropathology and the clinical expression of the disorder.

In addition, major neuropsychological syndromes will be summarised.

**This section covers 1 teaching session.**

## **Eating disorders**

This lecture will focus on eating disorders with particular emphasis on Anorexia Nervosa, Bulimia Nervosa, and Binge eating disorder. The biological underpinnings of eating disorders are not well understood, and psychological explanations for the disorders will be in the foreground.

**This section covers 1 teaching session.**

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