

Intro to...

Abnormal Psychology

A.K.A. Psychological Disorders



behavior is judged to be deviant,
distressful, and dysfunctional.

Deviant: being different from most other people in one's culture; may vary by context (example – wartime) and time (example - homosexuality was classified as an illness from 1952 to 1973)

Distressful: causes the individual stress (pain, anxiety, sorrow, etc.)



Dysfunction: considered to be disorderly if it
impairs your everyday life





Early Theories



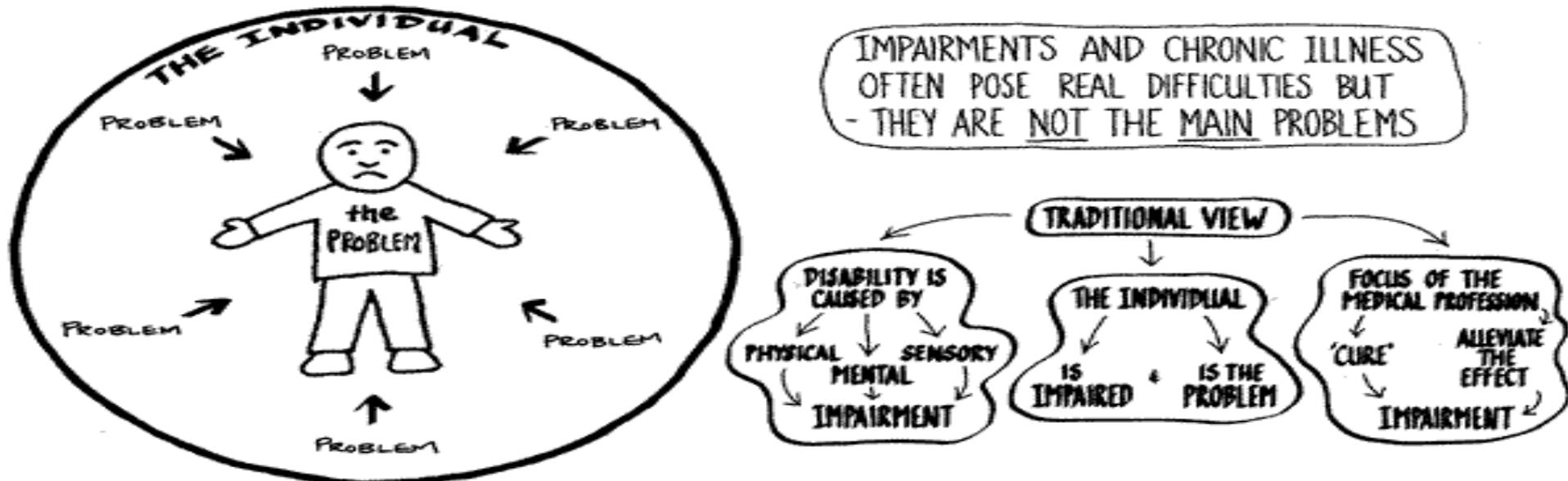
- Abnormal behavior was evil spirits trying to get out, godlike powers, movement of stars
- Treatments: institutionalized, castration, drilling holes in skull, removing intestines, transfusion of animal blood, and more



Medical Model

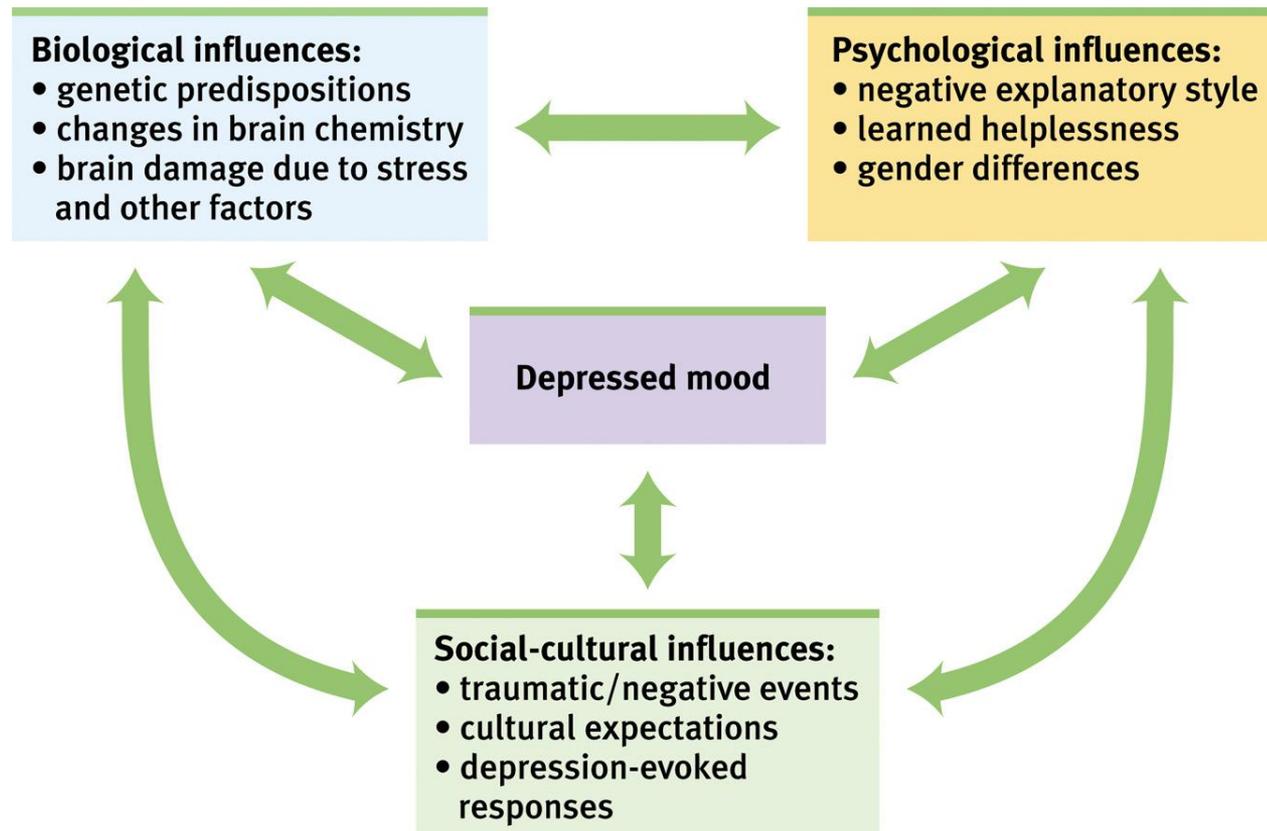
- By the 1800s, we started reforming the way we looked at mental illness and developed the medical model
- Mental illness needs to be diagnosed on basis of symptoms and cured through therapy and treatment

THE MEDICAL MODEL OF DISABILITY

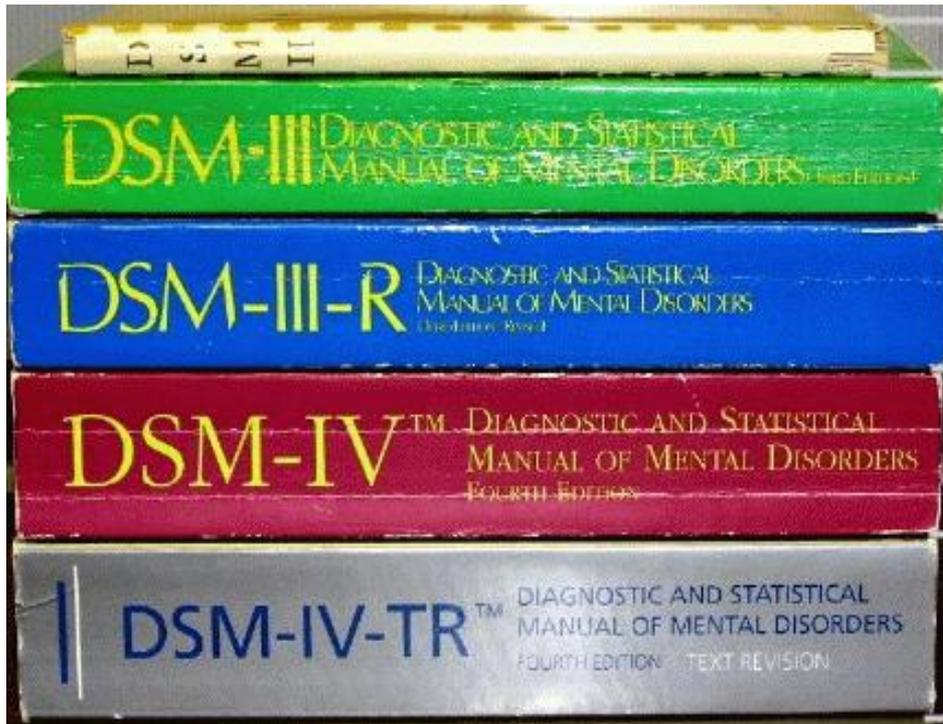


Biopsychosocial Approach

- considers combination of biological, psychological, and social factors as contributing to development of disorders



DSM IV



- American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, a widely used system for classifying psychological disorders
- Lists symptoms, examples, etc.
- Helps psychologists diagnose disorders
- Used by insurance companies

People First Language

- seeing individuals as people first and not defined by their disorder
- Ex: “a person with schizophrenia,” not “a schizophrenic”
- Labels can negatively affect the way we perceive people
 - Example: What emotions come to you when you hear the words “cancer patient?”
- Labels can result in self-fulfilling prophecies



Criticisms

- Are people with disorders truly mentally ill or are they just deviating from social norms?
- **Rosenhan Study:** associates were malingering symptoms of hearing voices.
- They were ALL admitted for schizophrenia.
- None were exposed as imposters.
- They all left diagnosed with schizophrenia in remission.
- What are some of the questions raised by this study?

