Psychological Disorder – A psychological dysfunction within an individual associated with distress or impairment in functioning and a response that is not typical or culturally expected.

Phobia – A psychological disorder characterized by marked and persistent fear of an object or situation

Abnormal Behavior – Same definition as psychological disorder

Psychological Dysfunction – Refers to a breakdown in cognitive, emotional, or behavioral functioning.

Most psychological disorders are simply extreme expressions of otherwise normal emotions, behaviors, and cognitive processes

Prototype – When most or all symptoms that experts would agree are part of the disorder are present

Psychopathy – The scientific study of psychological disorders.

Counseling Psychologists – Receive the Ph.D. degree and follow a course of graduate-level study that prepares them to conduct research into the causes and treatment of psychological disorders and to diagnose, assess, and treat these disorders. Typically clinical psychologists usually concentrate on more severe psychological disorders whereas counseling psychologists tent to study and treat adjustment and vocational issues encountered by relatively health individuals.

Psychiatrists also investigate the nature and causes of psychological disorders, often from a biological point of view; make diagnoses; and offer treatments

Psychiatric social workers – Develop an expertise in collecting information relevant to the social and family situation of the individuals with the psychological disorder.

Many mental health professionals take a scientific approach to their clinical work and therefore are called *scientist-practitioners*

Presents – is a traditional shorthand way of indicating why the person came to the clinic

Clinical description – Which represents the unique combination of behaviors, thoughts, and feelings that make up a specific disorder

Clinical – Refers both to the types of problems or disorders that you would find in a clinic or hospital and to the activities connected with assessment and treatment

Prevalence – How many people in the population as a whole have the disorder?

Incidence – Statistics on how many new cases occur during a given period, such as a year

Sex Ratio – What percentage of males and females have the disorder and the typical age of onset

Chronic Course – They tent to last a long time, sometimes a lifetime

Course – Follow a somewhat individual pattern

Episodic Course – The individual is likely to recover within a few months only to suffer a recurrence of the disorder at a later time

Life-limited Course – The disorder will improve without treatment in a relatively short time

Acute Onset – They begin slowly

Insidious Onset – They develop gradually over an extended period

Prognosis – The anticipate course of a disorder

Studying Psychological Disorders -> Focus -> Clinical Description, causation (etiology), and Treatment & outcome

Developmental Psychology – The study of changes in behavior over time

Abnormal Psychology – The study of changes in abnormal behavior

Life-span developmental psychology – study of abnormal behavior across the entire age span

Etiology – The study of origins, why a disorder begins (What causes it) and includes biological, psychological, and social dimensions

Effect does not necessarily imply the cause