Introduction to Psychology

Film Project

Presentations on Tuesday 5/28 and Thursday 5/30 (2 each day)

Psychological Disorders and their portrayal in film

**Part I: Exploration of a psychological disorder: Brochure** 50 %

You are going to create a brochure on a disorder to hand out to your classmates.

1) Choose a psychological disorder you are interested in.

2) Include typical symptoms of the disorder.

3) What are the different theories on the causes of the disorder (bio-psycho-social)?

4) What specific treatments, therapeutic and medication, are used for the disorder?

5) Prevalence (i.e. age, culture, family patterns)

6) Interesting facts about the disorder (i.e. popular or famous people with the disorder)

7) Brochure should be easy to read and understand.

8) Include at least 3 sources: remember, we are not psychologists. This is an activity of exploration.

**Part II: Watch a film 50 %**

Watch a popular film that depicts a character with your disorder and show a scene(s) from your movie during your presentation that clearly portrays the disorder.

Goals of the Presentation

* provide a brief overview of the film, describing the main characters and defining the disorder depicted (I do not want an entire plot summary)
* an explanation of the symptoms of the disorder, and specific examples from the film of these symptoms
* an explanation of the therapies and treatments of the disorder, and specific examples from the film of those therapies and treatments
* discuss how the concept/disorder was either accurately or inaccurately portrayed

Presentation - 20-25 minutes in length.

Your presentation will provide to your listeners a sense that you possess appropriate familiarity with your topic, and that you have genuinely immersed yourself in the relevant material.

You will employ good presentation technique:

Enunciate (very important!)

Make eye contact with your listeners

Modulate your vocal tone

Avoid “filler” language (”so,” “um,” “yeah”)

Have your last sentence or two in mind before you begin

**Disorder List** (organized by category and subcategories), students choose one of the subcategories.

1. Psychotic Disorder – difficulty recognizing reality

a. Schizophrenia

2. Mood Disorders – disturbances of emotions

a. Depression

b. Bipolar

3. Anxiety Disorder – unexplained feelings of apprehensions and tenseness

a. Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

b. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

c. Panic

4. Dissociative Disorder – person’s sense of self separates from the individual’s memories, thoughts or feelings

a. Dissociative Identity Disorder

b. Dissociate amnesia

c. Dissociate fugue

5. Somatoform Disorder – physical problems occur for psychological reasons.

a. Hypochondriasis

b. Conversion Disorder

6. Personality Disorder – unpleasant and peculiar personality patterns

a. Antisocial Personality Disorder

b. Borderline Personality Disorder

7. Body Dysmorphia & Eating Disorders – obsessive dissatisfaction with one’s bodily appearance perhaps resulting in specific behaviors towards food that are different than others

a. Anorexia

b. Bulimia

c. Body Dysmorphia

Film Ideas:

* Awakenings
* One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest
* A Beautiful Mind
* Rain Man
* The Aviator
* Memento
* Regarding Henry
* Sybil
* Girl Interrupted
* Nell
* Benny and Joon
* Temple Grandin
* As Good as it Gets
* Good Will Hunting
* Iris
* The Three Faces of Eve
* Black Swan