

“Public Pathology”
Critical Thinking Assignment
Psychology 350
Spring 2008
Dr. Young

This assignment is designed to help you make the critical connections between the major ideas we are exploring this semester between diagnosis, etiology (origin) of a disorder, psychological and psychiatric treatment of a disorder, and likely outcome or prognosis. To help you understand these components I would like you to select a “case” from the public records (a real person – present or past) or from fiction (novels, film, television) and present the cases from the viewpoint of one or more of the particular paradigms we have explored. The paradigms or models could include psychoanalytic, cognitive behavioral, learning theories, biological (medical), or other approaches we have covered.

The paper should be no longer than two pages or so typed and double-spaced. Your paper should take the format of:

1. Identity of your “patient” and characteristics leading to the diagnosis. Give case background here.
2. Etiology – explain how this case developed according to your chosen model.
3. Likely treatment options - that you might recommend – again according to the model of pathology you have developed.
4. Prognosis - Here you can explain how effective or ineffective you think your treatment might be.

Please enjoy this assignment and be creative. Don’t be afraid to stretch the limits of your ideas as the assignment is being graded on a “pass-fail” basis so there is no set answer for each diagnostic condition you select. Also please feel free to contact me in person or via whatever means you like to run ideas by me or consult about possible “cases.” As always, I welcome any questions about the assignment.