III. Theory Testing and Research Methods used in Psychopathology

Describe each of the main components of a "good theory."

Describe the impact of empirical results on a theory when: 1) The results continually (i.e., across studies) are at odds with the theory, and 2) The results continually provide partial support for the theory (being consistent with the theory in some respects and inconsistent with the theory in other respects).

Describe the advantages and limitations associated with the mixed design and when it would be most appropriate to use this design (e.g., for what kinds of questions is this design best suited?).

[You might be given a description of a study and asked questions about it, such as the type of design it is and why, to critique the design in terms of flaws, etc.]

[You also may be given questions that ask you to integrate material from the various topics, such as a question concerning theory testing and research design as it pertains to schizophrenia and personality disorders]
Sample Questions for Exam 1
Psyc 25: Psychopathology
Instructor: Mr. Metalsky

The following questions are NOT intended to be used as a study guide; instead, they are intended to give you a feel for the type of questions I ask. Note that each question will designate the topic being covered.

Sample Questions

I. Historical and Theoretical Perspectives (Paradigms)

Describe what is meant by the term "paradigm" as used by the instructor. Include advantages and limitations associated with using paradigms in studying abnormal behavior.

Describe Freud's distinction between the id, ego, and superego. Include the age during which each develops and the function of each.

Describe two different types of defense mechanisms which were posited by Freud. Include in your answer whether the defense mechanisms are id, ego, or superego functions, as well as the purpose of defense mechanisms in general.

Like Maslow, Roger's argued that people have an innate drive toward self-actualization but can become "derailed" from this growth potential. Describe the main reasons people stray from the path toward self-actualization, as posited by Rogers.

Hippocrates had a major impact on the field of psychopathology. Describe this impact, including the type of view and treatment of abnormal behavior which developed following Hippocrates.

II. Classification and Diacmosis of Psychopathology

The DSM IV is a multi-axial system. Describe why there was a need to incorporate more than one axis into the DSM IV.

Describe the criticisms which have been raised with regard to classifying abnormal behavior.

A classification system should possess reliability. Describe what is meant by reliability as it pertains to making diagnoses. In addition, evaluate how well or poorly the DSM IV stacks-up with respect to reliability.