Jim wears an aluminum foil hat on his head at all time. This, he says, is to keep the microwaves out of his brain. He believes that doctors in a big Boston hospital are controlling his brain as part of a conspiracy to take over the country. He says that he hears their voices broadcast directly into his head.

How weird is Jim?

Fine 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Very Weird

Sam is a shy, almost withdrawn man. His major passion is collecting women’s undergarments. He doesn't DO anything with them. He just arranges them by age and country of origin. He lives alone and does not socialize much.

How weird is Sam?

Fine 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Very Weird

Jack believes that the US is controlled by a small group of capitalists. He advocates a workers revolution. He gives long speeches on the subject to anyone who will listen in Harvard Square. He also "publishes" a photocopied "newspaper" devoted to his views.

How weird is Jack?

Fine 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Very Weird

By the end of the next two lectures you should have some thoughts about

THE BIG QUESTION:
Are psychiatric disorders best thought of as mental illness or brain disease?
How does nature/nurture play out in this domain?
You should also know something about specific disorders: notably, schizophrenia & depression

Schizophrenia as an example (Is this the same as multiple personality disorder? …say “no”)

What would Freud have said? Was he right?

What emptied the hospitals of schizophrenic patients?
Chlorpromazine=thorazine


The dopamine hypothesis

What causes schizophrenia

Mental illness can have a clear organic cause – example?

A side trip: dementia paralytica
Lecture 23: Mind and Brain in Psychiatry

Mental illness can have a clear psychological cause – example?
Mental illness can have a clear sociological cause – example?

A side trip: "Drapetomania".

Is there evidence for a genetic component to schizophrenia?
Is there evidence for an environmental component to schizophrenia?

How shall we treat mental illness?

Depression as an example

DEMO: Let us consider some patients: Sarah, Sam, Emma

What are the differences between these cases?

Varieties of depression

Are drugs the answer?

Time course of anti-depressants is interesting (why?).

The return of the humors:

The olde humors: blood, phlegm, yellow bile, black bile
The new humors…maybe
norepinephrine - reward dependence
serotonin - harm avoidance
dopamine - novelty seeking.

Panic attacks as an example

Maybe a word about the James-Lange Theory of Emotion

Do we treat the mind or the brain?

Obsessive compulsive disorder as an example


Prozac is a specific serotonin re-uptake inhibitor.

Who should we give drugs to?

Giving your kid that pharmacological edge.