Psychiatric Disorders Associated With Criminal Behavior
“Individuals with these illnesses are not criminals merely because they have the disorder. It is more accurate to say that these disorders are more closely linked to criminality, because these disorders include symptoms that tend to violate the rights of others.”

- Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition, Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR)
Anxiety Disorder:
Generalized Anxiety Disorder

- Characterized by excessive, uncontrollable and often irrational worry.
- Symptoms must last at least six months.
- Often interferes with daily functioning.
- Common areas of worry:
  - health, money, death, family and friendship problems
- Physical symptoms:
  - fatigue, fidgeting, headaches, nausea, irritability, agitation, sweating, insomnia.
Anxiety Disorder: Generalized Anxiety Disorder
Example: Piglet from Winnie the Pooh

• Description of the Problem
Piglet is a very timid piglet. He shows characteristics of anxiety and he stutters. He thinks of how any situation can go wrong and he argues with himself about what he should do if a situation does go wrong. For example, while trying to catch a heffalump, Piglet thinks to himself how he can fake a headache so he will not have to face one of these creatures, in case it is fierce. Then he thinks to himself that if he fakes a headache he will be stuck in bed all morning, so he does not know what to do. These are the types of scenarios that make him anxious. He has thoughts that he creates that jump from one bad scenario to another. Piglet also shakes and blushes. His ears twitch when he is scared or nervous, which is often. He is usually very flustered.
Anxiety Disorder:
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder

- Characterized by intrusive thoughts that produce uneasiness, apprehension, fear, or worry.
- Repetitive behaviors aimed at reducing the associated anxiety: excessive washing; repeated checking; extreme hoarding; nervous rituals
- These behaviors often cause severe emotional and financial distress.
- Often confused with being paranoid and potentially psychotic.
- OCD sufferers generally recognize their obsessions and compulsions as irrational.
Anxiety Disorder:
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
Example: TV Series - Monk

- Description of the Problem
The greatest catalyst of Monk’s behaviors seems to be the tragic death of his wife, Trudy, who was murdered in a car bombing. Adrian was previously employed by the SFPD as a homicide detective but received a psychiatric discharge after the murder of his wife. Following his wife’s death, Adrian retreated to his home and refused to leave for three years. With the help of his nurse/assistant, he has reluctantly entered out into the world again, but still suffers from extreme obsessions, compulsions, and fears. Adrian has been unable to solve his wife’s homicide, and this causes great emotional distress to him. He often re-visits and obsesses over the case.

Adrian self-reports that he has 312 phobias and continues to accumulate more as time goes on. These phobias range from common fears such as heights or germs to unordinary fears such as, milk or mushrooms. Adrian also suffers from phobias of dentists, sharp objects, vomiting, ladybugs, glaciers, death, snakes, crowds, fear and small spaces. These fears prohibit him from completing everyday tasks such as driving, shopping, and social interaction.

Adrian’s work as a consultant for the SFPD requires him to visit crime scenes and evaluate evidence. His photographic memory is especially helpful in his line of work. However, his anxiety often prevents him from being able to use his talents. For example, he arrived at a crime scene that had a burnt out bulb in a chandelier and was unable to work until the bulb had been changed. In another instance, he was unable to work because a police officer’s zipper was undone. Adrian is very intent on every aspect of his life being orderly, neat, and clean. He has a habit of cleaning household cleaning appliances, such as vacuums. Balance and symmetry are also important. While working undercover at a bank, he added his own money to every deposit so that the amounts would be whole dollars. He also declined to see a therapist with an amputated arm because he could not get over the asymmetry.

Adrian keeps a meticulous home, with everything in order at all times. He is obsessed with cleaning and cleaning products. He has established certain menus and ways of eating that he also finds organized and acceptable. For example, he will only drink a certain kind of water and cuts his pancakes into squares because he prefers the symmetry. If travel is absolutely necessary, he goes to extreme lengths to pack. Everything must be kept in sealed plastic bags and he will often pack brand new, individually wrapped bedding so he does not have to use something that someone else has used.
Anxiety Disorder:
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

- May develop after a person is exposed to one or more traumatic events, such as sexual assault, serious injury or the threat of death.
- Diagnosis may be given when a group of symptoms such as disturbing recurring flashbacks, avoidance or numbing of memories of the event, and high levels of anxiety continue for more than a month.
Anxiety Disorder: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder 
Example: Holden Caulfield from *The Catcher in the Rye*

- PTSD is generally associated with people who've experienced horrific events like war, any traumatic incident can cause it. Holden has had to deal with both a brother dying of leukemia and seeing a classmate commit suicide while wearing his borrowed sweater.
Anxiety Disorder: Social Phobia

- Fear of public situations and scrutiny which leads to embarrassment or humiliation.
- Extreme feelings of self-consciousness built into powerful fear.
Anxiety Disorder: 
Social Phobia 
Example: Barry Egan from the movie *Punch-Drunk Love* 

- **Background Information**
  Barry Egan is a Caucasian male in his early to mid-forties who lives alone in an apartment in Los Angeles, California. He is the owner of a small business that sells novelty items. Barry is not suffering from any known medical conditions or other health problems, but appears to have some mental health concerns. He is easily provoked into violent tantrums in which he punches walls, breaks windows, or destroys others personal property. He does not appear to have any alcohol or drug dependencies; in fact, he appears to drink alcohol very minimally. Barry has seven sisters, all of whom are very domineering and verbally abusive to him. Barry's sisters have tormented and ridiculed him since childhood. As an adult, his sisters are still very controlling of his life and continue to torment him with embarrassing stories from his childhood. Barry has difficulty with personal relationships and appears to be lonely. His goals include growing his business. His hobbies include finding unbelievably good deals and repairing and learning to play the harmonium. Barry can be rather naïve and trusting of others, which leads to being taken advantage of and making poor financial decisions.
Anxiety Disorder: Specific Phobia

- Persistent unreasonable fear of an object or situation.
- Also include concerns with losing control, panicking, and fainting which is the direct result of an encounter with the phobia.
Anxiety Disorder:
Specific Phobia
Example: Ron Weasley from the Harry Potter Movies

Background Information:
Ron Weasley is first presented to the public audience as a young, goofy 11-year-old wizard boy. Throughout the series he transitions into a mature young adult. He attends Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Overall he is an average student never going above in expectations and never going under. He is the youngest boy in the Weasley family out of Bill, Charlie, Percy, Fred, and George. He also has a younger sister Ginny, who he is very protective of. His mother, Molly, is an incredibly loving woman, taking care of her children and running a very crazy household. Her husband’s name is Arthur Weasley and he works a modest job at the Ministry of Magic. The Weasley family is very rare in the wizardry world because they come from what is known as pureblood. This means that the Weasley family only have witch and wizard blood in their biological line. It is rare and often used by other Wizardry family has a way to declare dominance among their kind. The Weasleys, however, do not mistreat others and do not consider themselves to be above the rest of the wizardry population. Their good nature is one of the few things they are rich with, as there are very poor with only a modest income. They have been known to pass on handed down clothing among the children and make them handmade gifts because they cannot afford much else. They struggle finically with getting their children everything they need for school and they live in a small house that is referred to as the Burrow. Ron has a particularly difficult time dealing with the teasing that is brought on to his family because of their financial standing. He often has to defend his family to other people, especially towards Draco Malfoy, who is not afraid to bring up the handed down clothing whenever he wants to insult Ron.

Specific fear is arachnophobia.
Anxiety Disorder:
Specific Phobia
Example: Marlin from the movie Finding Nemo

• Marlin is terrified of sharks.
Anxiety Disorder:
Panic Disorder

- Recurring severe panic attacks
- Often found in people with agoraphobia.
- Agoraphobia is a fear of public places.
Anxiety Disorder:
Panic Disorder Without Agoraphobia

• **Background Information**
Tony was born of Italian descent on August 24, 1960 and is male. At time of symptoms Tony was 39 years of age. Tony Soprano declares himself to be in the “waste management” business but is actually involved in criminal activity. The Tony is the *capo* in the Dilteo crime family. The duties included with this occupation are collecting “loans” and “persuading” people to pay back money that was “loaned” to them. These “persuasions” include physical attacks as well as other forms of violence. Tony has the added responsibility to attempt to keep peace between him and other members of the organization. Tony is in relatively good health for a man his age, but is noticeably overweight. Tony’s family mental health is very stressful. Tony has stressful relationships with his wife and work associates. An especially stressful and dysfunctional relationship with the mother is also present. Tony has a history of alcohol and tobacco use. Major life difficulties include stress from work and problems from aging mother. Tony displays poor coping skills, often resorting to anger and aggression. The use of alcohol and promiscuous relationships are used as escaping behaviors.

• **Diagnosis**
Diagnosis for the Tony meets criteria for Panic disorder without Agoraphobia, DSM-4 TR code 300.01. Tony has recurrent, unexpected panic attacks and shows worry about the implications of the attack (e.g. losing control). The Tony does not display characteristics of agoraphobia. The panic attacks do not appear to be due to the Tony’s use of alcohol, tobacco, or any other pre-existing physical conditions.
Anxiety Disorder:
Panic Disorder With Agoraphobia
Example: Dr. Helen Hudson from the movie *Copycat* (1995)

**Background Information**
Dr. Helen Hudson is a retired criminal psychologist. Her exact age is not given but she is estimated to be in her mid 40s. She is a physically healthy female without a family of her own. No family background is provided in the film. Dr. Hudson is very renowned in her field and often lectures on the subject. She testifies against and profiles serial killers. Dr. Hudson was attacked by a killer she testified against and witnessed him kill one of her police bodyguards. After he was sentenced to jail, he threatened to kill her. This triggered a deep fear and extensive amount of anxiety in Dr. Hudson. Due to her fear and anxiety, Dr. Hudson confines herself to her home and puts in premium security systems to attempt to feel safe. Because Dr. Hudson does not leave her home, her social relationships are confined to her live-in assistant and anonymous online friends she communicates with through chat rooms and games. She is a heavy drinker and takes many pills for her condition. Upon becoming homebound, Dr. Hudson retired from clinical practice and writes books to generate an income.
Antisocial Personality Disorder

- characterized by a pervasive pattern of disregard for the rights of others.
- There may be an impoverished moral sense or conscience and a history of crime, legal problems, impulsive and aggressive behavior.
Antisocial Personality Disorder
Example: The Joker

Description of the Problem
The problems The Joker displays are tremendous. To begin, he absolutely hates Batman and everything to do with justice and peace. He seems to hate everything about himself as well, considering he has to hurt others around him to feel better. His only purpose in life is to destroy Gotham for no apparent reason and to destroy Batman considering he is constantly in The Joker’s way to destruction. The Joker wanted humans to understand that they were “bad” and destroyers when all the while he was the one committing crimes. The Joker expressed absolutely no empathy for his ruthless actions along with being extremely sadistic. He blatantly disregarded laws and social norms of society as a whole, all of which are related to antisocial personality disorder.
Antisocial Personality Disorder

Example: The Grinch

- **Description of the Problem**
  The Grinch displays a number of problems. The Grinch was not a very happy man with life. He hated Christmas and wanted to stop it from happening. When he was little, he got irritated and aggressive at the school because he was being made fun of by the fat boy who now is the mayor of the town. The Grinch threw a fit and picked up the Christmas tree and threw it to the other side of the classroom. After that he no longer liked Christmas. Years and years later the Grinch decided that he was going to stop Christmas from happening. He decided to dress as Santa Claus and take away all the Christmas trees and presents from the people of Whoville. He failed to plan ahead to know what the consequences would be. As he went to Cindy Lou Who’s house to steal their tree and present, Cindy Lou asked him why he was taking the Christmas tree. He told her that he going take the tree to his place and fix the light bulb. The Grinch did not show any remorse of what he did. He wanted Christmas to be over. He also did not care for the safety of other including his dog. His dog had to be the reindeer. The Grinch was irresponsible and thinking recklessly. He wanted everyone miserable and thought that would make him feel better.
Major Depression

- A pervasive and persistent low mood that is accompanied by low self-esteem and by a loss of interest or pleasure in normally enjoyable activities.
Major Depression

Example: Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh

- **Description of the Problem**
  Eeyore constantly insists that his tail falls off rather frequently. Eeyore’s posture typically involves a slumped head, droopy eyes, and commonly says “thanks for noticing me.” Sluggish movement is also apparent, without any physical cause for movement delay. He seems to step on his tail often and fall down. Eeyore indicates that sometimes it seems that even his close friends do not need him. Around friends, he typically makes comments about his relative unimportance and travels near the back of the pack. He also stated that although he tries to force a smile, a real smile has not existed in a long time, even though others try to cheer him up. He often feels empty even when accompanied by friends. Eeyore also seems to experience a loss of energy throughout the day, although sleeping habits are not explicitly expressed.
Acute Stress Disorder

- a psychological condition arising in response to a terrifying or traumatic event.
- Not be confused with shock.
- Common symptoms are: numbing; detachment; derealization; depersonalization or dissociative amnesia; and avoidance of any stimulation that reminds them of the event.
- They must have symptoms of anxiety.
- Symptoms last for a minimum of 2 days, and a maximum of 4 weeks, and occur within 4 weeks of the event.
Acute Stress Disorder

Example: Tony Stark in *Iron Man 3*

- Tony Stark in *Iron Man 3*, is suffering ASD symptoms (though could be PTSD) including detachment, triggers, nightmares, panic attacks and avoidance.
Schizophrenia

• A breakdown of thought processes and by impaired emotional responses.
• Common symptoms include delusions, such as paranoid beliefs; hallucinations; disorganized thinking; and negative symptoms, such as lack of emotion and lack of motivation.
• Symptoms begin typically in young adulthood and about 0.3–0.7% of people are affected during their lifetime.
• Diagnosis is based on observed behavior and the person's reported experiences.
Schizophrenia
Example: Nina Sayers from the movie *Black Swan* (2010)

- **Background Information**
Nina Sayers is a Caucasian female who is presumed to be in her early to middle twenties, although her actual age is unknown. She currently works as a ballerina in a New York City ballet company whose name is undisclosed. Although there are not any known distinct physical illnesses, abnormalities, disorders, or disadvantages currently within Sayers, there are observable health concerns. The patient is visibly underweight and has serious cuts, bruises and other wounds on her feet, although both of these concerns can be attributed to her career as a dancer. However, there are also various lesions and abrasions throughout the surface of Sayers’ body which cannot be attributed to anything in her current daily environment. It is speculated that these lesions could be self-inflicted. Sayers currently lives by choice with her mother. Her mother, although not diagnosed, has observable generalized anxiety disorder symptoms, as well as some neurotic personality traits. It is also observed that the mother displays a very rich sense of control over Sayers’ life, such as her scheduling, room design, personal decisions, etc. Sayers appears to not have very many, if any, close friends or relatives outside of her mother. It is undisclosed whether or not Sayers has had any contact with her biological father. It is assumed that he does not actively participate in her life. Until recently, there was not any reported drug or alcohol history. However, as of late she has reported experimenting with ecstasy, a derivative of MDMA, as well as engaging in small amounts of social drinking. Her current goal is to become the principle dancer of her current ballet company. Most of her daily activities are related to improving her performance as a dancer.
Bipolar Disorder

• A chronic illness with recurring episodes of mania and depression that can last from one day to months.

• This mental illness causes unusual and dramatic shifts in mood, energy and the ability to think clearly.

• Cycles of high (manic) and low (depressive) moods may follow an irregular pattern.
Dementias

- A serious loss of global cognitive ability in a previously unimpaired person.
- Dementia is not a single disease, but a non-specific syndrome (i.e., set of signs and symptoms).
- Affected cognitive areas:
  - memory
  - attention
  - Language
  - problem solving.
- Normally, symptoms must be present for at least six months to support a diagnosis.
- Cognitive dysfunction of shorter duration is called delirium.
Delirium

- A syndrome that presents as severe confusion and disorientation, developing with relatively rapid onset and fluctuating in intensity.
Delusional Disorder

- Uncommon psychiatric condition
- Patients present with Non-bizarre (situations that could potentially occur in real life) delusions, but with no accompanying prominent hallucinations.
- Examples: Being followed or poisoned
- Movie Example: Shutter Island
Impulse Control Disorders

- A class of psychiatric disorders characterized by impulsivity – failure to resist a temptation, urge or impulse that may harm oneself or others.
Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)

- A diagnosis that is used for "severe and pervasive impairment in the development of reciprocal social interaction or verbal and nonverbal communication skills"
Psychotic Disorder (not otherwise specified)

- An abnormal condition of the mind, and is a generic psychiatric term for a mental state often described as involving a "loss of contact with reality".
Schizoaffective disorder
Schizophreniform disorder
Traumatic brain injury (TBI)
Alcoholism
Withdrawal

- A group of symptoms that occur upon the abrupt discontinuation or decrease in intake.
- In order to experience the symptoms of withdrawal, one must have first developed a physical and/or mental dependence (often referred to as chemical dependency).
- This happens after consuming one or more substances for a certain period of time, which is both dose dependent and varies based upon the drug consumed. For example, prolonged use of an antidepressant is most likely to cause a much different reaction when discontinued than the repeated use of an opioid, such as heroin. Withdrawal symptoms from opiate abuse (such as heroin/morphine) include anxiety, sweating, vomiting, and diarrhea. Alcohol abuse withdrawal symptoms include irritability, fatigue, shaking, sweating, and nausea. Withdrawal from nicotine brings on irritability, fatigue, insomnia, headache, and difficulty concentrating.