

Dr. Jessica Waesche

As explained in the syllabus, these Group Discussions should be thought of as Role Play Activities. While you will remain in the same small group throughout the semester, your role within the group will change from module to module. The purpose of this assignment is to give you the opportunity to think about Abnormal Psychology from various perspectives.

For this first discussion, each of you will be assigned the role of a historical figure who is associated with a particular school of thought regarding mental illness. Many of these individuals are discussed by name in your textbook. For each individual, I have indicated the perspective that he or she is associated with and directed you to the relevant portions of the textbook to help you begin learning about your role. You can also find additional information about these individuals online and through the UCF Library. The list of roles and who is playing each role is below, in the first discussion post.

In this module's discussion, you will debate the possible causes of mental illness and the treatment options that you recommend for mental illness. I recognize that many of these people were not alive at the same time, but we will imagine that time travel has been invented and we were able to get all of these historical figures together. In your first post, you should describe your opinion as to what factors might cause mental illness and you will discuss some of your ideas for how to best treat mental illness. You must also make at least 2 additional posts in response to other people's posts. In those responses you should debate with them and discuss why you think your perspective is more accurate than theirs or ask them questions to challenge their views. You could also point out parallels between your view and theirs and consider how you might be able to integrate your perspectives.

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Some guidelines for this assignment:

- In each of your posts, remind people who you are portraying.
- Write your posts in the first person (for example: "I, Sigmund Freud, believe ...")
- Feel free to seek out additional information about your character beyond what is in the textbook.
- Remember, you are not giving your personal thoughts about these topics, you are speaking as though you were the person you are portraying.
- Have fun! Take the opportunity to pretend that you are someone else.

Remember that you should make your first post by 11:59pm on Sunday 1/22 and you should make at least two additional posts replying to your group-mates by 11:59pm on Sunday 1/29. Your posts will be graded using the provided rubric