- Characterized by a decline from previously attained level of functioning
- Slow onset and a deteriorating course
- Caused by over 50 different disorders
  - Partisans
  - Syphilis infection
  - Untreated AIDS
  - Anoxia – diffuse moderate damage to the brain, over time cells die off
  - Lead poisoning
  - Mercury positioning
- Most commonly caused by Alzheimer’s disease
  - Epidemic in the US
  - New medications can slow down, but there is no cure
  - Anterograde anesthesia – forming new learning, new memories
  - Eventually they forget things they once knew
- Not reversible
- Pix dementia – Extremely rate, additive self-injurious behaviors

**Parkinson’s Disease**

- Second most common neurodegenerative disorder
- Sensory motor strip part of brain
- Characterized by tremors or rigid movements
- Primarily caused by loss of dopamine neurons in the brain
  - L-Dopa – Increases dopamine in the brain
- Over 75% eventually show signs of dementia

**Huntington’s Disease**

- Rare degenerative disorders of nervous system
- Chronic, progressive chorea
- Involuntary movements
- Patients usually develop dementia
- Genetic link

**Alzheimer’s Disease**

- Progressive and fatal neurodegenerative disorder
- Pretty strong genetic component
- Usually slow but progressively deteriorating course terminating in delirium and death
- Used to be called Pre-seen Dementia
- Eventually person becomes delirious and dies
- Matters what parts of the brain are affected
  - Limbic system – emotions
- Some people have an insight on what is happening as it progresses