Schizophrenia

Basic Facts:
- Significant loss of contact with reality
- Affects people from all walks of life
- Characterized by an array of diverse symptoms
- Usually begins in late adolescence to early adulthood
- Definitely genetic loading

Origins of the Schizophrenia Construct

1810: First clinical description appeared
- Emil Kraepelin
  o Used term dementia praecox to refer to mental deterioration at early age
  o Mid late 19th century in Europe

1911: Term “Schizophrenia” introduced
- Eugen Bleuler: 4 A’s of Schizophrenia
  o Autism – Then seen as “not connecting with people”
  o Affect – Observable expression (Ex: Congruent affect, if you’re sad you should look sad. Flat affect)
  o Auditory hallucinations – Perceptual distortions, tactile hallucinations, smells, hearing voices, any disturbance
  o Ambivalence

Schizophrenia in German = Split mind
- The mind is somehow split away from the world with emotions
- Used to be seen as some type of personality disorder

Epidemiology: Risk Factors

- Prevalence
  o Lifetime prevalence nearly worldwide is 1% of population
- Age of father
  o Babies of fathers of age 45 or older
  o We do not understand why!
- Country
  o Variations in what different cultures may perceive as schizophrenia to be
- Onset age
  o Typically late teens to early adulthood
  o Difference in age of onset between different types of schizophrenia
- Gender
  o Both men and women, though spike is not as great for women
  o Severity is not as great for women
  o Estrogen is protective factor