Psychology 250—Abnormal Psychology

**Topic 10**

The Psychoses (Schizophrenia Spectrum Disorders)

**Mind Map of Essential Knowledge (Vocabulary and Concepts):**

Psychoses on the spectrum other than Schizophrenia:

1. Schizotypal Personality Disorder
2. Brief Psychotic Disorder
3. Schizophreniform Disorder
4. Schizoaffective Disorder
5. Delusional Disorder including Erotomanic, Grandiose, Jealous, Persecutory, Somatic, and Mixed types

### Schizophrenia

**Phases**

- Prodromal
- Acute
- Residual

**Classification of Symptoms**

- Positive
- Negative

**Causes**

- Genetics
- Biological (dopamine hypothesis, viral infections, brain abnormalities)
- Family Factors including communication deviance and expressed emotion
- Diathesis-Stress Model

**Treatments**

- Drug therapy
- Psychological Treatments include selective reinforcement, token economy, social skills training
- Self-help clubs
- Family therapy

### Symptoms

**Thought and Speech**

1. **Content**—Delusions including grandeur, control, persecution, and reference, thought broadcasting, thought insertion, and thought withdrawal
2. **Form**—Breakdown in the organization, processing, and control of thinking including loose associations, disorganized speech patterns including incoherent word combinations and stringing together of words in meaningless rhymes, jumping from one topic to another without meaningful; connection, poverty of speech, neologisms, perseveration, clang associations, impaired insight to their thinking deficits.

**Attention**

Hypersensitivity (hypervigilance) to sights and sounds, inability to distract themselves from sensory stimuli

**Physiological**

Eye movement Dysfunction and Event-Related Potentials Deficits suggesting sensory overload and attention deficits leading to failure to extract meaning from the environment

**Perceptual**

Hallucinations including visual, auditory, gustatory, olfactory, somatic and tactile

**Emotional/affective**

Flattened or inappropriate; may be very intense, formal, or unpredictable; depression

**Sense of Self**

Identity confusion and descriptions of being disconnected from their body

**Volition**

Loss of motivation and inability to plan, organize, and verify their experiences; confusion

**Relationship with external world**

Social withdrawal and isolation, anhedonia, poor communication, difficulty perceiving emotions in others, and poor hygiene

**Psychomotor**

Catatonia, strange movements, bizarre facial expressions