

## **Mental Status Exam (MSE)**

- best tool for establishing a psychiatric diagnosis
- combination of observations, impressions, & interpretation of client responses
- Eval of patients:
  - appearance
  - behavior
  - speech
  - affect
  - thought process
  - thought content
  - cognition

## **mental health**

"a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community"

## **mental status**

- refers to emotional (feeling) and cognitive (knowing) function
- functioning is inferred through assessment of an individual's behaviors:
  - consciousness
  - language
  - mood and affect
  - orientation
  - attention
  - memory
  - abstract reasoning
  - thought process
  - thought content
  - perceptions

## **Factors that affect the interpretation of the MSE**

culture  
native language  
educational level  
literacy  
social factors

## **MSE: Appearance**

- posture
- dress
- grooming