

HUMAN BEHAVIOR COURSE 2004
VIGNETTE 3:2 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The differences between psychopathology and normality are often indistinct and subject to potential misuse.

1. What “red flags” exist that perhaps the issues in this vignette may be neither cross-cultural nor psychiatric in nature?

2. If you were one of the forensic psychiatrists seeing Dr. G, what other historical or documentary information would you like to have to determine the nature of Dr. G’s problems?

3. Context is critically important when determining whether behavior is normal or pathological. What instances can you cite from the vignette where you suspect that observed behaviors may have been “reasonable” under the circumstances?

4. Could analogous circumstances as those in this vignette arise in the military? What factors exist in the military that lend itself to the potential for misuse of military psychiatry? How can the potential for the misuse of psychiatry be avoided in the military setting?