Outline for Term Papers on Disorders: this is a general outline of the material to be covered and suggested headings for the paper. You may want to further divide the information under each major area into subheadings to help with the organization. Also, these are recommended.

I. Introduction: general overview of the disorder and introduction to current issues: general description of the disorder and its symptoms, issues and controversies concerning the disorder, might include a case example.

II. Epidemiology (prevalence, incidence, sex differences, other demographic differences; and comorbidity)

III. History of the disorder (or concept upon which it is based): history of the disorder - when it was first recognized, earlier names for the disorder, similar historical concepts, how the concept has changed over time, historical classifications, etc. You may want to include historical classifications (i.e., DSM-I, II, III, III-R) here or as part of Classification (below).

IV. Classification and differential diagnosis: current classification: DSM-IV criteria (include a table with the DSM-IV criteria), subtypes and specifiers for the disorder in the DSM-IV. Also, alternate classification systems and subtypes or ways of categorizing the disorder that have appeared else here in the literature (if there are any for your topic). You may want to include historical classifications (i.e., DSM-I, II, III, III-R) here or as part of History (above). Then, differential diagnosis - which disorders it is confused with, how you differentiate it from other disorders (info from the DSM-IV and the literature). Assessment: specific information about assessment can be included here (as applicable) – if you have quite a bit on assessment, you can include it as a separate section after classification and diagnosis.

V. Etiology: theories of the cause of the disorder and research to support/refute the theories. Try to cover all major theories rather than focusing on one or two perspectives; however, emphasize the dominant perspectives. Include research studies supporting/not supporting these different theories. Be sure to critique the theories as you cover them. Also, you might want to conclude this section with your conclusions about which theory(ies) has the most support. The emphasis here should be on recent research and theories.

VI. Treatment: different treatment approaches for the disorder and research that supports/refutes the effectiveness of the treatments. Again, aim for a broad coverage of treatments rather than focusing on one or two; however, you want to emphasize the most effective and typically used treatments. Remember to comment on the support/lack of support for the approaches (do not present all treatments as equally effective). You might want to conclude with a paragraph on treatment recommendations - those with the best results. The emphasis in this section should be on recent research and treatment approaches.

VII. Conclusions: your conclusions (not just a summary) about the disorder - this could be in terms of controversies, proposals for changes in classification, hypotheses concerning the disorder, might include a case example. This section should NOT just repeat what you said in previous sections of the paper. It should be more of an integration and critical analysis. It probably should end with a view towards future directions of research, theory and treatment.
Comment about Purpose:

While these papers are meant to be an accurate representation of the literature in your area, they should be written from your point of view based on your reading of the literature. No review is entirely objective; there is always a focus or perspective that is being presented and that affects the articles that are selected to be reviewed. For example, Garb's (1997) review of the sex bias literature adopts a perspective of dispelling myths about bias in diagnosis. Coming from that perspective, he sets stringent criteria in the selection of studies to be included (i.e., no analogue studies) and demands a relatively high level of proof to support evidence of bias. Try to approach the paper as someone who has expertise (based on your knowledge from studying the area), rather than as a student, and think about what you think are the most important issues related to the disorder or topic. One of the goals is to allow you to gain a certain level of expertise in an area. Your detailed paper may end up being more about this literature than any of your classmates or even faculty, and this specialized knowledge is something that you will take with you into your professional career.

Additional Suggestions:

1. Use headings - the above ones are suggested but you can use the headings that you feel are appropriate for your specific topic. You should also use subheadings to help organize your paper.

2. Be sure you have plenty of references to support statements throughout the paper (except in the conclusions).

3. Be sure to describe the research in sufficient detail (especially in the etiology and treatment sections) so that the reader can understand the study's design, the subjects, etc. You can check with me about how much is enough detail and how much is too detailed.

4. Avoid quotes - summarize the results of research rather than quoting their conclusions. Probably the only quote you should include is a case history (should you choose to include one). The DSM-IV criteria for the disorder should also be included as a table and be appropriately referenced (including page numbers).

5. Do NOT include any new information in the conclusions section or bring up any new issues - put everything you want to cover in the body of the paper. However, do not repeat yourself in the conclusions - this is not a summary but your conclusions – pull together various pieces of information in the paper and arrive at conclusions.

6. Remember, the paper should be typed, double spaced, and free of errors. (Of course, it should follow APA format including references and citations!)

7. You are to turn in 2 copies - one will be placed on reserve in the Library (or Jan's office).

If you have any questions, please see me. I'd also be happy to look over outlines of the paper and provide feedback for you. Please allow me sufficient time to review them and for you to incorporate any suggestions (March 13th at the latest). You might try to get a rough outline to me by spring break.

Term papers are due on April 15. If you are having difficulty getting the paper completed on time, please let me know well in advance. Otherwise, term papers will be reduced a half a letter grade for each class that they are late.