

SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL DISORDER

SOCI 310

INSTRUCTOR: ERIN DENTON

Winter 2014: Mondays 8:35AM – 11:25AM
Classroom: Stewart Biology Building N2/2
Email: erin.denton@mail.mcgill.ca
Office: TBD
Office Hours: TBD
Teaching Assistant: Stephanie Nairn
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TA Office (and Hours): TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will study various sociological aspects of mental health and illness, including sociological theories and research regarding the definition, experience, and treatment of mental disorders. The first part of the course examines the concept of mental illness and compares sociological with psychological and biological approaches to this subject. The second part discusses the major ways sociologists have studied mental illness and considers how selected social factors, including social integration, social stratification, and culture influence the definition of, causes of, and responses to mental symptoms. The third topic concerns various aspects of mental health systems and social control policies.

A sociological/deviance perspective emphasizes that the definitions of mental disorders are socially constructed, vary by culture, and change over history. We will explore how the social environment impacts the symptoms of mental disorders, and how the diagnoses of medical doctors are influenced by social factors. The stigma of mental illness is also addressed, and how North American culture and the media influence our perceptions of those who are labeled “mentally ill.” PowerPoint slides for each class will be available, although you are also responsible for material presented in class that is not on the slides.

GRADING

Wherein a final exam is scheduled and you do not write the exam or withdraw from the course before the deadline date, you will be assigned an N grade. Unless otherwise specified on the course outline, all other graded assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade other than N to be assigned.

Your final mark in the class will be based on the following:

Participation	10%
Reading Responses	10%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	25%
Paper	35%

ACADEMIC DISHONEST AND MISCONDUCT POLICY

Please see the *Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities* for information regarding the academic integrity policy concerning all McGill University students. Specifically, students are expected to avoid the pitfalls of plagiarism: <http://www.mcgill.ca/deanofstudents/plagiarism>.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Horwitz, Allan V. and Teresa L. Scheid (Eds.). 1999. *Handbook for the Study of Mental Health and Illness: Theories, Social Context, and Policy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
2. Jamison, Kay. 1997. *An Unquiet Mind*. New York: Vintage Books.

Additional Readings on Web-Vista: <http://www.mcgill.ca/webct/>

It is crucial that you keep up with the readings. To provide you with a well-rounded education in the sociology of mental health and illness, the reading load is not light. This means that you should keep on top of things if you plan to do well in this course. Do the readings before each class. Core readings, other than required texts, will be available ONLY on WebCT. For an optimal learning experience, you should read all material before the beginning of the week.

The class webpage (<http://www.mcgill.ca/webct>) will function as the primary source of information exchange. Be sure to check the webpage before each class for updated materials such as handouts and readings. Class-related documents will be in Adobe Portable Document Format (.PDF). Acrobat files can easily be downloaded and printed with the free acrobat reader. You may download the free acrobat reader from www.adobe.com. Everyone is expected to complete ALL assignments on time and be fully prepared for class sessions and exams.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Horwitz, Allan V. 2001. *Creating Mental Illness*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE

You are responsible for all announcements made in class, as was as for all course materials handed out in class. The lectures take place on Mondays from 8:35AM to 11:25AM in STBIO N2/2. As part of your participation grade, you will be required to post a total of two discussion comments (in response to either lecture materials or weekly readings) on WebCT following these guidelines: one comment of your own (no fewer than 200 words) and one response to a post by one of your fellow classmates (no fewer than 100 words). The discussion board component of the course commences the first day of lecture (Monday, January 6, 2013). You are required to have your first discussion board comment posted in the week of your choosing before the mid-term and the second comment posted during the second half of the course (i.e. after the mid-term and before the final exam). Please remember to be considerate of your classmates and their opinions/views/comments. If you disagree with a classmate, do so in an intelligent and respectful manner, and respond accordingly.

The lectures are designed to provide a theoretical overview and grounding of the assigned readings. The goal of each lecture is to introduce a broad framework from which to critically assess assigned readings. Because comprehensive lecture material will **NOT** be posted on WebCT and is only available during class time, students are well-advised to attend class regularly to do well in this course (and to visit me during office hours for clarification). Routine class participation is highly encouraged since you will be tested on materials and discussions that take place in class.

READING RESPONSES

You will be required to submit two reading responses throughout the semester. Responses should be two pages, doubled-spaced, 12-pont Times New Roman font, and do not require a title page (only your name, student number, and date). These responses must be submitted as hard copy at the beginning of class. You can choose the readings to which you wish to respond, but no submission will be accepted after Monday, March 24, 2013. As such, you should plan accordingly. *Note: you cannot submit two responses to two readings from the same lecture week.* Responses will be graded out of 10 and each make up 5% of your grade. Rules regarding plagiarism, including any written material from the WebCT discussion board, and citations apply for the reading responses.

EXAMS

Exam 1 will take place in the lecture hall on Monday, February 17, 2014 during class time. Exam 2 will take place in April during the scheduled exam time as per the Academic Calendar. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer/essay questions. Although the second exam is not cumulative, you will still be expected to be familiar with theories/topics discussed in the first half of the course.

Make-up Exams: Students do not have the right to take a make-up exam. Make-up exams will be granted only for certifiable reasons beyond a student's control. Department and University policy will dictate the situations/provisions in which a student can be offered a make-up exam.

PAPER REQUIREMENTS

One 10 to 12-page paper is required to be handed in before the lecture begins on Monday, March 17, 2014. Any late papers are to be submitted at the Sociology Dept. office drop box, and will be subject to a 10% deduction per late day with a maximum total of 30% deduction before receiving a grade of zero. Papers handed in after class on the due date will be subject to a 10% deduction.

Essay topics will extend the breadth of the course, and require supplementary readings not included in the course lectures/syllabus. This component of the essay is to allow students to demonstrate the ability to peruse and accurately select journal articles pertinent to their topics. Students can choose a topic of their choice related to the course material. The purpose of topic selection is to prepare students for the opportunity to cultivate and address their own ideas/notions in regards to various aspects of mental disorders. During the second week of the course, students will receive an essay guideline handout with potential topics/questions to address.

Papers must be double spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font, with 1" margins, and page numbers. APA or Chicago-style citation format is permissible, but only one must be selected and employed for the duration of the paper. Students must cite their work, and do so accurately. The paper will be graded according to writing style, persuasiveness, organization, and relation to the course. *It is advised that as you devise your topic, you should consult with me in order to ensure that you are composing a topic applicable to the class and the breadth of the paper requirements.*

Some things to keep in mind when writing papers:

- a) It is important that your paper is clear, concise and grammatically correct. Every writing assignment gives you the opportunity to improve your writing skills.
- b) Your paper must be well organized. Every paper should have an introduction, a main body, and a conclusion. Your main body should contain a logical argument or set of arguments. For useful writing aids, you can look at Strunk and White's Elements of Style and The Chicago Manual Style.
- c) Always support your arguments with evidence, including examples, data, quotes, and direct references taken from your sources, as well as from class and course readings. You should cite any reading within the paper you write. Please see the Library webpage for information pertaining to citation methodologies for social science papers.
- d) Sources that are directly cited and sources that are simply paraphrased should be referenced within the paper in order to avoid plagiarism.
- e) You need a bibliography of all cited material.

For all additional questions, please speak with me during office hours or via email (prior to the night before the paper due date). Please note that the email option is only available if you have a scheduling conflict with my office hours; however, if you have a concise question that has not been covered by the syllabus (in relation to paper requirements), you can email me directly.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1: Monday, January 6, 2013

Topic: **Introduction**

Required Readings: None

Week 2: Monday, January 13, 2013

Topic: **History of Mental Illness**

Required Readings:

1. Horwitz and Scheid. Handbook for the Study of Mental Health – Chapter 1.
2. Jamison. An Unquiet Mind pp. 1 – 30.
3. Horwitz. Creating Mental Illness – Introduction.
4. Arnold, Catharine. 2009. Bedlam. Selections available on WebCT.

Week 3: Monday, January 20, 2013

Topic: **Defining Mental Disorder**

Required Readings:

1. Horwitz and Scheid. Handbook for the Study of Mental Health – Chapters 2, 3.
2. Jamison. An Unquiet Mind pp. 31-60.
3. Horwitz. Creating Mental Illness – Chapter 1.

Week 4: Monday, January 27, 2013

Topic: **Measuring Mental Disorder**

Required Readings:

1. Jamison. An Unquiet Mind pp. 61 – 100.
2. Horwitz. Creating Mental Illness – Chapters 2, 3, 8.
3. Selections available on WebCT

Week 5: Monday, February 3, 2013

Topic: **Theories of Mental Disorder (Part I)**

Required Readings:

1. Horwitz and Scheid. Biological Approaches – Chapter 4
2. Horwitz and Scheid. Psychological Approaches – Chapter 5
3. Jamison. An Unquiet Mind pp. 101 – 130.
4. Horwitz. Creating Mental Illness – Chapter 6

Week 6: Monday, February 10, 2013

Topic: **Theories of Mental Disorder (Part II)**

Required Readings:

1. Horwitz and Scheid. Sociological Approaches – Chapter 6, 7, 20 (only Part II).
2. Jamison. An Unquiet Mind pp. 131 – 160.
3. Horwitz. Creating Mental Illness – Chapter 7.
4. Selections available on WebCT

Week 7: Monday, February 17, 2013

MID-TERM EXAM (In Class)

Week 8: Monday, February 24, 2013

Topic: **The Social Construction of Mental Health and Illness**

Required Readings:

1. Horwitz and Scheid. Handbook for the Study of Mental Health – Chapter 28.
2. Cockerham. Sociology of Mental Disorder (7th Edition) – Chapter 1
3. Jamison. An Unquiet Mind pp. 161 – 200.
4. Goffman. Asylums – Selections available on WebCT

Week 9: Monday, March 3, 2013

NO CLASS (Reading Week)

Week 10: Monday, March 10, 2013

Topic: **Social Correlates of Mental Disorders (Part I)**

Required Readings:

1. Horwitz and Scheid. Handbook for the Study of Mental Health – Chapters 8, 14, 15, 16.
2. Jamison. An Unquiet Mind pp. 201 – 223.

Week 11: Monday, March 17, 2013

Topic: **Social Correlates of Mental Disorders (Part II)**

Required Readings:

1. Horwitz and Scheid. Handbook for the Study of Mental Health – Chapters 10, 12, 13, 19.
2. Meyer. LGBT Mental Health. WebCT.

Week 12: Monday, March 24, 2013

Topic: **The Medicalization of Children**

Required Readings:

1. Horwitz and Scheid. Handbook for the Study of Mental Health – Chapter 17.
2. Cottle. Selling Shyness. WebCT
3. Eberstadt. Why Ritalin Rules. WebCT
4. Gershwander. Three Reasons Not to Believe in an Autism Epidemic. WebCT

Week 13: Monday, March 31, 2013

Topic: **Mental Health Systems/ Social Control Institutions**

Required Readings:

1. Horwitz and Scheid. Handbook for the Study of Mental Health – Chapter 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27.
2. Horwitz. Creating Mental Illness – Chapter 8.
3. Film (shown over two tutorial sessions).

Week 14: Monday, April 7, 2013

Topic: **Review Session**

Required Readings: None

Final Exams begin Monday, April 14, 2014. Please consult the Academic Calendar for final exam schedule.

GRADING SYSTEM

Undergraduate Course Grading System is A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, F (fail). Intervals for the assignment of final letter grades based on course percentage grades are as follows:

A	85 – 100	B	70 – 74	C	55 – 59
A-	80 – 84	B-	65 – 69	D	50 – 54
B+	75 – 79	C+	60 – 64	F	00 – 49

*Grade of D is a conditional (non-continuation) pass, meaning the following may apply:

1. If you obtain a grade of D in a course that is a prerequisite, you cannot register for any course that requires this prerequisite.
2. If you obtain a grade of D in a required course, the course will not count toward your program.

CENTRE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Please see the *Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities* for information regarding the policy concerning the rights of students with disabilities.