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16:920:631:01

THE SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL ILLNESS

This course examines theories and research in the sociology of mental health and illness. We explore a number of social perspectives on mental health problems, including social construction and labeling approaches, cognitive approaches, and stress theory. We also consider how social factors such as race, class, and gender affect mental health. In addition, we explore services and treatment, for mental illnesses in the past and currently.

Requirements for the course include short reaction papers (1-2 pages) on the readings, to be handed in at class every week. In these papers, students address at least one or two points of the reading that they found striking or that engaged them either positively or negatively (20 percent of the grade). Also required is a larger (15-20 page) seminar paper on one of the aspects of mental health touched on by the course (70 percent of the grade). This paper is due the last day of class. In addition, students will take turns working with me to moderate the discussion. The student in charge each week will develop 8-10 questions or issues for discussion and send these to the other students and to me the day before the class (15 percent of the grade).

For the most part, the readings consist of articles that I will email to students at the beginning of the semester or will put on electronic research. A book for the class, *Creating Mental Illness* by Allan Horwitz, is available at the Livingston Bookstore.

The schedule of readings is as follows.

SEPTEMBER 10. INTRODUCTION

SEPTEMBER 17. HOW IS MENTAL ILLNESS DEFINED CURRENTLY AND WHY SHOULD WE STUDY IT?

Bruce Link. The Production of Understanding. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Vol 44(4) Dec 2003, 457-469

Allan Horwitz, *Creating Mental Illness*, Introduction and chapters 3 and 6

Examples of mental illnesses from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV and fact sheets on schizophrenia and mood disorders from the National Institute of Mental Health. Benedict Carey, Snake Phobias, Moodiness And a Battle in Psychiatry. *The New York Times* June 14, 2005.

Ronald C. Kessler, Patricia Berglund, Olga Demler, Robert Jin, Kathleen R. Merikangas, Ellen E. Walters. Lifetime Prevalence and Age-of-Onset Distributions of *DSM-IV* Disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 2005;62:593-602.

SEPTEMBER 24. SOCIAL THEORIES OF MENTAL ILLNESS: SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION AND LABELING

Allan Horwitz, *Creating Mental Illness*, chapters 1, 4, and conclusion

Thomas Szasz. 1960. "The Myth of Mental Illness." *American Psychologist* 15: 113-118.

Thomas Scheff. 1963. "The Role of the Mentally Ill and the Dynamics of Mental Disorder." *Sociometry* 26: 436-453.

Bruce Link et al. 1989. "A modified labeling theory approach to mental disorders. *American Sociological Review* 54, 400-423.

OCTOBER 1. SOCIAL THEORIES OF MENTAL ILLNESS: STRESS

Pearlin, Leonard I. 1989. "The Sociological Study of Stress." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 30:241-56.

Brown, George W. 2002. "Social Roles, Context and Evolution in the Origins of Depression." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 43:255-276.

Ilan H. Meyer. 1995. "Minority Stress and Mental Health in Gay Men." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 36:38-56.

Sharon Schwartz .Outcomes for the sociology of mental health: Are we meeting our goals? *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Vol 43(2) Jun 2002, 223-235

OCTOBER 8. SOCIAL THEORIES OF MENTAL ILLNESS: SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACHES

Thoits, Peggy. 1999. "Self, Identity, and Mental Health," in *Handbook of Psychiatric Sociology* edited by Carol Anaschensel and Jo Phelan. New York: Plenum.

Jason Schnittke and Jane D. McLeod. The Social Psychology of Health Disparities. *Annual Review of Sociology* 2005. 31:75-103

Aaron T. Beck. The Current State of Cognitive Therapy
A 40-Year Retrospective. *Archives of General Psychiatry* Vol 62, Sep 2005

Kenneth Dodge. 1993. Social-Cognitive Mechanisms in the Development of Conduct Disorder and Depression. *Annual Review of Psychology*

Sarah Rosenfield, Mary Clare Lennon, and Helene White. 2005. "Mental Health and the Self: Self-salience and the Emergence of Internalizing and Externalizing Problems" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 46:326-340.

OCTOBER 15. SOCIAL PATTERNS IN MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS: SOCIAL CLASS

McLeod, Jane and James M. Nonnemaker. 1999. "Social Stratification and Inequality." Pp. 301-320 in *Handbook of Psychiatric Sociology* edited by Carol Anaschensel and Jo Phelan. New York: Plenum.

Yan Yu and David R. Williams, "Socioeconomic Status and Mental Health." Pp. 151-166 in Carol Aneshensel and Jo Phelan (eds) *Handbook of the Sociology of Mental Health*. New York: Plenum..

Jane D McLeod and Michael Shanahan, Trajectories of poverty and children's mental health. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Vol 37(3) Sep 1996, 207-220.

Link, Bruce G. and Jo C. Phelan. 1995. "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Distress." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* (extra issue): 80-94

OCTOBER 22. NO CLASS

OCTOBER 29. SOCIAL PATTERNS IN MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS: GENDER

Ronald C. Kessler. Sex Differences in DSM-III-R Psychiatric Disorders in the United States: Results From the National Comorbidity Survey

Sarah Rosenfield 1999. "Splitting the Difference: Gender, Psychopathology, and the Self." Pp. 209-24 in *Handbook of Psychiatric Sociology* edited by Carol Anaschensel and Jo Phelan. New York: Plenum.

Mary Clare Lennon and Sarah Rosenfield. 1995. Relative Fairness and the Division of Household Work. *American Journal of Sociology* 100:506-531.

Heather A Turner, R Jay Turner. Gender, social status, and emotional reliance. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* Vol 40(4) Dec 1999, 360-373.

Sarah Rosenfield, Jean Vertefuille, and Donna McAlpine. 2000. "Gender Stratification and Mental Health: An Exploration of Dimensions of The Self." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 63:208-23.**SOCIAL**

NOVEMBER 5. PATTERNS IN MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS: RACE AND ETHNICITY

Joshua Breslau, Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, Kenneth S. Kendler, Maxwell Su1, David Williams and Ronald C. Kessler. Specifying Race-Ethnic Differences In Risk For Psychiatric Disorder In A USA National Sample. *Psychological Medicine*, 2006, 36, 57–68

Sarah Rosenfield, Julie Phillips, and Helene Raskin White. 2006. "Gender, Race, and the Self in Mental Health and Crime," *Social Problems* 53:161-185.

Tony Brown. 2003. A Critical Race Theory Speaks to the Sociology of Mental Health: Mental Health Problems Produced by Racial Stratification. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 44:292-321.

R. Jay Turner, John Taylor, Karen Van Gundy. Resources and Depression In The Transition to Adulthood: Ethnic Comparisons. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Vol 45(1) Mar 2004, 34-52.

NOVEMBER 12. SOCIAL PATTERNS IN MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS: FAMILY

Debra Umberson and Kristi Williams, "Family Status and Mental Health." Pp. 225-253 in Carol Aneshensel and Jo Phelan (eds) Handbook of the Sociology of Mental Health. New York: Plenum..

Linda J. Waite. "Does Marriage Matter?" *Demography* 32: 483-507.

Robin W. Simon. 2002. "Revisiting the Relationship among Gender, Marital Status, and Mental Health." *American Journal of Sociology* 107: 1065-1096. CP.

Ranae J. Evenson and Robin W. Simon. Clarifying the Relationship Between Parenthood and Depression *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 2005, Vol 46 (December): 341–.

NOVEMBER 19. LABELING, ATTITUDES, AND STIGMA

Phelan, Jo C; Link, Bruce G; Stueve, Ann; Pescosolido, Bernice A. Public conceptions of mental illness in 1950 and 1996: What is mental illness and is it to be feared? *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*. Vol 41(2) Jun 2000, 188-207.

Peggy A. Thoits. Differential Labeling of Mental Illness by Social Status: A New Look at an Old Problem. *Journal of Health & Social Behavior* (0022-1465)

Rosenfield, Sarah. 1984. "Race Differences in Involuntary Hospitalization: Psychiatric vs. Labeling Perspectives." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 25:14-23.

Rosenfield, Sarah. 1982. "Sex Roles and Societal Reactions to Mental Illness: The Labeling of 'Deviant' Deviance." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 23:18-24

NOVEMBER 26. LABELING, ATTITUDES, AND STIGMA CONTINUED

Bruce G. Link and Jo C. Phelan. Conceptualizing Stigma *Annual Review of Sociology*, Vol. 27. (2001), pp. 363-385

Link, Bruce G, John Monahan, Ann Stueve and Francis T. Cullen, Francis T. (1999). "Real in their consequences: A sociological approach to understanding the association between psychotic symptoms and violence," *American Sociological Review* 64(2):316-332

Bruce G. Link, Jerrold Mirotznik, Francis T. Cullen. The Effectiveness of Stigma Coping Orientations *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, Vol. 32, No. 3 (Sep., 1991), pp. 302-320

Rosenfield, Sarah. 1997. "Labeling Mental Illness: The Effects of Perceived Stigma vs. Received Services." *American Sociological Review*. 63:230-245.

DECEMBER 3. TREATMENT AND SERVICES

Allan Horwitz and Teresa Sheid. Mental Health Systems and Policy, in the *Handbook for the Study of Mental Health*, edited by Allan Horwitz and Teresa Sheid.

Philip S. Wang, Michael Lane, Mark Olfson, Harold A. Pincus, Kenneth B. Wells, Ronald C. Kessler. Twelve-Month Use of Mental Health Services in the United States. Results From the National Comorbidity Survey Replication

Rosenfield, Sarah. 1992. "Factors Contributing to the Subjective Quality of Life of the Chronic Mentally Ill," *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 4:299-315.

Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Mental Health Problems and Use of Mental Health Care, *Medical Care* Volume 43(8), August 2005, pp 775-784

DECEMBER 10. TO BE DECIDED