

Rutgers University
Spring 2017 Syllabus
Sociology of Mental Illness
920: 307

Day/Time: Monday and Wednesday 5-6:20 PM Tillet Hall (LIV): Room 246

Instructor: Dr. Eleanor LaPointe (email: eleanor.lapointe@rutgers.edu)

Office: 049 Davison Hall (DGLS) Sociology Department

Time: Monday and Wednesday 12:00-1:00 PM

Phone: 732-278-9576 (my cell)

Main sakai portal: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

Required textbooks:

1. A Short History of Psychiatry by Tom Burns (ISBN: 978-0-19-280727-4) Oxford University Press.
2. Worried Sick by Deborah Carr. (ISBN: 978-0-8135-6537-8) Rutgers University Press
3. An Unquiet Mind by Kay Redfield Jamison. (ISBN: 978-0-679-76330-7) Vintage Books

Other readings are in our course Sakai site.

Grading

Participation (including any informal in-class assignments).....	10%
In-class quizzes.....	15%
(Lowest of 6 is dropped. This means that you can miss one!)	
Group presentation.....	10%
Test 1.....	30%
Final Exam.....	35%

It is your responsibility to keep up with the material. Please be prepared for each session by having completed and reviewed the assigned readings for that day/week. Periodically, an in-class quiz or other group-based assignment will be given to allow those who do the readings and pay attention in class to prove it. All of the quiz dates are listed below. Other in-class assignments may be announced or unannounced. There are no make-ups, although I will drop the lowest quiz score in the end.

Constructive and thoughtful participation in class can benefit your final grade, especially if your average is border line.

Classroom environment

The Department of Sociology encourages the free exchange of ideas in a productive, courteous environment. To facilitate such an environment, we all must act with mutual respect and common interests. Please be mindful that distracting behaviors will not be tolerated. These include: cell phone use, internet surfing, checking email or other activities that divert attention from our brief time together. You may use laptop computers in the classroom, but **USE OF THE INTERNET IS PROHIBITED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED BY THE PROFESSOR.**

Testing

There will be two take-home tests in essay format. These take the place of a major in-class mid-term and final exam. There will also be periodic in-class activities and quizzes. These activities or quizzes cannot be made up. The lowest quiz score will be dropped.

Academic Integrity

Wondering about academic dishonesty? Please see the following RU site for guidelines on academic integrity expected at RU: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

Grading Scale:

90-100 = A

77-79 = C +

87-89 = B +

70-76=C

80-86=B

60-69 = D

59 or below = F

Students are expected to write complete, grammatically correct, sentences during ALL correspondence, including emails sent to me, the instructor. Minor typing errors are acceptable, but the abbreviated words and run-on sentences sometimes used in casual chats with friends online are NOT acceptable.

Grading Criteria for written essays:

Points:

Clear and logical statements; explanation and/or examples provided to support ideas; shows insight; provides complete bibliography; submitted on time	100
Clear statements with appropriate explanations or examples	90
Clear statements with some explanation or examples	80
Some unclear statements or incorrect explanations or examples	70
Confusing, lacks explanation or reasoning. Has not been proofed for wording, punctuation and other grammatical errors.	60 or lower

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1

1/18 Introduction: What is mental health and illness?

Week 2 *History and Controversy*

1/23 and 1/25

Monday: Burns, Psychiatry pp.1-50.

Wednesday: Conrad and Schneider " Medical Model of Madness: The Emergence of Mental Illness" (Posted in Sakai.)

Question for class discussion: How do we define mental illness? What do the readings for this week suggest?

Week 3

1/30 and 2/1

Burns, Psychiatry pp. 51-67 (ch.3)

Goffman, "Asylums" (Available through our Sakai course site.)

Film: Tropic of Cancer (to be shown in class)

→Quiz #1 on Wednesday. Quiz prep note: The quiz covers the readings for this week. There are 9 multiple choice questions and one written response question (about a paragraph). Here are a couple of questions to think about:

1. In Asylums, Goffman talks about the problem of social distance between staff and patients in the mental hospital that he studied. What is he referring to? Give some examples.
2. In discussing the trend toward deinstitutionalization, Burns refers to an "unholy alliance between therapeutic liberals and fiscal conservatives." What is he referring to?

Week 4 *A Diagnosis for Everything? Social Construction, Medicalisation, and Pharmaceuticalization*

2/6 and 2/8

Burns, Psychiatry pp.84-133

Frances, Allen "DSM 5 in Distress" Psychology Today Blog:

Hyperlink: (Also posted in our Sakai site)

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/dsm5-in-distress/201212/dsm-5-is-guide-not-bible-ignore-its-ten-worst-changes>

→Quiz #2 on Wednesday. Quiz prep note: This quiz is in the same format as last time, multiple choice and a written response. Please consider the following as you prepare:

1. Review the article by Conrad and Schneider that we read for week 2. In that article, they argue that the development of the medical model of madness was a social and political rather than a scientific achievement. What do they mean? How does Allan Frances's article in Psychology Today support this view?
2. With respect to psychiatric diagnoses, explain what is meant by the concept of "medicalization."
3. From Burns's book, review the following from chapter 5: Nature v. Nurture debate, the Anti-psychiatry movement. AND for chapter 6: Political abuse in psychiatry, Psychiatry "unlimited" (p.108), Impact of "Big Pharma," severe personality disorders.

Week 5

2/13 and 2/15

Horwitz and Wakefield "The Epidemic of Mental Illness" --

hyperlink (Also posted in our Sakai site.):

http://www.spusa.org/pubs/health_med/mental_health/epidemic%20in%20mental%20illness-%20clinical%20fact%20or%20survey%20artifact%20horowitz.pdf

Carr, Worried Sick chapter 1 (pp.1-19)

Suggested but not required:

Pieters and Snelders "Psychotropic Drug Use: Between Healing and Enhancing the Mind" (Posted in Sakai.)

Week 6 *Issues Pertaining to Gender, Age, Race, and Social Class*

2/20 and 2/22

Thomas, "Medicalizing Racism" (Posted in Sakai.)

Kugelmass, "Sorry, I'm Not Accepting New Patients": An Audit Study of Access to Mental Health Care (Posted in Sakai.)

→Quiz #3 on Monday. Covers both of the articles required for this week. Format: Multiple choice and written response.

Week 7

2/27 and 3/1

Monday: Carr, Worried Sick chapters 2 and 3 (pp.20-71)

Wednesday: Rosenfield and Mouzon, "Gender and Mental Health" (Posted in our Sakai site.)

→Quiz #4 on Wednesday. Quiz prep note: Most of the multiple choice questions will be drawn from Carr's two chapters above. Look over recent class notes as well. Here is the written response question in advance: Observe a friend, family member, or coworker.

Write down instances of role conflict, overload, or strain that you witness. What specific changes could they make to minimize the potential stress caused by these? (Yes, you can use yourself as the example if you wish.) In answering this you may also find the other article that we are reading this week helpful: "Gender and Mental Health." In this article, coping strategy variations by gender, race, and social class are discussed.

Week 8

3/6 and 3/8

Carr, *Worried Sick* chapter 4 and 5 (pp.72-109)

Schwarz, "Risky Rise of the Good Grade Pill" ([NewYorkTimes](#) article posted in Sakai.)

Suggested but not required:

Conrad and Potter "From Hyperactive Children to ADHD Adults: Observations on the Expansion of Medical Categories" (Posted in our Sakai site).

Film: *The Medicated Child* (to be shown in class)

→**Test 1 Due March 8.** Hand-deliver a copy in class AND upload to the dropbox in our Sakai site.

Week 9

SPRING BREAK!

Week 10

3/20 and 3/22

Redfield-Jamison, *An Unquiet Mind* **Please note that there are study questions pertaining to this book in our course site.**

Week 11

3/27 and 3/29

Redfield-Jamison, *An Unquiet Mind* continued.

Williams, "This is Your Brain on Nature"

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2016/01/call-to-wild-text>

→Quiz #5 on Wednesday. You will be working in groups to answer questions about readings for this week.

Week 12 *Issues Pertaining to Societal and Global Responses*

4/3 and 4/5

Monday: Chambliss, "The Patient as Object" (Sakai)

Coyne, "Club That is more like a Family" (Sakai)

Q. for thought and class discussion: The above readings present two models for mental health care. What are the pros and cons of each? Why are more humane models of care (as at Laurel House) so difficult to conceptualize and implement?

Wednesday: Linz and Sturm, "The Phenomenon of Social Isolation in the Severely Mentally Ill" (Sakai)

Both of the following are suggested but not required:

New York Times article "A Madman in Our Midst" --
<http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9402E0DE1138F937A15755C0A9649D8B63&pagewanted=1> (Sakai)

New York Times article "Broken Home"--
<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/04/18/nyregion/broken-home-a-special-report-for-mentally-ill-chaos-in-an-intended-refuge.html?src=pm&pagewanted=1> (Sakai)

Week 13

4/10 and 4/12

Teplin and Pruett "Police as Streetcorner Psychiatrist: Managing the Mentally Ill" (Sakai)

Film: The New Asylums (to be shown in class)
→ Quiz #6 on Wednesday. Covers material for this week, including the film shown in class.

Week 14

4/17 and 4/19 Begin Group Presentations

New York Times article: "The Americanization of Mental Illness"
Hyperlink (Also posted in our Sakai site):
http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/magazine/10psyche-t.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

Suggested but not required:

New York Times article: "Group Cites Grim State of India's Mentally Ill"
Hyperlink (Also posted in our Sakai site):
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/04/world/asia/india-mental-health-facilities-human-rights-watch.html?module=Search&mabReward=relbias%3As>

New York Times article: "Where Asylums Live On"
Hyperlink (Also posted in our Sakai site):
<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/03/opinion/sunday/where-mental-asylums-live-on.html?pagewanted=all&module=Search&mabReward=relbias%3As>

Week 15

4/24 and 4/26 Group Presentations

Week 16

5/1 Group Presentations

Final exam due date to be announced.

For RU's official Spring 2017 Final Exam Schedule see: <https://finalexams.rutgers.edu/>