

SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL ILLNESS

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Office hours: Thursday after class or by appt.

920:307:01

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“There are times in life when the question of knowing if one can think differently than one thinks, and perceive differently than one sees, is absolutely necessary if one is going to go on looking and reflecting at all.” (Michael Foucault 1985)

This course requires a prerequisite of Sociology 101. No exceptions will be made.

The learning goals of this course will be to analyze mental health data applying sociological theories as well as integrating information from multiple sources. We will study various social aspects of mental illness.

The first part of the course compares sociological with psychological and biological approaches to mental illness. Next, we will consider how selected social factors, including social class, ethnicity, gender, marital status, and age influence the causes and responses to mental distress. The final part of the course concerns various aspects of mental health systems of care and mental health policies.

There will be an exam after each of the three parts of the course. Each exam counts for a third of the grade. There is **no final comprehensive** exam. All students must take the exams when they are scheduled. You will need a doctor's or otherwise official note to make up an exam. There will be one major extra-credit assignment given to the entire class and **no individual** extra-credit assignments. Final grades will apply Rutgers University's undergraduate standard grading scale:

A	90 - 100
B+	85 - 89
B	80 - 84
C+	75 - 79
C	70 - 74
D	60 - 69
F	0 - 59

If you need accommodations for a disability or chronic illness please contact the Office of Disability Services at dsoffice@rce.rutgers.edu for an accommodation letter.

This course will apply the current **academic integrity policy** of Rutgers University. Cheating on exams is a violation of such academic integrity.

Diversity statement: The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.

The following text are available at NJ Books and/or the University Bookstore

1. Teresa Scheid and Tony Brown, A Handbook for the Study of Mental Health: Social Contexts, Theories, and Systems, Second Edition, Cambridge Press, 2010 (ISBN 0-521-56763-7)
2. Kay Jamison, An Unquiet Mind, Vintage Books, 1995 (ISBN 0-679-44374-6)
3. Susan Sheehan, Is There No Place on Earth for Me?, Vintage Books, 1983 (ISBN 0-394-1378-8)
4. Mental Health In The News: current news presented in class and/or put on sakai

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings:

Part One: PERSPECTIVES ON MENTAL ILLNESS

- Sept. 1 **Orientation: Overview and course requirements and class rules**
- Sept. 3 **Introduction To The Study Of Mental Illness**
Scheid and Brown, "Approaches to Mental Health and Illness", pp.1 –5
- Begin reading Jamison, An Unquiet Mind**
- Sept. 10 **Definitions and Categories of Mental Illnesses**
Horwitz, "An Overview of Sociological Perspectives on Definitions,...", pp.6-19
- Finish Jamison, An Unquiet Mind**
- Sept. 15, 17 **Epidemiology**
Wakefield and Schmitz "The Measurement of Mental Disorder", pp. 20 - 45
- Kessler, "The Prevalence of Mental Disorder" pp. 46 - 63
- Sept. 22 **Biological Perspectives**
Schwartz and Corcoran, "Biological Theories of Psychiatric Disorders: A Sociological Approach", pp. 64 -88

Sept. 24 Psychodynamic Perspectives
Peterson "Psychological Approaches to Mental Illness", pp. 89 – 105

Sept. 29 Sociological Perspectives
Thoits, "Sociological Approaches to Mental Illness"pp.106–124

Oct 1 EXAM #1

Oct. 6, 8 Continue Sociological Approach: Social Context
Brown and Scheid, "The Social Context of Mental Health and Illness,pp.163-170

Wheaton and Montazer, "Stressors, Stress, and Distress" pp. 171-199

Turner and Brown, "Social Support and Mental Health", pp. 200 – 212

Part Two: SOCIAL CORRELATES OF MENTAL DISORDERS

Oct. 13 Terrorism
Johnson and Hobfoll, "Mental Health and Terrorism", pp. 384 - 405

Work

Lennon and Limonic, "Work and Unemployment as Stressors" pp. 213-225

Oct. 15 Social Class
Eaton, Muntaner, and Sapag, "Socioeconomic Stratification and Mental Disorder", pp. 226 -255

Oct. 20 Gender
Rosenfield and Smith, "Gender and Mental Health: Do Men and Women Have Different Amounts and Types of Problems?", pp. 256 - 267

Oct. 22 Race
Williams , Costa, and Leavell, "Race and Mental Health: Patterns and Challenges", pp. 268 - 290

Keith and Brown, "African American Women and Mental Well-Being: The Triangulation of Race, Gender, and Socioeconomic Status", pp. 291 - 305

Oct. 27 Marital Status
William, Frech, and Carlson, "Marital Status and Mental Health", pp. 306 -320

Oct. 29 Life Course
Menaghan, "Stress and Distress in Childhood and Adolescence", pp. 321 - 233

Nov. 3 EXAM #2

Part Three: THE SOCIAL RESPONSE TO MENTAL ILLNESS

Nov. 5, 10 Labeling Theory

Link & Phelan, "Labeling and Stigma", pp. 571 - 587

Nov. 12 TO BE ANNOUNCED

Nov. 17 Mental Health Systems and Policies

Scheid and Brown, "Mental Health Systems and Policy", pp. 407-419

Begin reading Sheehan, Is There No Place On Earth For Me?

Nov. 19 From Mental Hospitals to Deinstitutionalization

Movie: "One Flew Over The Cuckoo Nest" (Out of class assignment)

Sheehan, Is There No Place On Earth For Me?

Nov. 24 Effects of Managed Care on Caregivers

**Scheid, "Consequences of Managed Care for Mental Health Providers"
pp. 529 - 547**

Nov. 26 – 29 Thanksgiving Recess

Dec. 1 Consumers

Legal protections - Americans with Disability Act, Parity Law, Health Care

Affordable Care Act (Given in class and/or on sakai)

McLean, "The Mental Health Consumers/Survivors Movement in the United States", pp. 461 – 477

Dec. 3, 8 Legal System's Response to Mental Illness

**Hiday and Burns, "Mental Illness and the Criminal Justice System",
pp. 478 – 498**

Dec. 10 EXAM #3