

SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL ILLNESS (01:920:307:02)

Fall 2025

Dr. Linda Carelli

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Tuesday and Thursday

Office hours: Thursday by appointments (zoom, email, or phone)

Required prerequisite: Sociology 101 No exceptions

Course Format: Synchronized

You are expected to attend class meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00 - 3:20. Throughout the course, materials (class objectives, assignment etc.) will be put weekly on Canvas Modules.

Technology:

This course will use Canvas (located in the Office of Information Technology). For tech help, please visit <https://it.rutgers.edu/help-support>. If you do not have the appropriate technology for financial reasons, please email Dean of students deanofstudents@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance. Please visit the Rutgers Student Tech Guide page for technology resources available to all students.

Readings:

There are no 'out of pocket' expenses. E-books are on the Canvas "Reading List".

1. Teresa Scheid and Tony Brown, A Handbook for the Study of Mental Health: Social Contexts, Theories, and Systems, Second Edition, Cambridge Press, 2010 (e-book).
2. Karp, David and Gretchen Sisson, Voices from The Inside: Readings on the Experiences of Mental Illness, Oxford University Press, 2010
3. Additional readings will be listed and given on the weekly Modules and Assignments on Canvas.
4. Media (i.e., YouTube/podcast/documentaries) will be listed on Canvas Modules and/or Assignments.
5. Power points will be presented weekly on the Modules.

Grading:

Three multiple choice exams = 85% plus written assignments = 15%

Final grades will apply the Rutgers undergraduate grading scale:

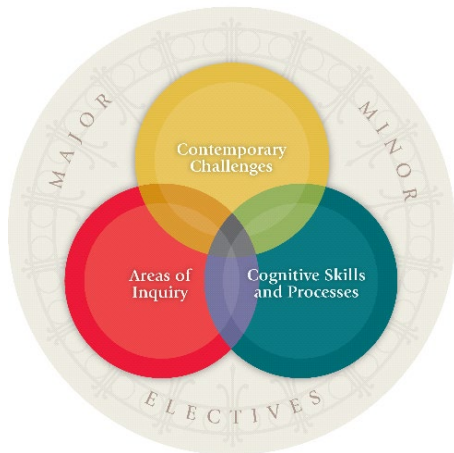
A = 90-100	C+ = 76-79	F = below 60
B+ = 86-89	C = 70-75	
B = 80-85	D = 60-69	

Learning Goals:

“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)

Overall, the purpose of this course is to present a sociological perspective for understanding Mental Illness. Mental Illness is not randomly distributed, but rather is socially patterned - and likewise is the availability of and access to mental health services. This purpose is compliant with:

Core Curriculum Goal: SCL-1 Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.



- Develop an understanding of the key questions addressed by the discipline, specifically regarding the conceptualization of mental illness as primarily a social construct.
- Explore the ways in social structure and social interaction shape behaviors that are identified as mental illnesses.

Specifically, these goals are reflected in the goals for this course:

Part one

- Identifying the limitations both in the definition and categories of mental illness as given in the DSM 5.

- Understanding perspectives for explaining the “causes” of mental illness presented in an overview of the biological and psychological perspectives and in the thorough emphasize on the sociological perspective.
- Studying how mental illnesses are measured, some of the research findings and the limitations and utility of these finding.

Part two

- Develop an understanding of the social stress process theory.
- Understanding how selected social factors, including terrorism, social class, race, ethnicity, work, and gender, are related to mental health and illness.

Part three

- Applying labeling theory and stigma to the response to mental distress.
- Identify various aspects of mental health systems of care and mental health policies that dictate this care.
- Explore the criminal justice response to individuals with mental illness.

Course Schedule

Note: The readings below are from the e-book “on Canvas. The Modules give additional readings, power points and assignments.

Part One: Theoretical PERSPECTIVES ON MENTAL ILLNESS

- Sept. 2 - 4 Introduction to course design and overview of course requirements
 Definitions and Categories of Mental Illnesses
 e-book- Handbook Chapter 1
 Power Points 1-9
- Sept. 9 – 11 Continue definitions and conceptions.
 Epidemiology: Measuring Mental Illness
 e-book -Handbook....., Chapter 2 and Chapter 3
 Power Points 10-16
- Sept. 16 – 18 Biological and Psychodynamic Approaches to Mental illness
 e-book -Handbook....., Chapter 6
 Power Points 17-26

Sept. 23 – 25 Sociological Approaches to Mental Illness
e-book - Handbook..., Chapter 7
e-book - Handbook ..., Chapter 9
Power Points 27-28

Sept. 30 Social Stressors and Social Support
e-book- Handbook..., Chapter 10
Power Points 29-31

Exam #1 Oct. 2

Part Two: SOCIAL CORRELATES OF MENTAL DISORDERS

Oct. 7 – 9 Terrorism
e-book - Handbook..., Chapter 18
Power Point 32-33
Work and unemployment
e-book - Handbook..., Chapter 11
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/22/opinion/remote-work.html>
“Remote Work Is Here to Stay. Lean In, Employers” by Jessica Grosse
Power Points 34-35
“The Work That Drains Us”

Oct. 14-16 Social Class and Mental Illness
Power Points 36-41
Gender and Mental Health
Power Points 42-48

Oct. 21 Race/Ethnicity in Mental Health
Power Point 49-50
Reading – “Collaborative Care.....”
Intersectionality
Power Point 51

Exam #2 Oct. 23

Part Three: THE SOCIAL RESPONSE TO MENTAL ILLNESS

- Oct. 28 – 30 Labeling Theory
 e-book - Handbook....., Chapter 1
 Voice from the Inside (Chapters listed in Assignment)
 Power Points 52-62
- Nov. 4 – 6 Mental Health Service Delivery Systems: Phases of Care
 Power Points 63-65

 Movie – Kings Park (see link on Canvas)
- Nov. 11- 13 Consumer Movement and Recovery
 Article -Treatment Advocacy July 2020 (Canvas)
 Power Points 66-69
- Nov. 18 – 20 Social justice policies governing services: Laws
 Power Points 70-71
 Americans with Disability Act 1990
 Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008
 Reform Act
- Nov. 25 Continue Policies
- Nov. 27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING
- Dec. 2 – 4 Criminal Justice: Criminalizing individuals with Mental Illness
 Handbook Chapter 23 pp.
 Power Point 72-73
- Dec. 9 Future for Care of Individuals with Mental Illness
 Kindness assignment

Exam #3 Dec.16 12:00 Noon

Additional Information

Academic Integrity: For questions about academic integrity, please go to <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/resources>. A 20 minute interactive tutorial on plagiarism and academic integrity is at <http://www.soc.rutgers.edu/douglass/sal/plagiarism/intro.html>.

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.

Disability Services: 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 or contact them at (848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A, 145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 /<https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation - <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>.

If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations must follow the procedures outlined at <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/getting-registered>

Learning Resources:

Learning Centers: <https://rlc.rutgers.edu/>

Advising for SAS students: <https://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/advising/advising>
Online Learning Tools from Rutgers University Libraries including Rutgers RIOT,

Search path and RefWorks <http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/tutorials>

Other Resources for Students:

Depending on our individual circumstances, we may be affected by the difficulties of the last few years. At the very least, we have all collectively endured an ongoing pandemic, civil unrest, racism, gun violence, hostile politics, and climate change, all while balancing work/school and personal lives. This individual and collective trauma impacts our wellbeing and ability to work, both as instructors and as learners. Take a minute to acknowledge our moment and its potential impact on all of us. If at any point, you experience anything impacting your performance or ability to participate in this class, please reach out to me. Please also see the academic, health, and mental wellness resources on the syllabus as well as others searchable at <https://success.rutgers.edu/> for further support.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS):

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling>

CAPS is a university mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professionals within Rutgers Health services that include individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community, and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Crisis Intervention: <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-counseling/crisis-intervention/>

Report a Concern: <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>.

Rutgers Health Services is available to support students efforts to succeed.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

www.vpva.rutgers.edu/. The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim

Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Attendance and Self-Reporting Absence: While this course is “by arrangement” and does not expect students to attend all classes, if for any reason you are Unable to participate in requirements for the course they can use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the reason

and date for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.
University attendance and religious holiday policies are at
[Http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug_current/pg1433.html](http://catalogs.rutgers.edu/generated/nb-ug_current/pg1433.html)

SAS attendance policy is at

<http://sasundergrad.rutgers.edu/avademics/courses/registration-and-course-policies/attendance-and-vanvellation-of-class>

Financial Concerns:

Contact the Dean of Students@echo.rutgers.edu for assistance if you are facing financial hardships, please visit the Office of Financial Aid at
<https://financialaid.rutgers.edu/>