

# **SOCI 3112-FA: SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL DISORDER**

Fall 2019

**Lecture:** Tuesdays 2:30-5:30pm

**Location:** AT 2004

**Instructor:** Dr. Sanders

**Office:** RB 2038

**Office hours:** Tue/Wed 12-1pm and by appointment

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Mental illness is a complex phenomenon that continues to be a source of debate in several disciplines; it is also one of the most important public health issues in Canada today. This course brings a sociological perspective to bear on this issue. The fundamental premise upon which this course is based is that mental well-being, mental illness, and specific mental disorders are social phenomena that involve interactions between social structural, cultural, institutional, psychological, and biological variables. This course serves as an introduction to the sociology of mental health: Unit 1 reviews major concepts and theories. Unit 2 examines the relationship between social determinants and mental health and disorder. Unit 3 applies what we've learned to contemporary issues including the "deinstitutionalization" movement, pharmacological treatments, legal systems and the mentally ill, and media representation.

## **STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- To learn sociological approaches to studying mental illness;
- To learn how social/cultural context shapes conceptions of mental health and illness and the expression of mental disorders and distress;
- To examine the history and significance of the DSM, how it shapes clinical practice and cultural knowledge, and the controversies surrounding it;
- To evaluate the framing of contemporary mental disorders as social problems;
- To participate in respectful class discussions and to take a critical perspective by challenging taken-for-granted assumptions of psychiatry and the dominant medical model approach to psychiatric medicine.

## **COURSE READINGS**

We will use the following textbook available at the LU bookstore:

- Cockerham, William C. 2016. *Sociology of Mental Disorder, Tenth Edition*. New York: Routledge.
- Additional weekly readings uploaded to D2L.
- Top Hat education software subscription (approx. \$30)

## COURSE EVALUATION AND SUMMARY OF TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Description	Date	Value
Midterm	08 October	25%
Activities/quizzes	Weekly	25%
Final	06 December	25%
Attendance/participation	Weekly	25%

**Midterm and Final:** comprehensive tests that include multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. The midterm is an in-class test and the final is a take-home essay. There are no makeups except with appropriate authoritative documentation; all make-ups are essay format.

**Activities and quizzes:** short in-class group exercises that evaluate basic application skills.

**Attendance and participation:** This course relies on regular participation. Students are expected to read in advance and bring questions for open discussion. Your participation grade will reflect the degree of participation and preparation you show for each class, rather than simply attendance. **Top Hat** will be integrated into lectures to facilitate participation.

**Extra credit:** Two extra credit assignments are posted to D2L with instructions and due dates.

## GENERAL POLICIES

**Etiquette:** Common courtesy goes a long way. This includes paying attention (i.e., not using social media/email), listening to others, and promoting a civil learning environment. Be mindful that some of your classmates may have deeply personal experiences with mental illness.

**Grades:** I do not discuss grades by email. Grade inquiries must be in person.

**Plagiarism:** All work must be completed with academic integrity. Please review the Lakehead University policy on plagiarism and academic dishonesty; it can be accessed from the LU homepage or the course information module of the course website. Please discuss with me any questions or concerns about this policy prior to handing in assignments or taking the tests.

**Accommodations:** LU is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. This commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) as early as possible. Please visit: <http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE\*

### **Week 1 (Sept 03): Introductions, Overview & the Problem of Mental Disorder**

- *SoMD*, Chapter 1, “The Problem of Mental Disorder.”
- D2L: “What is a Social Problem?” (Tepperman & Curtis)

### **Week 2 (Sept 10): The Challenge of Defining Mental Disorders**

- *SoMD*, Chapter 2: “Types of Disorders” (read pp. 29-33; skim 34-53).
- D2L: “The Ideology Behind DSM-5” (Paris).
- In-class group activity.

### **Week 3 (Sept 17): Models of Mental Disorder**

- *SoMD*, Chapter 3: “Acting Mentally Disordered.”
- *SoMD*, Chapter 4: “Mental Disorder: Concepts of Causes and Cures” (read pp. 79-89 and 99-110).
- In-class group activity.

### **Week 4 (Sept 24): Prevalence of Mental Disorder**

- *SoMD*, Chapter 5: “Mental Disorder as Deviant Social Behavior.”
- *SoMD*, Chapter 6: “Mental Disorder: Social Epidemiology.”
- In-class film.

### **Week 5 (Oct 01): Medicalization and Mental Disorder**

- D2L: “The Three Faces of PMS” (Figert) (surnames A-L).
- D2L: “The Medicalisation of Shyness” (Scott) (surnames M-Z).
- D2L: “Is ADHD a Mental Health Crisis or a Cultural One?” (Lunau).
- In-class film.
- Test review. Everyone bring one review question.

### **Week 6 (Oct 08): Midterm**

- Midterm in class.
- Last day to submit Extra Credit 1.

### **Week 7 (Oct 15): Reading Week**

- Enjoy the break.

### **Week 8 (Oct 22): Variation in Rates of Mental Disorder**

- *SoMD*, Chapter 7: “Mental Disorder: Social Class.”
- *SoMD*, Chapter 8: “Mental Disorder: Age, Gender, and Marital Status.”
- In-class film.
- Term Paper assignment distributed and discussed.

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\* This is a general outline and is subject to change. Contact me for current unabridged version.

### **Week 9 (Oct 29): Variation in Rates of Mental Disorder (con't)**

- *SoMD*, Chapter 9: "Mental Disorder: Urban versus Rural Living and Migration."
- *SoMD*, Chapter 10: "Mental Disorder: Race."
- In-class group activity.

### **Week 10 (Nov 05): History of the "Asylum" & the Deinstitutionalization Movement**

- *SoMD*, Chapter 12: "The Mental Hospital Patient" (skim pp. 228-235; read pp. 236-250).
- *SoMD*, Chapter 13: "Residing in the Community" (read pp. 253-254 on "stigma").
- D2L: "Deinstitutionalization and Regionalization" (Davis).
- D2L: "Women in 19th-Century Asylums" (St-Amand & LeBlanc).
- D2L: "The Tragic Farce of "Community Mental Health Care" (Shimrat).
- In-class group activity.

### **Week 11 (Nov 12): Mental Disorder & the Law**

- D2L: "The Interface with the Criminal Justice System" (Davis).
- D2L: "Deeds of Mercy" (Bayliss).
- In-class group activity.

### **Week 12 (Nov 19): Mental Disorder & the Media**

- CP: "Health and Media: An Overview" (read pp. 513-524) (Seale).
- D2L: "Pitching Mad: News Media and the Psychiatric Survivor Perspective" (Wipond)
- In-class group activity.

### **Week 13 (Nov 26): Accommodating or Coddling? The Mental Health Impact of**

- CP: "Anxiety and Depression" (Lukianoff & Haidt)
- CP: "Number of Ontario Teens with Psychological Distress Rising at Alarming Rate: Study" (Andressen)
- CP: "One-Third of Ontario Adolescents Report 'Psychological Distress', Survey Finds" (Brait)
- CP: "As More Students Seek Mental-Health Care, They Face Long Waits – or Pay Out of Pocket – As Universities Struggle with Demand" (Gibson)
- Last day to submit Extra Credit 2 in class.
- Take home Final distributed and discussed. Last day to submit assignment to D2L folder is **06 December 2019 at 5pm.**