

**SOCIAL PSYCHIATRY  
SOCIOLOGY 3450**

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**Professor of Psychiatric Sociology**  
**Fall, 2008**  
**Mendel 154**

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**Course Description**

This is a survey course designed to introduce college students to the fascinating world of mental illness. The first part of the course deals with the definition of mental illness. This is a challenging task, in light of the fact that mental illness can take exotically different forms around the world.

The second part of the course centers around the clinical symptoms and theoretical causes of the more common forms of mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, phobia, obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder, multiple personality disorder, psychopathy, personality disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder and psychosexual disorders.

The third part of the course examines how different types of mental illness vary across sociodemographic groups. Who is most at risk and why? Topics include gender, race, ethnicity, marital status, religion, social class, place of residence, migration, age, and family variables such as sibling position. Cross-cultural differences are regularly emphasized.

The last part of the course deals with what is known as "patienthood." We examine three questions carefully: What happens to people as they become mentally ill? How are the mentally ill treated, particularly in mental hospitals? What problems do ex-patients encounter when they attempt to rejoin society?

*The course topics are approached in a variety of ways including lectures, case discussions, state-of-the-art films, and expert guest lecturers on serial murder, homosexuality, psychiatry and the law and psychiatric treatment.*

This course fulfills the cultural diversity 1 requirement.

**Learning Objectives for Students**

- (1) To learn about the conceptual aspects of mental illness from both a historical and contemporary perspective.
- (2) To know the symptoms of some of the more common forms of mental illness in the United States and around the world.
- (3) To develop an understanding of the numerous causal theories of mental illness.
- (4) To learn about the distribution of mental illness over different sociodemographic groups.

- (5) To learn what happens to people (and their families) as they become mentally ill.
- (6) To understand the different ways the mentally ill are treated, particularly in mental hospitals.
- (7) To learn about the problems ex-patients encounter when they attempt to rejoin society.

### **Required Books and Readings**

- (1) Bernard J. Gallagher III, The Sociology of Mental Illness, (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 2002).
- (2) Gloria R. Leon, Case Histories of Psychopathology, (Holbrook Press, 4th edition). Presently being republished by Prentice-Hall.
- (3) You will be provided with readings on current issues in Psychiatric Sociology. All of these are available on WebCT. These include slides for the PowerPoint presentation on schizophrenia. These are to be read by the date noted on the reading list on **page 5 of the syllabus**.
- (4) For those of you who wish to pursue topics of special interest, please note:  
\* There are over 3,500 different references to secondary sources in the Gallagher book.

### **Examinations and Grades**

The mid-term examination (see Important Dates Sheet) will cover the first 5 chapters of Gallagher plus designated cases in Leon. The final exam will cover chapters 6-14 of Gallagher plus designated cases in Leon. Each examination is worth approximately 45 percent of the final grade. Your questions for the guest speakers and class participation comprise the other 10%. Other material on both exams includes the “outside readings” on WebCT and information from the guest lecturers. Thus, your final grade is determined by:

1. Mid-Term Exam
2. Final Exam
3. Essay Questions for the Guest Speakers
4. Class Participation

### **Case Readings**

Each student will be responsible for reading all of the Leon cases designated on the course outline on their own. Ideally, the cases will be read independently before the topic is broached in class; therefore, students can raise any questions they might have as I highlight the information I think is most important about each case. Students will be expected to answer general questions about the cases on the mid-term and final exams.

### **Guest Speaker Questions**

Each of you will provide 2 to 4 well thought out questions for each of the guest speakers, with the exception of Mr. Michael Engle’s presentation, for which you should print out the accompanying lecture outline from WebCT. The questions will be collected one week in advance of the guest speaker’s appearance. They are to be typed, in perfect grammar, with your name and the name of the guest speaker at the top of the page. **All questions must be handed in on time. No excuses!**

## **Class Attendance**

Attendance is rarely a problem in this class. Most students find the subject matter interesting and want to come. However, sometimes there is a deviant or two. These are the people who do poorly in the course because they did not benefit from the lectures. Consequently, I take attendance so that there will be a record of who these people are. If they complain about failing an exam, I can point to their absences as a likely cause.

**Excessive absences significantly reduce student learning. Therefore, unexcused absences in excess of 4 classes will result in a lowering of the course grade by half of a grade (e.g. - B+ reduced to B).**

## **Cultural Diversity**

This course fulfills the cultural diversity (1) requirement. Since the mentally ill are a forgotten and misunderstood population, they are the subject of widespread biases common to a minority group. Additionally, much of the course deals with issues of gender, race, ethnicity and cross-cultural variation.

## **Important Dates**

See attached list on page 6.

## **Office Hours**

Monday and Wednesday, 2:00 - 3:00 P.M.

These and Other Times by Appointment. (I am more than willing to meet you at any time that is convenient for both of us.)

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

- I. MENTAL ILLNESS AND SOCIAL FORCES: AN OVERVIEW
  - A. Mental Illness and Society  
Gallagher - Chapter 1
  - B. Concepts, Definitions and Types of Mental Illness: A Cross-Cultural Perspective  
Gallagher - Chapter 2
  - C. Environmental Theories of Mental Illness: The Influence of Social Stress  
Gallagher - Chapter 3
  
- II. COMMON FORMS OF MENTAL ILLNESS: PREVALENCE, SYMPTOMS AND CAUSES
  - A. Schizophrenic and Mood Disorders  
Gallagher - Chapter 4  
Leon - Cases 17, 18 and 19 (schizophrenia)  
Cases 15 and 16 (mood disorder)

- B. Anxiety Disorders  
Gallagher - Chapter 5  
Leon - Case 5 (phobic disorder)  
Leon - Case 6 (obsessive compulsive disorder)
- C. Personality Disorders  
Gallagher - Chapter 6  
Leon - Case 4 (antisocial personality disorder)
- D. Somatoform and Dissociative Disorders  
Leon - Case 9 (conversion disorder)
- E. Sexual and Substance-Related Disorders  
Leon - Case 13 (alcoholism)  
Leon - Case 10 (cross-addiction)

### III. THE SOCIAL EPIDEMIOLOGY OF MENTAL ILLNESS

- A. Epidemiology: An Overview of Patterns of Mental Illness  
Gallagher - Chapter 7
- B. Social Class and Social Mobility  
Gallagher - Chapter 8
- C. Gender, Marital Status and Family Relationships  
Gallagher - Chapter 9
- D. Religion, Ethnicity and Race  
Gallagher - Chapter 10
- E. Migration, Place of Residence and Age  
Gallagher - Chapter 11

### IV. THE PSYCHOSOCIAL EXPERIENCES OF MENTAL PATIENTS

- A. Becoming a Mental Patient: The Prepatient Process  
Gallagher - Chapter 12
- B. Treatment: The Inpatient Experience  
Gallagher - Chapter 13
- C. After the Mental Hospital: The Social Role of the Ex-Mental Patient  
Gallagher - Chapter 14

**PSYCHIATRY READINGS – FALL 2008**  
**(On WebCT)**

**Read By Mid-Term (In order Listed)**



**ARTICLE**

Psychiatric Terms  
Breaking the Silence of Stigma  
Freud in Our Midst  
Defying Psychiatric Wisdom  
Drugs Shaping Psychiatry  
Schizophrenia Lectures Outline (PowerPoint)  
Schizophrenia and Twins  
Schizophrenic Subtype, Prenatal Factors and Social Class  
Hope in Sight for Schizophrenia  
Drugs for Schizophrenia  
Infection Connections and Mental Illness  
Keeping Schizophrenics on Meds  
Mentally Ill in the Streets  
Personality Seen in Brain  
Anxiety Linked to Genetics  
High Anxiety

**Read By Final (In order Listed)**



OCD and Bacteria  
Hairpulling Disorder  
PTSD Article  
Borderline Personality Disorder  
MPD Article  
Serial Murder Lecture Outline (+ Articles)  
Organized vs. Disorganized Killers  
Genevieve Jones: Angel of Senseless Death  
Is There an Epidemic of Mental Illness?  
Social Class and Type of Schizophrenia  
Law is indifferent to a mother's pleas  
Psychiatry and Law Lecture Outline  
A Matter Over Mind (Insanity)  
Hiring the Mentally Ill  
Targeting the Brain  
Religious Cults

16 - Before Mid-Term  
16 - After Mid-Term  
32 - Total

**IMPORTANT DATES – FALL 2008 SEMESTER**

8/25	Course Organization		
9/01	<b>LABOR DAY</b>		
9/03	“History of Asylums”	RC 443.A875 2003 (DVD)	(Projection Room #3)
9/10	“Bellevue: Inside Out”	VT 3874 (VHS)	(Projection Room #3)
9/24	“Broken Minds”	VT 1002 (VHS)	(Projection Room #3)
10/01	“Phobia”	RC 535.G34 (DVD)	(Projection Room #3)
10/08	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>		
10/13	<b>FALL BREAK</b>		
10/15	<b>FALL BREAK</b>		
10/22	"John Wayne Gacy"	HV 6529.S47 2000 (DVD)	(Projection Room #3)
10/29	"The Hillside Strangler"	KF 224.B453 M55 Part 2 (DVD)	(Projection Room #3)
11/05	* <b>Guest Speaker</b> Mr. Michael Engle, Esquire Criminal Defense Attorney Former Intern, Serial Murder Division of FBI		<b>Serial Murder Lecture</b>  <u>(Both Sections Combined 4:30-6:00)</u>
11/12	* <b>Guest Speaker (Date is Tentative)</b> Margot Montgomery O'Donnell, MD Resident Psychiatrist Department of Psychiatry The University of Pennsylvania		<b>Psychiatric Treatment</b>  <u>(Both Sections Combined 4:30-6:00)</u>
11/19	* <b>Guest Speaker</b> Mr. Arthur T. Donato, Esquire Criminal Defense Attorney and Founding President of the PA Assoc. of Criminal Defense Lawyers		<b>Psychiatry and the Law</b>  <u>(Both Sections Combined 4:30-6:00)</u>
11/24	“Fugue Syndrome”	VT 2796 (VHS)	(Projection Room #3)
11/26	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>		
12/03	* <b>Guest Speakers</b> Ms. Elizabeth Schmidt, Nurse, Drexel University Mr. Michael Gallagher, Grad Student, Temple Univ. Mr. David Janke, Recent NOVA Graduate (2003) Ms. Jessica Streeter, Recent NOVA Graduate (2006) Mr. Ian Bush, Recent NOVA Graduate (2004) (N.B. The composition of this panel varies by semester.)		<b>Homosexuality Panel</b>  <u>(Both Sections Combined 4:30-6:00)</u>
12/10	Last Class Day		