Enquire Teaching Timetable

Return

Course Outcome

ANTH 2321 - From Madness to Mental Health

Learning Outcome

Our goal is that after taking this course, you will have:

- 1. To analyze psychiatry as a cultural domain and a social institution as well as a critical concern for mental health as a social issue.
- 2. To understand the symptomatology and illness experiences of major mental illnesses.
- 3. To evaluate how mental illness and mental health interact with local social and cultural contexts in different cultural context.
- 4. To apply anthropological knowledge and skills in personal as well as social mental health matters.

Course Syllabus

Module 1: Origins and Framings

The first part of the course examines three of the most important origins of modern mental health that continue to shape our current knowledge and practice: (1) Asylum psychiatry that offers custodial care of people with severe mental illness. (2) Psychoanalysis that pioneers the talk therapy for common mental disorders. (3) Colonial psychiatry that puts in place the international dissemination of psychiatric knowledge and practice.

Insanity and the Birth of Asylum

Hysteria and the Birth of Psychoanalysis

From Colonial Psychiatry to Global Mental Health

Module 2: Mental Illness in Context

The second part of the course makes foray into a series of ethnographic examples. Each week we examine a major category of mental illness or psychopathology—including psychosis, depression, dissociation, addiction, and so on—through case studies, in which culturally-mediated experiences and social courses of illnesses will be revealed.

Psychotic/Extraordinary Experience

Depression

Trauma and PTSD

Addiction

Eating Disorders

Psychopathy and Criminality

Module 3: Mental Health in Contemporary Society

The third part of the course discusses some of the most pressing mental health trends we are witnessing in contemporary times, including the rise of big pharmaceutical companies, the dominance of neuroscience, and the popularity of self-help and self-healing measures. In the end we will try to envision a better future for psychiatry and mental health services.

Pharma and Neuro

Self-Help and Recovery

The Future of Psychiatry

Assessment Type		
	Assessment Type	Current Percent
1	Essays	50
2	Participation	20
3	Report	30

Feedback for Evaluation

- 1. Course and Teaching Evaluation Survey
- 2. Internal Course Review

Required Readings

Week 1 Introduction

Kleinman, Arthur 1988 "What Is a Psychiatric Diagnosis" in Rethinking Psychiatry: From Cultural Category to Personal Experience. Pp. 5-17. New York: Free Press.

Module 1: Origins and Framings

Week 2 Insanity and the Birth of Asylum

Rosenhan, David 1973 "On Being Sane in Insane Places," Science, 179: 250-258.

Foucault, Michel 2001(1967) "The Birth of the Asylum" in Madness and Civilization. Pp. 229-264. Abingdon, Oxon:

Week 3 Hysteria and the Birth of Psychoanalysis

Breuer, Joseph and Sigmund Freud. 1893 "Fräulein Anna O," in Studies on Hysteria. The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, Volume II (1893-1895), 19-47.

Luhrmann, Tanya 2000 "Psychoanalyst" in Of Two Minds: An Anthropologist Looks at American Psychiatry. Pp. 181-202. New York: Vintage.

Week 4 From Colonial to Global Mental Health

Vaughan, Megan 1992 "The Madman and the Medicine Men: Colonial Psychiatry and the Theory of Deculturation" in Curing Their ills: Colonial Power and African Illness. Pp. 100-128. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Kirmayer, Laurence and Duncan Pedersen 2014 "Toward a New Architecture of Global Mental Health" Transcultural Psychiatry 51(6): 759-776.

Module 2: Mental Illness in Context

Week 5 Psychotic/Extraordinary Experience

Lachenmeyer, Nathaniel 2011 The Outsider: A Journey into My Father's Struggle with Madness. New York: Broadway (excerpts).

Jenkins, Janis. 2015 "This Is How God Wants It? The Struggle of Sebastian." in Extraordinary Conditions: Culture and Experience in Mental Illness. Pp. 71-95.

Berkeley: University of California Press.

Week 6 Depression

Li, Yiyun 2017 Dear Friends, from My Life I Write to You in Your Life. New York: Random House (excerpts).

Behrouzan, Orkideh 2016 "Depreshen Talk, the Pill, and Psychiatric Subjectivities" in Prozak Diaries: Psychiatry and Generational Memory in Iran. Pp. 91-121. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Week 7 Trauma and PTSD

Herman, Judith 1992 "Terror" in Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence—from Domestic Abuse to Political Violence. Pp. 33-50. New York: Basic Books.

Young, Allan 1995 "Talking about PTSD" in The Harmony of Illusions: Inventing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Pp. 224-263. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Week 8 Addiction

Shukla, Rashi K. 2016 "Loving Meth" in Methamphetamine: A Love Story. Pp. 39-54. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Schüll, Natasha 2006 "Machines, Medication, Modulation: Circuits of Dependency and Self-Care in Las Vegas," Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry 30 (2): 223-247.

Week 9 Eating Disorders

Gay, Roxane 2017 Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body. New York: Harper (excerpts).

Becker, Anne 2004 "Television, Disorganized Eating, and Young Women in Fiji: Negotiating Body Image and Identity during Rapid Social Change," Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry 28: 533-559.

Week 10 Psychopathy and Criminality

Cleckley, Hervy 1941 The Mask of Sanity: An Attempt to Clarify Some Issues about the So-called Psychopathic Personality. St. Louis: Mosby (excerpts from case illustrations)

. Rhodes, Lorna 2002 "Psychopathy and the Face of Control in Supermax," Ethnography 3 (4): 442-466.

Module 3: Mental Health in Contemporary Society

Week 11 Pharma and Neuro

Healy, David 2006 "The New Medical Oikumene" in Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, Practices, edited by Adriana Petryna, Andrew Lakoff, and Arthur Kleinman. Pp. 61-84. Durham: Duke University Press. Rose, Nikolas and Joelle M. Abi-Rached 2013 "All in the Brain?" In Neuro: the New Brain Sciences and the New Management of the Mind. Pp. 110-140. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Week 12 Self-Help and Recovery

Bovoroy, Amy 2006 "Alcoholism and Codependency" in The Too-Good Wives: Alcohol, Codependency, and the Politics of Nurture in Postwar Japan. Pp. 42-66. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Nakamura, Karen 2013 "Bethel Therapies/Peer Support and a Meaningful Life" in A Disability of the Soul: An Ethnography of Schizophrenia and Mental Illness in Contemporary Japan. Pp. 163-201. Ithaca, NY: Cornel University Press.

Week 13 The Future of Psychiatry

Rose, Nikolas 2019 "Is Another Psychiatry Possible?" in Our Psychiatric Future. Pp. 173-198. Cambridge: Polity.

Recommended Readings

Porter, Roy 2003 Madness: A Brief History. New York: Oxford University Press.

Khan, Nikola 2016 Mental Disorders: Anthropological Insights. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.