

SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL Health ILLNESS

Dr. Linda Carelli
linda.carelli@rutgers.edu

920:307:01
Fall 2020, TTh6

Office hours: Mondays by zoom, email or phone as needed

“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

Mental illness is not randomly distributed, rather it is socially patterned - and likewise is the availability of and access to mental health services.

The goals of this course are:

Part one:

- 1. Identifying the limitations both in the definition and categories of mental illness as given in the DSM 5.**
- 2. Understanding the 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.**
- 3. Studying how mental disorders are measured, some of the findings and the limitations and utility of these finding.**

Part two:

- 1. Understanding how selected social factors, including terrorism, social class, race, ethnicity, work, gender, and marital status are related to mental health and illness.**
- 2. Applying labeling theory and stigma to the response to mental distress.**

Part three:

- 1. Identify various aspects of mental health systems of care and mental health policies that dictate this care.**
- 2. Explore the criminal justice response to individuals with mental illness.**

There will be an exam after each of the three parts of the course.

Grades will be based on the following points system:

25 pts. Exam #1

25 pts. Exam #2

25 pts. Exam #3

25 pts. (5 assignments - 5 pts.) TBA on Assignments on Sakai

100 pts. Total

Final grades will apply Rutgers University's undergraduate standard grading scale:

A 90 – 100 pts.

B+ 85 – 89 pts.

B 80 – 84 pts.

C 70 - 74 pts.

C+ 75 – 79 pts.

D 60 – 69 pts.

F 0 – 59 pts.

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 assigned (ordered through Barnes and Noble) There will be put on reserve at the library if possible:

1. David Karp and Sisson, Gretchen, Voices from the Inside: Readings on the Experiences of Mental Illness, 2010 (ISBN978-0-19-537045-4)

Note: Articles in quotes are from this book

2. Susan Sheehan, Is There No Place on Earth for Me?, Vintage Books, 1983

3. Readings for each class will be listed on Assignment on Sakai one class to one week in advance of class. Some readings will be listed on this syllabus.
4. Resources/PowerPoints: supplementary class material will be put on Sakai
5. Movies, pod cast, and other visual media will be assigned

Course Schedule

Part One: Theoretical PERSPECTIVES ON MENTAL ILLNESS

Sept. 1 Orientation to remote learning and design of the course

Overview and course requirements

**Sept. 3 Definitions and Categories of Mental Illnesses
Resource #1 and 1a Approaches and Definitions**

Sept. 8 No Class - Monday Classes Meet Today

**Sept. 10 Health and Wellness
Assignment to be given in class**

**Sept. 15 Experiences in their own voices
Karp and Sisson, "Introduction" pp. 3 – 16
Karp, D, "The Unwelcome Career", pp. 16 – 24
Jamison, K, in Karp "Flights of the Mind", pp 24 – 32**

**Sept. 17 Epidemiology
Resource/PowerPoint #2: Epidemiology**

**Sept. 22 Biological Perspectives
Resource/Power Point**

**Sept. 24 Psychodynamic Perspectives
Knapp, C, "Denial and Addiction", pp. 62 - 71**

Sept. 29 **Sociological Perspectives**
See Assignment for readings (Sakai)

Oct. 1 Exam#1

Part Two: SOCIAL CORRELATES OF MENTAL DISORDERS

Oct. 6 **Terrorism**
Sakai/Resource #3 and 3a: Terrorism

Work

Resource/PowerPoint #4 : Work and Unemployment as Contextual Stressors

Oct. 8 **Social Class**
See Assignment for readings

Oct. 13, 15 **Gender**
See Assignment for readings

Resource/PowerPoint #5 Male Depression

Resource/PowerPoint #5a Transgender

Oct. 20, 22 **Race**
See Assignment for readings

Oct. 27 **Marital Status**
See Assignment for readings

Oct. 29 Exm #2

Part Three: THE SOCIAL RESPONSE TO MENTAL ILLNESS

Nov. 3, 5 **Labeling Theory**
Boy with autism kicked out of church You Tube

Owen, Carol L., "To Tell or Not to Tell", pp. 169 – 179

Nov. 10, 12 **From Mental Hospitals to Deinstitutionalization**
Movie: "One Flew Over The Cuckoo Nest" (On your own)

Sheehan, Is There No Place On Earth For Me?

Nov. 17, 19 Mental Health Services

Articles from Treatment updates re hospital beds (Sakai)

6/25/92 NY times re not for profit services effect by shut downs

Nov. 26 – 29 Thanksgiving Recess

Dec. 1, 3 Consumers - Recovering and Peer Support

Treatment Advocacy July 2020

Hornbacher, Marya, “Wasted”, pp. 236 - 244

Dec. 8 Laws/Legal Policies

Resources/Power Point:

Americans with Disability Act 1990

Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010

Resource/PowerPoint # 6 Mental Health Reform

Dec. 10 Legal Protections

See reading on Assignment

Dec. ? Exam #3 TBA