

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology and Criminology

SOC 3660 Sociology of Mental Disorder (3 credit hours)

Winter 2019: January 7 – April 9, 2019 (CRN: 57096)

MWF: 1:30 - 2:20 PM in room 137 Isbister

Instructor: Mary-Anne Kandrack **Office:** 301E Isbister
Phone: 474-9665 **Office hours:** Wed 10:30-11:20 am
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Objectives of the course:

This course provides a critical analysis of the social construction of mental disorder, specifically 'psychotherapeutic' knowledge and practice. Through readings and lectures the course examines the social processes involved in defining mental illness and how these concepts are applied to human experience and action. The topics to be addressed include: gender and mental disorder, images of madness, theories of mental disorder as well as the ways in which problems in living are individualized and medicalized.

Required text:

LeFrancois, B.A., R. Menzies and G. Reaume (Eds). **Mad Matters: A Critical Reader in Canadian Mad Studies**, Canadian Scholar's Press, Toronto: 2013.

Course requirements:

The final grade for the course will be based on the following requirements:

- 1) In-class test (30% of final grade): Friday, February 15, 2019.
- 2) Take home assignment (30%): Friday, March 8, 2019.
- 3) Group presentations: (20% of final grade): March 25 - 29, 2019.
- 4) In-class test (20% of final grade): Monday, April 8, 2019.

Study questions for the in-class tests will be distributed in advance. The group presentation and take home assignment will be detailed in a separate handout. Please note that no provisions have been made for make-up tests, late assignments or missed group work. Requests for special consideration must be supported by appropriate documentation (e.g. illness, funeral) or a grade of zero will be assigned. **Travel is not a legitimate reason for a missed test or late submission.** No exceptions.

The 100% refund deadline is **January 18, 2019**. The voluntary withdrawal date for Winter term half courses is **March 20, 2019**. Students will receive feedback on 30% of the course work by the VW date in March. Please note it will take approximately two weeks to grade and return tests and assignments.

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating and exam personation (“**Personation at Examinations**” (**Section 5.2.9**) and (“**Plagiarism and Cheating**” **Section 8.1**) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at: http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

*The course requirements will be based on the readings, lectures and class discussions. Students are expected to attend class and, also to complete the readings in advance of the lectures so that any problems, concerns or issues can be raised for discussion in class. Participation in class discussion is not only welcomed and encouraged, it is expected.

Disruptions: On the issue of politeness, please note that disturbances due to talking or early departures are disruptive and unacceptable. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption and/or inappropriate behavior may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving early should inform the instructor at the beginning of the class. **It should also be noted that lap top computers may only be used for the purpose of taking notes; any other uses will result in this privilege being withdrawn. Cell phones are to be turned off during class and, text messaging is strictly prohibited or students will be asked to leave.**

Grade distribution:

A+ 95-100	B+ 80-85	C+ 65-71	D 50-59
A 86-94	B 72-79	C 60-64	F <50

The course work will be evaluated with a letter grade, not a point system. The benchmarks of the grade ranges are defined as follows:

D/F An answer which is factually weak, faulty analysis and very poor organization. (D: marginal / F: failure)

C An answer which is mostly complete in terms of facts but suffers from poor analysis, organization and integration. Knowing the facts is a good start, but only a beginning. (C: adequate / C+: satisfactory)

B An answer which is factually accurate and mostly complete as well as organized and integrated. (B: good / B+: very good)

A An answer which is factually complete, well organized, providing a sophisticated analysis which demonstrates a sound comprehension of the issues and their implications. (A: excellent / A+: exceptional)

CLASS SCHEDULE: This is a tentative class schedule and may be modified as we proceed. Our progress through the course materials will be monitored to determine whether any changes are appropriate.

January 7: Introduction and overview of the course

January 9 – February 13:

The first section of the course examines issues that are critical to a Sociology of Mental Disorder including the socio-historical context in the construction and definition of 'mental illness', and the social control of deviance and new directions in Mad Studies.

Readings: Mad Matters, Parts I, II and III (Specific items in this edited text will be assigned in-class)

Friday, February 15: In-class test (30% of final grade)

February 18 - 22: READING WEEK no classes

Feb 25 – April 5:

The second section of the course engages a focused analysis of the various responses to and implications of social, public and justice policies and practices related to mental disorder. In this context we will examine the critical insights of those who challenge and resist the widespread medicalization of problems in living.

Readings: Mad Matters, Parts IV, and V. (Specific items in this edited text will be assigned in-class)

Friday, March 8: Take home assignment (30% of final grade) due in-class

Group presentations (20% of final grade) will be scheduled for the week of March 25 - 29.

Monday, April 8: In-class test (20% of final grade)