

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology

SOC 3660 Sociology of Mental Disorder

A01 Fall Term: September 4 – December 3, 2008, 3 credit hours
(Thursday Evening: 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. in Room 214 Tier)

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Office hours: Thurs 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Objectives of the course:

This course examines the social processes involved in becoming and being defined as mentally ill and develops a critical analysis of 'psychotherapeutic knowledge and practice'. 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:

Busfield, Joan. Men, Women and Madness: Understanding Gender and Mental Disorder, New York University Press, New York: 1996.

Course requirements:

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

- 1) In-class test (30% of final grade): due Thursday, October 9/08
- 2) Film analysis: (30% of final grade): due Thursday, October 23/08
- 3) Print/Broadcast Media Assignment: (20% of final grade): due November 13/08
- 4) In-class test (20% of final grade): Thursday, November 27/08

Study questions for the in-class tests will be distributed in advance. The film analysis and Print/Broadcast Media assignments will be detailed in separate handouts. Please note that no provisions have been made for make-up tests or late assignments. Requests for special consideration must be made well in advance and/or supported by appropriate documentation. Students cannot submit assignments electronically. **Late submissions will be penalized 5 points per day including weekends.**

Students should familiarize themselves with the University's policy on Academic dishonesty, including "Examinations: Personations" (section 4.2.8) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (section 7.1) found in the Undergraduate Calendar. See also important information regarding appeals (section 5.1-5.3). The faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarized.

*The course requirements will be based on the readings, lectures and class discussions. As indicated in the University calendar on pp 28, students are expected to attend class and 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 both welcomed and encouraged.

Disruptions: On the issue of politeness, please note that disturbances due to talking or early departures from the classroom are disruptive. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption 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.**

The voluntary withdrawal date for first term half courses is Wednesday, November 12, 2008.

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.

September 4: Introduction and overview of the course

September 11 - October 2:

The first section of the course examines issues that are critical to a Sociology of Mental Disorder including the role of social factors in the construction and 'diagnosis' of mental illness, the methods used to study mental disorders and the social control of deviance.

Readings: Busfield, Men, Women and Madness, Introduction and Part I.

Thursday, October 9: In-class test (30 % of final grade)

October 16 - November 20:

The second section of the course engages a focused analysis of the various accounts of the origins of mental disorder, including for example, biological explanations, feminist psychologies and socio-political processes. These attempts to 'explain' mental disorder will be scrutinized in relation to the regulation of normality and the contribution of a sociological perspective.

Readings: Busfield, Men, Women and Madness, Part II.

Thursday, October 23: Film analysis (30% final grade) due in class

Thursday, November 13: Print/Broadcast Media Assignment (20% of final grade) due in class.

Thursday, November 27: In-class test (20% of final grade)