Philosophy and Psychiatry

Philosophy 190
Fall 2014
MW 5:00 – 6:45pm
Crown Clrm 201

Janette Dinishak
Office: 105 Cowell Faculty Annex (the annex is south of Page Smith Library)
Office Hours: Mondays 3:00-4:30pm at my office; Wednesdays 6:45-7:15pm after class, at Crown College
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Course Description

In this seminar we will reflect on the nature of mental disorder (the very idea of it, attempts to treat it, its ethical and experiential dimensions) and its intersections with themes in the philosophy of science and philosophy of mind such as classification, reduction, explanation, the mind-body relation, the unity and fragmentation of the mind, delusions, hallucinations and other unusual sensory experiences. Here are some questions we will take up: What is a mental illness? Is psychiatric classification valid? Is our concept mental illness a valid one? What is the relation between understanding the brain and understanding people? What value judgments, if any, inform the practice of psychiatry (e.g., diagnosis and treatment)? What makes these questions pressing for psychiatry? We will also look at the anti-psychiatry movement in the 1960s, including its philosophical and political underpinnings, and consider how recent discussions in the philosophy of psychiatry can be understood as responses to this movement. Our philosophical explorations will be informed by careful consideration of particular psychiatric conditions (e.g., schizophrenia, addiction, psychopathy, and autism).

Required Texts:

All readings will be made available on our eCommons site or through UCSC Library e-resources.

Course Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analysis of a First-Person Account</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10/22 in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Research Project</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Weeks 5 and 6; deadlines will vary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11/19 in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft &amp; Peer Review</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>12/1 draft due; 12/8 peer review completed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>12/16 by noon, outside my office or via email</td>
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Other Course Information

1. **Students with diverse learning needs are welcome in this course!** If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. Contact DRC at 831-459-2089 or by email at drc@ucsc.edu. For more information please visit UCSC’s Disability Resource Center homepage: [http://drc.ucsc.edu/](http://drc.ucsc.edu/).


3. **Late assignments** will not be accepted without a legitimate excuse.

4. **All course requirements must be fulfilled.** Any student who fails to do so will not pass the course. If you’re struggling to fulfill the requirements for any reason, please come talk with me during my office hours.

5. **Group and partner work.** The peer review and group project involve partner and group work outside of class. Groups will present their projects in class. Further details about these and other assignments will be provided in seminar.

6. **Seminar attendance and participation.** Regular seminar attendance is expected. Attendance will be taken. **Students who miss more than two seminar meetings will receive a half letter grade reduction for each additional absence.** I take exemplary participation into account when calculating final grades.

7. **Plagiarism.** You are responsible for being familiar with UCSC’s policies on academic integrity ([http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_integrity](http://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_integrity)). Proper sourcing and good scholarship are expected. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will **not** be tolerated. If you have any questions about how to avoid plagiarism and ensure the originality of your work, please ask me.

   UCSC NetRail is one resource that reviews proper sourcing and citation: [http://nettrail.ucsc.edu/](http://nettrail.ucsc.edu/)


**Tentative Schedule***

**Week 1 (10/6 and 10/8)**

Course introduction
Two-way interactions between philosophy and psychiatry
Brief history of psychiatry

Required reading for Wednesday:

- Sacks, O. (2009)
- Graham, G. (2013)
- Frances, A. (2014)

Additional reading:

Hacking, I. (1995). *Rewriting the Soul: Multiple Personality and the Sciences of Memory*
Shorter, E. (1997). *A History of Psychiatry: from the era of the asylum to the age of Prozac*
Young, G. (2014). *Philosophical Psychopathology: Philosophy without Thought Experiments*
**Week 2 (10/13 and 10/15)**

Anti-psychiatry movement and the concept of mental illness

**Required reading:**

- Szasz, T. (1960)
- Kendell, R. E. (1975)

**Additional reading:**


**Week 3 (10/20 and 10/22)**

Anti-psychiatry movement *cont’d*; the concept of mental illness

**Jaspers**

**Required reading:**

- Jaspers, K. ([1913] 1974)”Causal and ‘meaningful’ connections between life history and psychosis.”

**Week 4 (10/27 and 10/29)**

**Jaspers *cont’d*; Women and Madness**

**Required reading:**

- Gilman, C.P. (1892)
- Weissstein, N. (1968)
- Ussher, J. (2011)
- Ussher, J. (2013)

**Additional reading:**

Caplan, P. J. and Cosgrove, L. (2004). *Bias in Psychiatric Diagnosis*


Busfield, J. (2010) “Gender and Mental Health” in *The Palgrave Handbook of Gender and Healthcare*


Week 5 (11/3 and 11/5)

Women and Madness cont’d; Thought Disorders (focus: Delusion; Thought Insertion)

Required reading:

- Radden, J. (2011)
- Eilan, N. (2001)

Additional reading:

LeCroy, C. W. and Holschuh, J. (2012). First Person Accounts of Mental Illness and Recovery (UCSC e-book)

Week 6 (11/10 and 11/12)

Thought Disorders cont’d; Perception Disorders (focus: Hallucinations)

Required reading:

- Macpherson, F. (2013)
- Luhrmann (2011)
- Sacks, O. (2009)

Additional reading:

LeCroy, C. W. and Holschuh, J. (2012). First Person Accounts of Mental Illness and Recovery (UCSC e-book)

Week 7: (11/17 and 11/19)

Mood Disorders (focus: Depression)

Required reading:

- Graham, G. (1990)

Additional reading:

LeCroy, C. W. and Holschuh, J. (2012). First Person Accounts of Mental Illness and Recovery (UCSC e-book)
**Week 8 (11/24 and 11/26)**

Addiction

Required reading:

- Flanagan, O. (2013)
- Graham, G. (2013)
- Pickard, H. and Pearce, S. (2013)

**Week 9 (12/1 and 12/3)**

Body: body image disorders; disorders of embodiment

Required reading:


Additional Reading:


**Week 10 (12/8 and 12/10)**

The Limits of Psychiatry

Post-psychiatry

Wrap-Up

Required reading:

- Bracken, P. and Thomas, P. (2013)

* This syllabus is a living document. As such the schedule of topics and readings is subject to change.