Philosophy and Psychiatry

Philosophy 190
Fall 2015
TTh 12:00 – 1:45pm
Cowell Acad 216

Janette Dinishak
Office: 105 Cowell Faculty Annex (the annex is south of Page Smith Library)
Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 2:30-3:30pm
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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 the relevance of philosophy to psychiatry? What is the relevance of psychiatry to philosophy? 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, depression, and anorexia).

Required Texts:
All required readings will be made available on our eCommons site, through UCSC Library e-resources, or in Course Reserves at McHenry Library.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Requirements</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 vary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11/19 in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draft &amp; Peer Review</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11/24 draft due; 12/3 peer review completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>12/8 by 5pm, 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 talk with me during my office hours about your situation.

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 ([https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct](https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/academic_misconduct)). 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.


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**Tentative Schedule***
NB: Week by week I will give you specific guidelines on how to read (e.g., which pieces to prioritize and to comb through carefully, which ones to skim, and so forth)

9/24

Introduction to the course

Week 1 (9/29 and 10/1)

Two-way interactions between philosophy and psychiatry
Psychopathology overview

Required reading/viewing:

- Frances, A. (2014). “Is This the Worst Time Ever to Have a Severe Mental Illness?”
  http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ellen-frances/is-this-the-worst-time-ev_b_5654808.html
  http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/03/opinion/sunday/where-mental-asylums-live-on.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0
- http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americana/primary-resources/lobotomist-bedlam-1946/

Additional reading:

Young, G. (2014). Philosophical Psychopathology: Philosophy without Thought Experiments

Documentaries & Lectures:

“The Lobotomist” (PBS documentary) (2008): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COtVByt0MV8

Week 2 (10/6 and 10/8)

Anti-psychiatry movement and the concept of mental illness

Required reading:

Additional reading:


[https://www.academia.edu/8104064/Erving_Goffmans_Asylums_and_Institutional_Culture_in_the_Mid-twentieth-century_United_States](https://www.academia.edu/8104064/Erving_Goffmans_Asylums_and_Institutional_Culture_in_the_Mid-twentieth-century_United_States) (critiques Goffman)


**Week 3 (10/13 and 10/15)**

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

Jaspers

Reminder: Analysis of a First-Person Account of Mental Illness is due in class 10/22

Required reading:


**Week 4 (10/20 and 10/22)**

Jaspers cont’d; Women and Madness

Required reading:


Additional reading:

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


**Week 5 (10/27 and 10/29)**

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

Group Research Presentations
Required reading:


Additional reading:

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

**Week 6 (11/3 and 11/5)**

Thought Disorders cont’d: Perception Disorders (focus: Hallucination)
Group Research Presentations

Required reading:


Additional reading:

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

**Week 7: (11/10 and 11/12)**

Mood Disorders (focus: Depression)

Reminder: Paper Proposal is due in class 11/19

Required reading:


Additional reading:

Martin, E. (2009). *Bipolar Expeditions: Mania and Depression in American Culture*

**Week 8 (11/17 and 11/19)**

Disorders of Agency (focus: Addiction)

**Required reading:**


**Week 9 (11/24)**

Body: body image disorders; disorders of embodiment

NO CLASS 11/26 (Thanksgiving holiday observed)

Reminder: Term Paper Draft due 11/24

**Required reading:**


Additional Reading:


**Week 10 (12/1 and 12/3)**

The Limits of Psychiatry
Post-psychiatry
Wrap-Up

Reminder: Peer Review due 12/3

**Required reading:**


Reminder: Term Paper due by **5pm on Tuesday, 12/8**. Drop it off outside my office, or send it via email as a pdf or Word attachment.

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