

Western University
School of Health Studies

HS3262G: Mental Illness and Healing Across Cultures

(may be available with instructor permission to students in the Masters of Global Health Systems as course GHS 9023A)

January 11-April 2021

Timing: Tuesdays, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Location: Online, synchronous

Professor: Elysée Nouvet, PhD

Email: enouvet@uwo.ca

Office: Zoom

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-12, by appointment (book via OWL office hours tab)

Prerequisite(s): Registration in the third or fourth year of the School of Health Studies or the Honors Specialization or Specialization in Global Health Studies at Huron



Antirequisite(s): Health Sciences 3093F/G, if taken in Fall of 2017

Prerequisite Checking

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

Readings for this course are taken from a broad range of disciplines (psychiatry, sociology, anthropology, history of science, feminist studies, cultural studies). Our goal is to immerse ourselves into culturally diverse experiences and understandings of mental illness, and the way this shapes options imagined for healing and social inclusion.

Learning objectives

Deepen their understanding of socio-cultural and historical dimensions of mental illness and healing

Develop critical health analysis skills through writing and in-class activities

Integrate their research interests within nuanced understandings of how culture informs our understandings of and responses to mental illness and healing

Articulate key concepts and limitations of universalist approaches in relation to the field of global mental health

Imagine and rationalize strategies for reducing the stigma and burdens associated with mental health in specific contexts

Required readings (course material student must obtain):

1. There are weekly readings in this course as well as assigned media materials (podcasts + video). Course materials are available free of charge to Western students and these will be posted on OWL as hyperlinks in the modules or, if from a library book, in "course readings" section. Please check this site often for updated required class readings, and to keep informed of important course information or announcements.

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact me.

COURSE SUMMARY

Note: the order of topics may change – a finalized version of the course plan will be available January 1st 2021.

Week	Topic	In-class dates
1	Introduction: Culture and mental health	Jan. 12
2	Mad and bad: politics and practices of early psychopathology	Jan. 19
3	Sacred sickness	Jan. 26
4	Gendered determinants, expression, and recognition of distress	Feb. 2

5	Social suffering & collective healing	Feb. 9
6	No class – reading week	Feb. 16
7	Western-based research highlight session	Feb. 23
8	Critical perspectives on mental health ‘epidemics’ in high-income countries	Mar. 2
9	Serious mental illness (SMI) in HICs: rethinking the possible	Mar

Take-home final exam 35%

*** Synthesis Papers are based on the assigned readings for one topic/week, and must be handed in

OPTIONAL

Luhrmann, TM. 2013. "Making God real and making God good: some mechanisms through which prayer may contribute to healing." *Transcultural Psychiatry*. 50(5): 707:725.

Häuser, W., Hansen, E., & Enck, P. (2012). Nocebo Phenomena in Medicine: Their Relevance in Everyday Clinical Practice. *Deutsches Ärzteblatt International*, 109(26), 459–465. <http://doi.org/10.3238/arztebl.2012.0459>

Week 4: February 2

Gendered determinants, expression, and recognition of distress

1) Kitanaka, Junko. (2012). "The Gendering of Depression and the Selective Recognition of Pain."

2)

Berry, J.W. & Kim. U. (1993). The way ahead: From indigenous psychology to a universal psychology. In U. Kim & J.W. Berry (Eds). Indigenous psychologies: Experience and research in cultural context, (pp. 277-280). Newbury Park: Sage Publications.

WEEK 13: APRIL 6

Grad student presentation

Take-home exam due

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Grading policy

The university-wide descriptor of the meaning of letter grades, as approved by Senate:

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level.
A	80-89	Superior work that is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

It is expected that the grades for this course will fall between 74% and 78%. In the event that the course average falls outside this range, a constant may be added or subtracted from each student's grade, by the instructor, to bring the class average in line with school policy.

explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any of the following electronic devices during ANY of the tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations: cellphones, smart phones, smart watches, smart glasses,

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Student Development Centre -- <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>
2. Student Health -- <http://www.uwo.ca/health/services/students/index.html>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>