

**Faculty of Health  
Department of Psychology  
PSYC 3140 3.0 N W(20)  
ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY  
Tuesdays 11:30am-2:20pm  
LOCATION CLH-F**

*What sane person could live in this world and not be crazy? - Ursula K. Le Guin*

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**Instructor and T.A. Information**

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Office hour		
Location	072E BSB	072C BSB

**Course website:**    <https://moodle.yorku.ca/moodle/course/view.php?id=151628>

**Course Description**

This course is designed to provide students with the skills to think critically about our current definitions of and responses to mental distress. Students will consider the historically, socially, and politically constructed nature of mental health and “illness.” They will learn how people identified as “abnormal” or “disordered” have been understood and treated by the psychological and psychiatric establishments over time and across cultures. They will also consider how those labelled “mentally ill” have understood their own experiences, and will reflect on how first-person and “professional” understandings relate to one another. This course takes an explicitly social and structural approach to mental health and considers how this approach differs from the biomedical, disease model now prevalent in North America and increasingly around the world. We will take the current diagnostic system for defining and intervening in mental distress not as an ahistorical or factual given, but as the starting point for a critical interrogation of the nature and functioning of such systems in psychiatry, psychology, society, and the lives of individuals.

**Program Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of abnormal psychology.
2. Articulate trends in abnormal psychology.
3. Express knowledge of abnormal psychology in written form.

4. Describe and explain limits to generalizability of research findings in abnormal psychology.
5. Demonstrate ability to relate information in abnormal psychology to own and others' life experiences.

### Specific Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to:
  - 1) define the medical model and the social model of mental health/illness and describe how each affects how we conceptualize and respond to people with mental health issues
  - 2) critically evaluate the concept of 'abnormality' and the practice of psychiatric diagnosis
  - 3) demonstrate knowledge of the current classification system for psychological disorders and be able to critically evaluate its use, contribution and impact
  - 4) articulate the influence of culture, class, gender, race/ethnicity, and power on how we conceptualize, understand, label, and respond to mental distress
  - 5) Compare and contrast "expert" understandings of mental distress with the firsthand experiences of people who interact with mental health professionals

### Required Texts

Frances, A. (2013). *Saving normal: an insider's revolt against out-of-control psychiatric diagnosis, DSM-5, big pharma, and the medicalization of ordinary life*. New York: William Morrow. (available in bookstore and on Amazon; one copy is on reserve in Scott)

Luhrmann, T. M. & Marrow, J. (eds) (2016). *Our most troubling madness: Case studies in schizophrenia across cultures*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. (available in bookstore and on Amazon; one copy is on reserve in Scott)

**And a selection of articles available via the York Library system or on-line, as outlined in the Course Schedule below and at the Moodle site**

### Course Requirements and Assessment

Your grade in this course is based on one writing assignment worth 30%, three in-class tests worth a total of 60%, one short reflection exercise worth 5% and one activity worth 5%. Tests consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. Tests cover assigned readings, lecture material, and any video or web material that is shown or discussed IN CLASS.

Component:	Date Due:	Percentage of Grade:
Assignment	Feb. 14th	10%
Test 1	Jan. 28th	20%
Test 2	March 3rd	20%
Test 3	March 31st	20%
Final Essay	April 5th	30%*

\*participation in peer feedback activity guarantees you an automatic bonus on final essay grade

## **ASSIGNMENT**

**Maximum 800 words; worth 10%; due by 11:59 pm on February 14<sup>th</sup>**

In this assignment you will explore material in the [After the Asylum](#) module of the [Madness Canada](#) project to learn about and reflect on the process, effects, and lived experience of deinstitutionalization in Canada. First, proceed here:

<https://aftertheasylum.apps01.yorku.ca/new-wordpress/>

Then click on the [Policy and Practice](#) module, and then [The Last Asylums](#). Read the text on this page by Baker et al. (also listed in your syllabus). On the right hand side of this page there are 13 asylums listed. Browse the material about these asylums. Then pick one that particularly interests you. Read and digest the material.

Then, pick a particular historical time period (e.g., a year) and imagine that you are a patient of this institution or one of its programs/affiliated services. Your task is to write a letter to a friend or family member that conveys what life is like for you in that particular institution/program at that time.

Base your letter on the details about patient lives and the history of the institution that you learn about at the website. What sorts of activities might you engage in? What “treatment” might you receive? Who might you encounter (staff, other patients)? What are the conditions like? What does the institution/program look like? What is the future of the institution/program, etc.?

Write your assignment in 12-pt font, double spaced, with one-inch margins, and save in word format (not as a .pdf) with the file name: Lastname\_Assignment and submit it through the Moodle site by the due date and time.

## **FINAL ESSAY**

**Maximum 2000 words; worth 25%; due by 11:59 pm on April 5th**

This essay is designed to develop your skills in discerning and critically evaluating the main arguments in a piece of scholarly writing and in presenting your analysis in appropriate written form. It is also designed to have you engage with accounts of mental distress across cultures from the standpoints of people experiencing this distress and their families, and to apply what you have learned in the course to the evaluation of these case studies.

Unfortunately, we do not have enough person-power to provide individual feedback on pre-submitted drafts of the essay. If you have questions about how to approach the assignment, make sure you attend the in-class sessions devoted to it, participate in the peer feedback activity, and/or come to office hours. If you have trouble with writing generally, there are lots of great resources at York. Check out the Writing Centre:

<http://writing-centre.writ.laps.yorku.ca/>

Also check out SPARK – Student Papers and Academic Research Kit:

<http://www.yorku.ca/spark/>

This is a great on-line resource that leads you through some important steps in essay writing and other important academic skills.

### **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FINAL ESSAY**

Read the book *Our most troubling madness: Case studies in schizophrenia across cultures*. In an 1800-2000 word essay, provide a report on and analysis of the book using the following framework (that is, be sure to address the following points in your essay):

- What is the main goal or objective of this book? (guideline: 100 words)
- Choose three of the case studies, describe them briefly, and identify/explore how they address this main goal or objective. (guideline: 250 words each = 750 words)
- What do the editors conclude about the experience of schizophrenia based on the themes/patterns they discern across their case studies? What are some of their recommendations for how to help people with schizophrenia based on their conclusions? (500 words)
- What do you discern as a possible critique of these conclusions and recommendations based on your reading of the case studies and any other material we have covered in class? For example, do you think their conclusions and recommendations are warranted based on the ethnographic material provided? Why or why not? Could other conclusions be drawn? If so, what would they be? What other readings/perspectives you have covered in the course could be brought to bear on assessing their arguments? These are just examples of ways of thinking about your critique. (guideline: 500 words)

### **HOW TO PRESENT YOUR FINAL ESSAY**

APA format is to be used for this essay. Provide in-text references when you are paraphrasing or referring to material from the book. If you refer to material from the same source repeatedly throughout a paragraph, it will suffice to put an in-text reference to that material at the end of the paragraph (rather than after every sentence).

Try to keep direct quotes to a minimum, but if they are used, in-text references would look like this:

In his foreword to *Our Most Troubling Madness*, medical anthropologist Kim Hopper contends that understanding better how culture shapes recovery in other parts of the world can help us design better treatment where we reside. As he puts it “better

understanding of how culture shapes prospects of recovery *there* will have implications for treatment *here*” (Hopper, 2016, p. xii).

The listing in the reference list would look like this:

Hopper, K. (2016). Foreword. In T. M. Luhrmann & J. Marrow (Eds), *Our most troubling madness: Case studies in schizophrenia across cultures* (pp. xi-xiii). Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Your assignments must be double spaced, one-inch margins all around, 12-pt font. Do not exceed the 2000-word limit (this does not include the references).

Page one is a cover page that clearly indicates the title of your essay, your name, your student number, and your e-mail. .

The last page of your assignment is a separate page that has your short reference list in APA style.

- Save your essay as a Word doc (not .pdf) with the following file name: Lastname\_Final Assignment

- Submit it through the Moodle site by the due date and time.

### **Description of the Peer Feedback Activity after the test on March 5<sup>th</sup>**

You will be required to bring **TWO hard copy drafts** of the first part of your essay that addresses at least the first two points outlined above. These are:

- What is the main goal or objective of this book? (guideline: 200 words)
- Choose three of the case studies, describe them briefly, and identify/explore how they address this main goal or objective. (guideline: 250 words each = 750 words)

You will pair up with a classmate and read each others drafts, then give feedback according to guidelines that I will provide. Note that for the the bonus to be applied you have to present with your draft AND participate in the peer feedback exercise. You will hand in the unmarked copy of your own draft in class in order to receive a bonus on your final essay grade. Make sure your name and student # are on the draft you hand in.

More details on how to give peer feedback and the bonus will be provided in class.

### **Grading as per Senate Policy**

The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g., A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5, etc.). Assignments and tests\* will bear either a letter grade designation or a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 to 100, A = 80 to 90, B+ = 75 to 79, etc.)

(For a full description of York grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar - - [Grading Scheme for 2019-20](#))

### Late Work/Missed Tests or Exams

Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds, etc., which is confirmed by supporting documentation (Attending Physician Statement which can be found at: <http://registrar.yorku.ca/pdf/attending-physicians-statement.pdf>) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

**Notification that you will or have missed a test must reach both the course instructor and your TA within 24 hours of the missed date, preferably via an e-mail cc'ed to both of us.**

Proper documentation, consisting of a note from a physician outlining the specific nature of the illness and dated within 2 days of the test, is required to excuse a student from a test. Students must procure this documentation but need to hold onto it until the makeup test. It must be physically presented to the TA at the makeup test.

**\*\*All students who miss any tests due to illness will be required to write a makeup test that may differ from the original in BOTH format and content on the date specified by the instructor towards the end of the semester. Failure to write the makeup on this date will result in a 0 on the exam.\*\***

**Assignments are to be submitted via the course Moodle site by the time and date specified. Late assignments will receive a 5% deduction for each day they are late.**

### Important New Information Regarding Missed Tests

For any missed tests or late assignments, students MUST complete the following online form which will be received and reviewed in the Psychology undergraduate office.

[HH PSYC: Missed Tests/Exams Form](#). Failure to complete the form within 48 hours of the original deadline will result in a grade of zero for the test/assignment.

### Add/Drop Deadlines

For a list of all important dates please refer to: <https://registrar.yorku.ca/enrol/dates/fw19>

	FALL (F)	YEAR (Y)	WINTER (W)
Last date to add a course <b>without permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Sept. 17	Sept. 17	Jan. 19
Last date to add a course <b>with permission</b> of instructor (also see Financial Deadlines)	Oct. 1	Oct. 22	Feb. 3
Drop deadline: Last date to drop a course without receiving a grade (also see Financial Deadlines)	Nov. 8	Feb. 3	March 13
Course Withdrawal Period (withdraw from a course and receive a grade of "W" on transcript – see note below)	Nov. 9 - Dec. 3	Feb. 4 - Apr. 5	March 14 - Apr. 5

*\*Note: You may withdraw from a course using the registration and enrolment system after the drop deadline until the last day of class for the term associated with the course. When you withdraw from a course, the course remains on your transcript without a grade and is notated as "W". The withdrawal will not affect your grade point average or count towards the credits required for your degree.*

### **Information on Plagiarism Detection**

Plagiarism is a serious breach of academic honesty (see below). We use Turnitin software for the writing assignments in this course to help detect plagiarism.

### **Electronic Device Policy**

Course-related use of laptop computers (e.g., for note-taking or in-class activities) is allowed in this course. Please be considerate of your classmates and do not “surf the net,” engage in social media, or check your email during class time. This is distracting to other students and, of course, disrespectful to those trying to maximize their learning in the course. If you are being negatively affected by your classmates’ misuse of laptops, please feel free to report it to the instructor. Please mute cell phones and refrain from using them during class time.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is expected at all class meetings. Material and activities will be presented that are not covered in your assigned readings, and we will engage in active learning exercises that will enhance your experience of this course. Neither the course director nor the TA will lend out their lecture notes and notes will not be posted on-line. Active learning via note-taking and class participation is more effective than reading posted notes or passively watching a recorded lecture, and since I do not follow my notes verbatim they are not a completely accurate record of the class content. No notes but your own will adequately reflect what goes on in class.

If you must miss a class for unavoidable reasons, borrow notes from a classmate, or if you know in advance that you must miss a class, have a classmate audiotape the class for you to listen to. Powerpoint slides will be posted on the course website in advance of the class meeting. If a student has a documented disability that requires accommodation involving notetaking, please contact the professor immediately to arrange accommodation.

### **Academic Integrity for Students**

York University takes academic integrity very seriously; please familiarize yourself with [Information about the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty](#).

It is recommended that you review Academic Integrity information [SPARK Academic Integrity modules](#). These modules explain principles of academic honesty.

### **Test Banks:**

The offering for sale of, buying of, and attempting to sell or buy test banks (banks of test questions and/or answers), or any course specific test questions/answers is not permitted in the Faculty of Health. Any student found to be doing this may be considered to have breached the Senate Policy on Academic Honesty. In particular, buying and attempting to sell banks of test questions and/or answers may be considered as “Cheating in an attempt to gain an improper advantage in an

academic evaluation” (article 2.1.1 from the Senate Policy) and/or “encouraging, enabling or causing others” (article 2.1.10 from the Senate Policy) to cheat.

### **Electronic Devices During a Test/Examination**

Electronic mobile devices of any kind are not allowed during a test or examination. Students are required to turn off and secure any electronic mobile device in their bag which is to be placed under the chair while a test/exam is in progress. Any student observed with an electronic device during a test/exam may be reported to the Undergraduate Office for a potential breach of Academic Honesty.

### **Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

While all individuals are expected to satisfy the requirements of their program of study and to aspire to do so at a level of excellence, the university recognizes that persons with disabilities may require reasonable accommodation to enable them to do so. The university encourages students with disabilities to register with ***Student Accessibility Services (SAS)*** to discuss their accommodation needs as early as possible in the term to establish the recommended academic accommodations that will be communicated to Course Directors as necessary. **Please let me know as early as possible in the term if you anticipate requiring academic accommodation so that we can discuss how to consider your accommodation needs within the context of this course.**

<https://accessibility.students.yorku.ca/>

### **Excerpt from Senate Policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

1. Pursuant to its commitment to sustaining an inclusive, equitable community in which all members are treated with respect and dignity, and consistent with applicable accessibility legislation, York University shall make reasonable and appropriate accommodations in order to promote the ability of students with disabilities to fulfill the academic requirements of their programs. This policy aims to eliminate systemic barriers to participation in academic activities by students with disabilities.

All students are expected to satisfy the essential learning outcomes of courses. Accommodations shall be consistent with, support and preserve the academic integrity of the curriculum and the academic standards of courses and programs. For further information please refer to: [York University Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities Policy](#).

### **Course Materials Copyright Information**

These course materials are designed for use as part of the 3140 N course at York University and are the property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Third party copyrighted materials (such as book chapters, journal articles, music, videos, etc.) have either been licensed for use in this course or fall under an exception or limitation in Canadian Copyright law.

Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial third-party website) may lead to a violation of Copyright law. [Intellectual Property Rights Statement](#).



## Course Schedule:

Date:	Topic:	Readings:
1) Jan. 7	What does “abnormal psychology” mean? Key concepts and frameworks	Bassman (1997) Frances, Chapter 1 Schrader, Jones, & Shattell (2013) Gaudet (2017)
2) Jan. 14	What can we learn from history?	Frances, Chapter 2 Baker et al. (n.d.) Ussher (2014)
3) Jan. 21	Diagnosis and its discontents	Frances, Chapter 3 Lafrance & McKenzie-Mohr (2013)
4) Jan. 28	<b>TEST 1 (20%)</b>  After test: Orientation to Final Essay and check-in for Assignment	
5) Feb. 4	What does culture have to do with it?	Watters (2008) Kleinman (2004) Gordon (2002) Schulz (2004)
6) Feb. 11	Culture in practice	Kirmayer (2012) Kleinman & Benson (2006) Metzl & Hansen (2014)
<b>ASSIGNMENT DUE BY 11:59PM ON FEBRUARY 14TH</b> <b>WINTER READING WEEK Feb. 17-23</b>		
7) Feb. 25	Race and Class	Belle & Doucet (2003) Lane (2010) Chakroborty & McKenzie (2002)
8) March 3	<b>TEST 2 (20%)</b>  After test: Peer feedback activity to support final essay	
9) March 10	Gender	Marecek (1993) Oliffe & Phillips (2008) Shaw & Proctor (2005)

10) March 17	Sexuality and gender identity	Ussher (2013) Riggs et al. (2019) Hartley & Tiefer (2003) Belluz (2015)
11) March 24	Perspectives on "treatment"	Breggin (2003) Fisher (2003) Carey (2015) Maisel (2016)
12) March 31	<b>TEST 3 (20%)</b>	

**SUBMIT FINAL ESSAY THROUGH MOODLE BY 11:59pm on April 5th**

## **READINGS BY WEEK:**

### **1) Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>: What does “abnormal psychology” mean? Key concepts and frameworks**

Bassman, R. (1997). The mental health system: Experiences from both sides of the locked door. *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice*, 28(3), 238-242.

Frances, A. (2013). *Saving Normal*, Chapter 1

Gaudet, L. (2017). “Even heroes get depressed”: Sponsorship and self-stigma in Canada’s Mental Illness Awareness Week. *Journal of Medical Humanities*. Doi: 10.1007/s10912-017-9483-z

Schrader, S., Jones, N. & Shattell, M. (2013). Mad pride: Reflections on sociopolitical identity and mental diversity in the context of culturally competent psychiatric care. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing*, 34, 62-64.

### **2) Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>: What can we learn from history?**

Baker et al. (n.d.). The last asylums.

<https://aftertheasylum.apps01.yorku.ca/new-wordpress/policy-and-practice/the-last-asylums/>

Frances, A. (2013). *Saving Normal*, Chapter 2

Ussher, J. (2014). Madness. In T. Teo (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Critical Psychology* (pp. 1111-1117). New York: Springer SBM.

### **3) Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>: Diagnosis and its discontents**

Frances, A. (2013). *Saving Normal*, Chapter 3

LaFrance, M.N. & McKenzie-Mohr, S. (2013). The DSM and its lure of legitimacy. *Feminism & Psychology*, 23, 119-140.

### **4) Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>: TEST #1 and orientation to final essay, check-in about assignment**

### **5) Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>: What does culture have to do with it?**

Kleinman, A. (2004). Culture and depression. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 351, 951-953.

Schulz, K. (2004), August 22). Did antidepressants depress Japan? *New York Times Magazine*, retrieved from <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/08/22/magazine/did-antidepressants-depress-japan.html>

Gordon, R. A. (2002). Eating disorders East and West: A culture-bound syndrome unbound. In M. Nasser, M. Katzman, & R. A. Gordon (Eds.), *Eating disorders and cultures in transition*. London: Taylor & Francis, pp. 1-15.

Watters, E. (2010, January 8). The Americanization of mental illness. *New York Times Magazine*. Retrieved from: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/magazine/10psyche-t.html? r=0>

## **6) Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>: Culture in practice**

Kirmayer, L. J. (2013). Rethinking cultural competence. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 49, 149-164.

Kleinman, A. & Benson, P. (2006). Anthropology in the clinic: The problem of cultural competency and how to fix it. *PLoS Medicine*, 3(10), e294, 1673-1676.

Metzl, J. & Hansen, H. (2014). Structural competency: Theorizing a new medical engagement with stigma and inequality. *Social Science and Medicine*, 103, 126-133.

## **WINTER READING WEEK**

### **7) Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>: Race and Class**

Belle, D. & Doucet, J. (2003). Poverty, inequality, and discrimination as sources of depression among U.S. women. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 27, 101-113.

Chakroborty, A. & McKenzie, K. (2002). Does racial discrimination cause mental illness? *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 180, 475-477.

Lane, C. (2010, May 5). How schizophrenia became a Black disease: An Interview with Jonathan Metzl. *Psychology Today: Side Effects*. Retrieved from: <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/side-effects/201005/how-schizophrenia-became-black-disease-interview-jonathan-metzl>

### **8) March 3<sup>rd</sup>: TEST #2 followed by peer feedback exercise for final assignment**

### **9) March 10<sup>th</sup>: Gender and mental distress**

Marecek, J. (1993). Disappearances, silences, and anxious rhetoric: Gender in abnormal psychology textbooks. *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology*, 13, 114-123.

Oliffe, J. L. & Phillips, M. J. (2008). Men, depression, and masculinities: A review and recommendations. *Journal of Men's Health*, 5, 194-202.

Shaw, C. & Proctor, G. (2005). Women at the margins: A critique of the diagnosis of borderline personality disorder. *Feminism & Psychology*, 15, 483-490.

Ussher, J. (2013). Diagnosing difficult women and pathologising femininity: Gender bias in psychiatric nosology. *Feminism & Psychology, 23*, 63-69.

### **10) March 17<sup>th</sup>: Sexuality and gender identity**

Belluz, J. (2015, Sept. 18). What the FDA's approval of "pink Viagra" tells us about the problems with drug regulation. *Vox*. Retrieved from:

<http://www.vox.com/2015/9/18/9333639/female-pink-viagra-fda-approved>

Hartley, H. & Tiefer, L. (2003). Taking a biological turn: The push for a "female viagra" and the medicalization of women's sexual problems. *Women's Studies Quarterly, 31*, 42-54.

Riggs et al. (2019). Transnormativity in the psy disciplines: Constructing pathology in the DSM and Standards of Care. *American Psychologist, 74*, 912-924.

Science fact or science fiction: Is gender nonconformity a mental disorder?

<http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/48639.html>

### **12) March 24<sup>th</sup>: Treatment debates**

Breggin, P. (2003). Psychopharmacology and human values. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology, 43*(2), 34-49.

Also see YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luKsQaj0hzs>

Carey, B. (2015). New approach advised to treat schizophrenia.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/20/health/talk-therapy-found-to-ease-schizophrenia.html? r=0>

Fisher, D. B. (2003). People are more important than pills in recovery from mental disorder. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology, 43*(2), 65-68.

Maisel, E. (2016). Interview with Joanna Moncrieff on the Myth of the Chemical Cure.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/rethinking-mental-health/201602/joanna-moncrieff-the-myth-the-chemical-cure>

### **13) March 31<sup>st</sup>: TEST 3 (20%)**

**FINAL ESSAY DUE BY 11:59PM APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>**