

University of Manitoba  
Department of Sociology

**SOC 3660 Sociology of Mental Disorder** (3 credit hours)  
A01 Winter Term, Tues/Thurs, Slot 5: 10:00 – 11:15 a.m. in 308 Tier

**Instructor:** Mary-Anne Kandrack      **Office:** 301E Isbister  
**Phone:** 474-9665      **email:** [kandrack@cc.umanitoba.ca](mailto:kandrack@cc.umanitoba.ca)  
Office hours: Tues/Thurs 11:30 -12:00 (and by appointment)

**Objectives of the course:**

This course provides a critical analysis of the social construction of mental disorder, specifically 'psychotherapeutic' knowledge and practice. Through readings and lectures the course examines the social processes involved in defining mental illness and how these concepts are applied to human experience and action. 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:**

McLeod, J. D., and E. R. Wright (Eds). **The Sociology of Mental Illness: A Comprehensive Reader**, Oxford University Press, New York: 2010.

**Course requirements:**

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

- 1) In-class test (25% of final grade): Thursday, February 16/12.
- 2) Group film analysis: (25% of final grade): TBA
- 3) In-class test (20% of final grade): Thursday, April 5/12.
- 4) In-class group exercises (20% of final grade):
  - a) Thursday, January 26
  - b) Thursday, March 1
- 5) Attendance (10%): each missed class will result in a loss of one point

Study questions for the in-class tests will be distributed in advance. The group film analysis will be detailed in a separate handout. There will be two (2) group exercises assigned in-class that are of equal value (10% each) and you must be present for these exercises. Please note that no provisions have been made for make-up tests, late assignments or missed group work. Requests for special consideration must be made well in advance and/or supported by appropriate documentation. **Students cannot submit assignments electronically; no exceptions.**

The voluntary withdrawal date for first term half courses is **Friday, March 16, 2012.**

**Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students should familiarize themselves with the University's policy on Academic dishonesty, including 'Examinations: Personations' (section 5.2.9) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (section 8.1) found on-line under Umanitoba Catalog 2011-2012>General Academic Regulations>Section 8.Academic Integrity. See also important information regarding appeals (section 6.1- 6.3).** The faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

\*The course requirements will be based on the readings, lectures and class discussions. As indicated in the University calendar on pp 29, students are expected to attend class and, also 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 are disruptive and unacceptable. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that persistent disruption and/or inappropriate behavior 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.**

**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.

### **January 5: Introduction and overview of the course**

#### **January 10 - February 14:**

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 definition of mental illness, the methods used to study mental disorders and the social control of deviance.

Readings: McLeod and Wright, Parts I, II and III

### **Thursday, February 16: In-class test (25 % of final grade)**

## ***READING WEEK: FEBRUARY 20 – 24, 2012***

#### **February 28 – April 3:**

The second section of the course engages a focused analysis of the various responses to and implications of being defined as mentally ill, including labeling and stigma. In this context we will critically assess theories 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: McLeod and Wright, Parts IV, V and VI.

***Group film presentations will be scheduled between March 13 and 27, 2012***

### **Thursday, April 5: In-class test (20% of final grade)**