SOCIOMETRY 249   THE SOCIOLOGY OF MENTAL DISORDER

Dr. Frederick J. Desroches

Room 3024   St. Jerome's University

Office Hours: 2:30-3:30 M & W

You are welcome to speak to me after class, drop by my office at any time, or make an appointment to discuss assignments etc. I am usually in my office M & W 9:30-10:30 and 1:30-2:30.

Email etiquette: When emailing, please type in the course number in the subject heading so that it is not mistakenly identified as SPAM. Please identify yourself and the course and keep your messages/inquiries brief and to the point. Please do not ask for information that can be found on the course outline (e.g., office hours, midterm date, reading assignments etc.). Please do not forward essays by email. Please do not ask for your grades by email. If you have missed classes, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a fellow student. Please do not email me asking what you have missed or for copies of my lecture notes.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of sociological research and theory in the field of mental disorder. The course will provide a historical and sociological overview of the manner in which the mentally disordered have been treated and mistreated in various cultures; formal and informal mechanisms of social control that have been used against the mentally disordered; and the evolution of laws related to the mentally disordered.

Topics to be examined include: mental health legislation and involuntary commitment; the police handling of the mentally disordered; mental disorder and crime; mental health courts; the medical model of mental "illness"; public attitudes and social stigma; after-care and rehabilitation; the epidemiology of mental disorder; family processes and psychiatric hospitalization; the experience of psychiatric hospitalization; and theories and research on specific forms of mental disorder including eating disorders, schizophrenia, and depression.

LECTURE TOPICS
1. Major Changes in the Treatment and Handling of the Mentally Disordered
   Institutionalization and De-institutionalization
   The Introduction of Tranquilizing Drugs
   Mental Hospitals and Psychiatric Wards
   The Abuse of the Mentally Disordered and the Movement Towards Due Process

2. The Ontario Mental Health Act and the Health Care Consent Act

3. The Canadian Criminal Code: Fitness to Stand Trial; the Defense of Mental Disorder; The Mental Health Court

4. Defining and Diagnosing Mental disorder: The Development of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) of the American Psychiatric Association

5. The Medical Model of Mental “Illness”: Research, Theory, and Ideology

6. Help-seeking Behaviour: The Path to Psychiatric Treatment
   Lay Referral and Psychiatric Hospitalization: Charles Kadushin’s Study
   Defining Mental Disorder: Somatic, Emotional, Cognitive, and Behavioural Symptoms
   Deviance and Social Control in the Family
   The “Definitive Outburst”
   Professional Referral and the Role of the Family Doctor
   Talcott Parsons’ “The Sick Role”
   The Path to Psychiatric Treatment: Two Prototypes


8. The Rosenhan Experiment: “Being Sane in Insane Places”

9. Edwin Lemert’s Study: “Paranoia and the Dynamics of Exclusion”

10. Arlene Kaplan Daniel’s Study: “The Philosophy of Combat Psychiatry”

11. Mental Disorder, Age, Gender, Marital Status, and Socioeconomic Class:
    Theory and Research on Depression
    Theory and Research on Schizophrenia
    Mental Disorder and Homelessness
    Theory and Research on Eating Disorders

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

1. 1. *The Mental Health Act*. Revised Statutes of Ontario 2001 Queens Printers,

REQUIRED READING

Readings from The Mental Health Act will be assigned in class.

Readings from Sociology of Mental Disorder include:

Ch. 1 The Problem of Mental Disorder  
Ch. 3 Mental Disorder: Concepts of Causes and Cures  
Ch. 4 Mental Disorder as Deviant Behaviour  
Ch. 5 Mental Disorder: Social Epidemiology  
Ch. 6 Mental Disorder: Social Class  
Ch. 7 Mental Disorder: Age, Gender, and Marital Status  
Ch. 10 Help Seeking Behaviour and the Prepatient Experience  
Ch. 11 Acting Mentally Disordered  
Ch. 12 The Mental Hospital Patient  
Ch. 13 Residing in the Community

COURSE REQUIREMENT

Essay Assignment 50% Wednesday November 9, 2011  
Midterm Examination 25% Monday October 17, 2011  
Final Examination 25% Monday December 5, 2011

Both examinations will consist of short answer, essay, true/false, and multiple choice questions. There will be some choice allowed in the short answer and essay questions.

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT Due: Wednesday November 9, 2011 Value: 50%

This assignment requires you to write a brief essay (5 typed pages double-spaced size 12 font) on any topic related to the sociology of mental disorder. Listed below are several suggested topics.

The paper must be analytical rather than descriptive. An analytical essay is one that applies theory to the topic, offers critical analysis of theory and research, suggests causal connections among variables, makes comparisons and contrasts, and suggests alternative interpretations.

Your essay must have a sociological focus. Please keep in mind that much of the research
literature on mental disorder has been done from a psychological/psychiatric perspective. You may discuss these theoretical models critically but you should also compare them to sociological theories.

You are expected to include a minimum of seven academic references in your essay and three of these must be journal articles. Magazine and newspaper articles will not be counted as part of the seven references. Journal articles typically identify the author, title of the article, name of the journal, volume number, year of publication, and page numbers. If your source lacks any of these, then it is probably not an academic journal.

Please use APA style for references and bibliography. Do not use footnotes in the body of your paper but instead refer to your sources by the author's last name, year of publication, and page number(s) e.g., (Cockerham, 2010:51). Number each page, staple the pages together, and please do not use plastic binders. Use three or four paragraphs in each page.

Please include a reference to relevant Canadian legislation if your topic deals with the law. The following topics are suggestions or guides. You may also select other relevant research topics.

Mental disorders and social stigma
Labeling theory as applied to mental disorder
The problem of reliability and validity in psychiatric diagnoses
The path to psychiatric treatment
Community based treatments of mental disorders
A critical analysis of DSM-IV
The history of the treatment of the mentally disordered
A critical analysis of the medical model of mental disorder
Legal and due process issues in the treatment of mental disorder
Psychiatric wards and/or psychiatric hospitals
Social class and mental disorder
Gender and mental disorder
Research and theory on eating disorders
Research and theory on depression
Research and theory on suicide
Mental disorder as a social problem
Mental disorder as deviant behavior
Sexual deviance and mental disorder
Family process and mental disorder

UW POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS AND MISSED TESTS

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations
(www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf) state that:

· A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html.

· If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.

· The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.

· Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

A NOTE ON THE AVOIDANCE OF ACADEMIC OFFENCES

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo and its Federated University and Affiliated Colleges are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: All students registered in courses at St. Jerome’s University are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed following St. Jerome’s University Academic Discipline Procedure and UW Policy 71 – Student Discipline.

For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 • ] Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome’s University Grievance Officer. Read St. Jerome’s University Handbook, Section 4, item 8, www.sju.ca/faculty/SJU_handbook/grievance_policy.html.

Appeals:

A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under St. Jerome’s University Academic Discipline Procedure or Grievance Policy if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome’s University Appeals Officer. Read St. Jerome’s University Handbook, Section 6.4,
Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.