

HLTH AGE 2GG3: MENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIETY Fall 2021

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Lectures: Asynchronous, available on Avenue to Learn.

Office Hours: Mondays, 3:30-5:30pm <https://mcmaster.zoom.us/j/99950655325>

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Course Description

This course requires students to engage in an in-depth examination of key debates and issues in the field of mental health and their connection to society more broadly. Drawing upon various disciplines including history, sociology, geography, and anthropology, the course examines “mental health” broadly, taking into account the spectrum of experience from mental illness and disorder to notions of well-being, flourishing, and the good life. Major points of discussion include the broadening scientific and public interest in individual psychic life and how social structures of identity and experience help to determine mental health.

Course Objectives

Students are expected to develop a strong understanding of various factors that impact mental health at both the individual and societal level. They should come to grasp central discussions within the diverse professional disciplines (such as psychiatry, psychology, and social work) that concern themselves with the relationship between mental health and society. Moreover, they should develop an appreciation for how other social actors (such as police services, urban planners, and educators) help to shape people’s mental health. By the completion of the course, students should be able to appreciate many of the nuances that characterize debates about mental health in modern society.

Required Materials and Texts

- All required readings are available on [Avenue to Learn](#).

Class Format

Course Material

This class will be conducted in a mixed synchronous/asynchronous fashion. Each week, course material will be delivered asynchronously in three ways:

- 1) posted lecture slides,
- 2) recorded discussions, and
- 3) assigned readings.

These three components are meant to be approached in conjunction with one another. In other words, the readings cover the basics, the slides help to highlight particular themes and expand upon issues of importance, and the recorded discussions help to give extra context and provoke additional thinking. The readings are available as a purchasable textbook (Critical Perspectives, see above) and as downloadable articles on Avenue to Learn.

Beyond that, students are expected to attend five assigned synchronous tutorials during the term. The dates of your tutorials will be assigned by September 17th and will appear on Avenue to Learn, with tutorials beginning the week of September 20th. Your tutorials will be held during the timeslot you selected on Mosaic. For these tutorials, students are expected to come prepared to participate and discuss the assigned readings from that week, so it's important that you read them in advance. Students who miss a tutorial will not have the opportunity to make up the lost grades, so it's crucial that you attend. For those attending tutorial virtually, it is expected that you keep your camera on and speak, rather than using the chat function.

Office Hours

Both the instructor and the TAs will hold weekly office hours. Each student will be assigned a TA whose office hours you can attend. Beyond that, the instructor's office hours are totally open and students are strongly encouraged to attend. During this time, you can ask anything related to course material (or beyond) and I'd be happy to answer. Think of these hours as an "ask me anything" session. The Zoom link for office hours will be posted on Avenue each week. For privacy reasons, these office hours will not be recorded.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Class Policies Quiz – 3%, due by Sept 20 on Avenue at 11:59pm
2. Writing Quiz – 2%, due by Sept 20 on Avenue at 11:59pm
3. Tutorials: 10%
4. Midterm - 25%, held on Avenue during week of October 4th-8th
5. Major Essay – 30%, due October 25th OR November 1st
6. Final Exam – 30%, held during week of December 13-17th.

Course Evaluation – Details

Class Policies Quiz (3%), due on Avenue by Sept 20th

Students must complete a short multiple choice quiz about class policies. The quiz is based on the syllabus and what is discussed in the introductory lecture.

Writing Tips Quiz (2%), due on Avenue by Sept 20th

This short online quiz can be completed on Avenue to Learn. Students are required to read a description of common writing problems and then complete the subsequent quiz.

Tutorials (10%), dates assigned on Avenue.

Students are required to complete five tutorial sessions (with dates assigned on A2L on September 17th). For tutorials, students should come prepared to participate and discuss that week's readings. Students who miss a tutorial will not have the opportunity

to make up the lost grades. For those attending tutorial virtually, it is expected that you keep your camera on and speak, rather than using the chat function.

Midterm (25%, held on Avenue during the week of Oct 4th-8th)

The midterm includes 30 multiple choice questions that cover the readings, lecture slides, and recorded discussions. Although students will have several days during which they can complete the midterm, it should not take more than one hour.

Essay (30%), due Oct 25th OR Nov 1st (see below)

The essay (1500 words in length, Times New Roman 12pt) requires students to select and answer a question on topics that will be listed on Avenue. The essay is due on Avenue to Learn at 11:59pm on October 25th (see below regarding the optional extension). Students must use a minimum of SIX peer reviewed sources. Papers should be cited in full using APA referencing style. All papers should include a title page with the question clearly stated, as well as a bibliography (neither of which count against the word limit).

Optional Essay Extension

Students may opt for a short essay extension until November 1st at 11:59pm. If you opt for this extension, however, you will not receive any comments or feedback on your paper. Your grade will be posted on Avenue, but you will not receive the essay back. Neither the TAs nor the professor will meet with you to discuss your paper or your grade in any fashion – no exceptions. It is not necessary to request this extension, as it will be automatically granted.

Final Exam (30%), held on Avenue during the week of Dec 13-17

The final exam will consist of a single long-answer essay question based on readings, lecture slides, and recorded discussions. It is a take-home final and students need to type their answer into Avenue to Learn, with a limit of 1000 words.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Topic 1 (Sept 7-10)

Thinking Critically about Mental Health and Illness

Topic 2 (Sept 13-17)

From Madness to Mental Health

Readings:

- Andrew Scull, "Psychiatry and Social Control in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries" and David Wright, "Getting Out of the Asylum."

Topic 3 (Sept 20-24)

Emergence of the Psy-ences

Readings:

- Nikolas Rose, "Experts of the Soul."

Topic 4 (Sept 27-30)

The Happiness Turn

Readings:

- Kristin Barker, "Mindfulness Meditation: Do-It-Yourself Medicalization."

Topic 5 (Oct 4-8)

Globalizing Mental Health and Illness

Readings: Richard Horton, "Launching A New Movement for Mental Health" and Jocalyn Clark, "The Medicalization of Global Mental Health."

Reading Week (Oct 11-15)

No class

Topic 6 (Oct 18-22)

Place, Space, and Mental Health

Readings:

- U. Anakwenze and D. Zuberi, "Mental Health and Poverty in the Inner City"; China Mills, "The Psychiatrization of Poverty."

Topic 7 (Oct 25-29)

Gender, Sexuality, and Mental Health

Readings:

- Meg John Barker, "Depression and/or Oppression."

Topic 8 (Nov 1-5)

Race, Ethnicity, and Mental Health

Readings:

- Metzl and McLeish "Mental Illness and Mass Shootings"

Topic 9 (Nov 8-12)

Mental Health across the Lifespan

Readings:

- S. Timimi, "The McDonaldization of Childhood."

Topic 10 (Nov 15-19)

Mental Health and Illness on Campus

Readings:

- P.J. Rosenbaum & H. Liebert, "Reframing the Conversation on College Student Mental Health."

Topic 11 (Nov 22-26)

Institutions of Mental Illness

Readings:

- Lamb et al., “Mentally Ill Persons in the Criminal Justice System” and Holmes and Murray, “Civilizing the “Barbarians.”

Topic 12 (Nov 29-Dec 3)

In Search of Good Mental Health

Readings:

- Esposito and Perez, “Neoliberalism and the Commodification of Mental Health.”

Topic 13 (Dec 6-Dec 8)

Revisiting Mental Health and Society

Readings:

- China Mills, “Dead People Don’t Claim.”

Course Policies

Email

Do not email the course instructor or TAs via Avenue to Learn. Direct all communication to our McMaster email addresses from your McMaster address. Questions that can be easily answered by looking at the syllabus will be ignored.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F

Attending Lecture

Regular attendance is vital to building an academic community and enhancing learning so it's important to actively watch the videos posted, complete all modules, and to engage in tutorials or discussion posts.

Submitting Assignments

Assignments must be submitted online to the Avenue to Learn dropbox. This copy is officially due by 11:59PM on the due date posted. Failing to submit a copy by this point will result in a late penalty. "Really getting into macramé", "Burning banana bread", and "Having to sign for a package" will not be accepted as reasons for late submission.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day, including weekends. These should be submitted to the Avenue to Learn dropbox.

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

Students using MSAFs will have to complete all assignments at a later date - the grade for missed assignments or tests will NOT be tacked onto any other assignment or test. MSAFs must be filed on the day that the assignment is due, triggering an automatic 3 day extension. Without exceptional permission granted officially by your faculty, extensions beyond 72 hours will not be given.

Avenue to Learn

Course material will be posted on Avenue to Learn. Please check the site often to keep informed of important course information or announcements.

Course Modification

The instructor reserves the right to modify elements of the course during the term. If any modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.**

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on

the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Authenticity / Plagiarism Detection

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software.

All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

Courses with an On-line Element

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used.

Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

Online Proctoring

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

Academic Accommodation of Students With Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

If you require this course outline in an alternate/accessible format, please contact the Department of Health, Aging & Society (ext. 27227 | e-mail: hasdept@mcmaster.ca).

Requests For Relief For Missed Academic Term Work

[McMaster Student Absence Form \(MSAF\)](#): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

Academic Accommodation For Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Copyright And Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The

Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.