

**HLTH AGE 2K03: SELECTED TOPICS IN HEALTH & SOCIETY:
TREATMENT WITHIN THE WORLD OF MENTAL ILLNESS:
DESPERATION AND DEBATE
Spring 2020**

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Online Group Office Hours: Mondays,
7-9pm, held weekly via Zoom.

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Course Description

The course will focus on the wide range of responses that healthcare providers and others have had to the issue of mental illness. Exploring interventions from sorcery and lobotomies to psychoanalysis and psychiatric medications, students will be introduced to the key issues and debates within the world of mental healthcare. Central questions include: how can we explain the diversity of treatment options within this world of mental illness? What ideas and ideologies guide the sorts of treatments that we have developed? Why, despite the availability of so many treatments, have rates of mental disability continued to rise in recent years? Students will consider these questions by engaging in a variety of asynchronous learning activities, including assigned readings and videos, online discussions, and short podcasts. Rather than being structured around weekly lectures, students are expected to do the majority of their learning via weekly self-directed modules.

Course Objectives

After the course, students should have a basic understanding of the many forms of treatment that have been used in mental health settings, both historical and contemporary. They should be able to discuss these forms of mental healthcare critically, considering the basic ideological and scientific assumptions built into these forms of treatment. Students should thus understand the ways in which mental health interventions relate to broader debates and discussions within the world of mental health and illness.

Required Materials and Texts

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

Class Format

This course is offered largely asynchronously. Each week, a new module will appear that will include: 1) a short audio-video discussion led by the instructor, 2) a set of slides to guide your studying, 3) a set of weekly readings, and 4) a series of discussion questions.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Class Policies Quiz on Avenue – 3% (due May 18th at 11:59pm)
2. Writing Quiz on Avenue – 2% (due May 18th at 11:59pm)
3. Essay (5-6 pages) – 35% (due June 1st or June 5th at 11:59pm)
4. Weekly Discussions – 5 x 6% each (due each Wednesday at 11:59pm, starting May 13th until June 10th)
5. Take Home Exam – 30% (available June 15th, due June 19th)

Course Evaluation – Details

Class Policies Quiz (3%)

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

Writing Tips Quiz (2%)

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.

Essay (35%), due June 1st (or June 5th)

The essay (5-6 pages in length, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12pt font – please don't mess with the margins) requires students to select and answer a question on topics posted to Avenue. The essay is due on Avenue to Learn at 11:59 (on either June 1st or June 5th – see below). 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.

Optional Essay Extension

The essay is due June 1st, but students may opt for a short essay extension until June 5th. It is not necessary to request this extension, as it will be automatically granted. 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 discuss your paper or your grade in any fashion – no exceptions.

Weekly Discussions (5 x 6% each)

Each Wednesday between May 13th – June 10th, students will be required to make a post to a discussion forum on Avenue by 11:59pm. Questions will be assigned by the instructor / TA and will draw upon the course material. Students will be graded according to both completion and quality. Although the discussion will be slightly less formal than some academic papers (for instance, first person is acceptable), students are expected to post in a clear, formal, and scholarly manner.

Take Home Exam (30%)

The final exam is a cumulative, take home exam covering all course material. It will consist of a broad, open-ended long answer question. The primary focus will be on demonstrating a strong and in depth understanding of the course material rather than simply memorizing key terms. The final exam will require students to demonstrate their critical thinking skills and the ability to tie together disparate course components. Although students will have a four day window to complete the exam, it is designed to only require approximately 3 hours. The exam question and answer space will appear on Avenue to Learn, and the final exam will have a 750 word limit.

Course Schedule (Readings and Other Materials Online)

Topic 1 (Week beginning May 4th)

Introducing the World of Mental Healthcare and Treatment

Topic 2 (Week beginning May 11th)

From the Asylum to the Therapeutic Community: Treatment in Inpatient Settings

Notes:

- Discussion post due May 13th at 11:59pm

Topic 3 (Week beginning May 18th)

The Ice Pick, The Electrode, and the Pill: Somatic Treatments

Notes:

- Quizzes due May 18th at 11:59pm
- Discussion post due May 20th at 11:59pm

Topic 4 (Week beginning May 25th)

Psychoanalysis and Its Successors: The Origins of Psychotherapy

Notes:

- Discussion post due May 27th at 11:59pm

Topic 5 (Week beginning June 1st)

CBT and DBT: The Behavioural Turn

Notes:

- Essay due June 1st (or June 5th with optional extension) at 11:59pm
- Discussion post due June 3rd at 11:59pm

Topic 6 (Week beginning June 8th)

Forming, Forensics, and Community Treatment Orders: Involuntary Treatment

Notes:

- Discussion post due June 10th at 11:59pm

Topic 7 (Week beginning June 15th)

Can *Anything* Be Considered Treatment? The World of Wellness and Beyond

Notes:

- Final exam available June 15th and due June 19th at 11:59pm

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

Submitting Assignments

Assignments must be submitted to the Avenue to Learn dropbox. After the due date, late penalties (3% per day) will apply immediately.

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.

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".

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.

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, 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 this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

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.

Essential Requirements

This course has been carefully designed and all of its constituent components are considered essential requirements.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

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 behavior 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.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

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 credit has been obtained.
- Improper collaboration in group work.
- Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#).

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).

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 requiring a RISO accommodation 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.

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.

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.