

Sociology of Mental Health (SOCL 4091)

Louisiana State University, Department of Sociology
Fall 2018
T, Th 1-1:20 PM
100 Tureaud Hall

Instructor: Dr. Mark H. Walker
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Office Hours: T, TH 10-11:30 AM, or by appointment

DESCRIPTION

This course will provide a broad overview of the sociology of mental health.

COURSE MATERIALS

The required textbook for this course is:

Aneshensel, Carol S. Jo C. Phelan, and Alex Bierman. 2013. "Handbook of The Sociology of Mental Health." Second Edition.

This text is available for purchase at the University Book Store. However, **an electronic version of the text is available for free through LSU's library database.**

Other required readings will be posted on the course website.

LOGISTICS

Class: This course will meet two times a week for 80 minute periods. Class will consist of short lectures, class discussion of course readings, as well as in-class activities, group work, and in-class assignments. Generally, the course will proceed as follows: I will begin with a short mini-lecture on the empirical journal article. Next, we will have an in-class assignment that deals with some aspect of the assigned readings for the day (generally a writing exercise). Finally, the bulk of the class will consist of student-lead discussion of the assigned readings. Each student will have to lead discussion on the readings for two course periods over the course of the semester.

Website: Log on to Moodle < <http://moodle2.lsu.edu> > to access the course web page. Class materials (lecture, handouts, in-class exercises) will be uploaded to the course website on a weekly basis.

REQUIREMENTS

Your progress in this course will be evaluated as follows:

- ❖ Final Paper (25%)
- ❖ Discussion Leader (15%)
- ❖ Peer Feedback (20%)
- ❖ Annotated Bibliography (10%)
- ❖ Rough draft and response memo (10%)
- ❖ In-class assignments (10% total)
- ❖ Participation (10%)

GRADING

All assignments will be graded on a 100 point scale. **Late assignments will be penalized 20% for each day after the due date.** If you are not able to turn an assignment in on time due to illness or an emergency, contact me by e-mail as soon as possible.

The final paper will be a literature review of one of the topics covered in the course. Students must submit their topic and a tentative reading list by September 24th. An annotated bibliography is due on October 15th. A first draft of the paper will be due on November 11th. Each student should bring to class *two hard copies* of their first draft and should also submit an electronic copy on moodle prior to class. Each student will also receive two of their fellow students' papers to review and we will hold an in-class peer workshop session on November 27th. Students should turn in an electronic copy of their peer review in moodle before the class begins. At this time, students should come to class having carefully read each paper with a completed review sheet in-hand. **Attending the peer workshop is mandatory. Failure to attend the peer workshop session will result in a zero score on the "peer feedback" portion of your final grade (20% of your overall grade).** The final paper and revision memo are due on Tuesday, December 4th, prior to 11:55 PM.

In-class assignments will be given during most course periods to assess student learning and to ensure that students are actively participating in class. These assignments will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. In general, "good faith efforts" which demonstrate that you have done the assigned readings will be given credit on in-class assignments.

Weekly Discussions of Course Readings/Participation. Students should be ready to discuss the following items for each assigned reading each week. When assessing the readings, students should ask themselves the following questions:

First, what assumptions or claims do the authors of the article make about the individual? What aspects of the individual (if any) do the authors consider to be of theoretical importance? Second, what assumptions or claims do the authors of the article make about social structure? If the authors address social structure, how do they conceptualize it? And third, what assumptions or claims do the authors make about the relation between the individual and social structure? Discussants should also be prepared to address the following standard issues:

- a. Theoretical contributions and adequacy – What are the main conceptual and theoretical ideas in the piece? Are they adequately developed? How innovative or insightful are the main ideas underlying the paper?
- b. Methodological approach and adequacy (where appropriate) – What is the general methodological strategy or approach taken? Is it appropriate? Is there a good fit between the theory, method, and analysis? Is the empirical analysis well done and thorough?
- c. Contribution to the field – Theoretical? Empirical? Does the paper have a clearly important message? What is it?
- d. Interest value of the piece – To what audience?
- e. The quality of the writing – Is the piece clearly written and pleasurable to read?

Discussion Leader. Each person in the class will be required to lead discussion for two course periods. Discussion leaders should come prepared with thoughtful questions about the assigned readings. *The point here is not to lecture or present on the material, but to spark meaningful discussion about the readings.* The issues above might be a good jumping-off point for developing your own, more targeted discussion questions. Bringing in outside sources, such as video clips, magazine articles, internet memes, etc. or utilizing other in-class activities are acceptable and encouraged. However, **Dr. Walker must approve all outside materials in advance.**

Final course grades will be assigned as follows: 97-100% (A+), 93-96.99% (A), 90-92.99% (A-), 87-89.99% (B+), 83-86.99% (B), 80-82.99% (B-), 77-79.99% (C+), 73-76.99% (C), 70-72.99% (C-), 67-69.99% (D+), 63-66.99% (D), 60-62.99% (D-), Below 60% (F)

COURSE SCHEDULE

Wk	Date	Topic	Required Reading	Notes
1	8/21	Introduction		
	8/23	Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HSMH</i>, ch. 6: "The Sociological Study of Mental Illness: A Critique and Synthesis of Four Perspectives." • Durkheim, Emile. "Suicide." Pp. 193-202 In <i>Classic Sociological Theory</i>, 2nd edition (available on moodle) 	
2	8/28	The Social Construction and Medicalization of Mental Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Szaz, Thomas. 1960. "The Myth of Mental Illness." <i>American Psychologist</i> 15:113-118. • <i>HSMH</i>, Ch. 4: "The Medicalization of Mental Disorder." 	
	8/30	The Social Construction and Medicalization of Mental Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horwitz, Allan. 2011. "Creating an Age of Depression: The Social Consequences and Construction of the Major Depression Diagnosis" <i>Society and Mental Health</i> 1:41-54. • King, Marissa, and Peter Bearman. 2009. "Diagnostic Change and the Increased Prevalence of Autism." <i>The International Journal of Epidemiology</i> 38:1224-1234. 	
3	9/4	Labeling and Stigma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pescosolido, Bernice. 2013. "The Public Stigma of Mental Illness: What Do We Think; What Do We Know; What Can We Prove?" <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> 54:1-21. • Link, Bruce G, Francis T Cullen, James Frank, and John F. Wozniak. 1987. "The Social Rejection of Former Mental Patients: Understanding Why Labels Matter." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 92:1461-1500. 	
	9/6	Labeling and Stigma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HSMH</i>, ch. 25: "Labeling and Stigma." • Hatzenbuehler, Mark L Jo C. Phelan, and Bruce G. Link. 2013. "Stigma as a Fundamental Cause of Population Health Inequalities." <i>American Journal of Public Health</i> 103:813-821. 	
4	9/11	Definitions and Measurement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirowsky, John and Catherine Ross. 2002. "Measurement for a Human Science." <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> 43:152-170. • Keyes, Corey. 2002. "The Mental Health Continuum: From Languishing to Flourishing in Life." <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> 43:207-222. 	
	9/13	The Stress Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HSMH</i>, ch. 15 "Social Stress in the Twenty-First Century" • Turner, R. Jay, Blair Wheaton, and Donald A. Lloyd. 1995. "The Epidemiology of Social Stress." <i>American Sociological Review</i> 60:104-125 	
5	9/18	The Stress Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitchell, Colter, Daniel Notterman, Jeanne Brooks-Gunn, John Hobcraft, Irwin Garfinkel, Kate Jaeger, Iulia Kotenko, and Sara McLanahan. 2011. "Role of 	

			<p>Mother's Genes and Environment in Postpartum Depression." <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)</i>108:8189- 8193.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pearlin, Leonard I. 1989. "The Sociological Study of Stress." <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> 30:241-256. 	
	9/20	The Stress Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatzenbuehler, Mark L. 2009. "How does Sexual Minority Stigma 'Get Under the Skin'? A Psychological Mediation Framework." <i>Psychological Bulletin</i> 135:707-730. • Pescosolido, Bernice A. et al. 2008. "Under the Influence of Genetics: How Transdisciplinarity Leads us to Rethink Social Pathways to Illness." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 114:S171-S201. 	
6	9/25	Suicide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mueller, Anna S. and Seth Abrutyn. 2016. "Adolescents Under Pressure: A New Durkheimian Framework for Understanding Adolescent Suicide in a Cohesive Community." <i>American Sociological Review</i>. 81:877-899. • Wray, Matt, Cynthia Colen, and Bernice Pescosolido. 2011. "The Sociology of Suicide." <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> 37:505-528. 	<p>Topic and Tentative reading list for final paper due: September 24th, before 11:55pm</p>
	9/27	The Social Distribution of Mental Illness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HSMH</i>, ch. 12: "Social Stratification and Inequality." • Prins, Seth J. et al. 2015. "Anxious? Depressed? You Might be Suffering From Capitalism: Contradictory Class Locations and the Prevalence of Depression and Anxiety in the USA." <i>Sociology of Health and Illness</i>, 37:1352-1372. 	
7	10/2	Stratification and Mental Health: Social Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muntaner, Carles, Carme Borrell and Haejoo Chung. 2007. "Class Relations, Economic Inequality and Mental Health: Why Social Class Matters to the Sociology of Mental Health." Pp. 127-142 in <i>Mental Health, Social Mirror</i> • Clouston, Sean P, Marcie S. Rubin, Cynthia G. Colen, and Bruce G. Link. "Social Inequalities in Suicide: The Role of Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors." <i>American Journal of Epidemiology</i>. Forthcoming 	
	10/4	No Class	No Class—Fall Holiday	
8	10/9	Stratification and Mental Health: Gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HSMH</i>, ch. 14: "Gender and Mental Health." • Mirowsky, John. 1996. "Age and the Gender Gap in Depression." <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> 37:362-380. 	
	10/11	Stratification and Mental Health: Race and Ethnicity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brown, Tony N. 2003. "Critical Race Theory Speaks to the Sociology of Mental Health: Mental Health 	

			<p>Problems Produced by Racial Stratification." <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> 44:292-301.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silverstein, Jason. 2013. "How Racism is Bad for Our Bodies" <i>The Atlantic</i> http://m.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2013/03/how-racism-is-bad-for-our-bodies/273911/ 	
9	10/16	Self and Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HSMH</i>, ch. 18: "Self, Identity, Stress and Mental Health." • Thoits, Peggy A., 1983. Multiple identities and psychological well-being: A reformulation and test of the social isolation hypothesis. <i>American sociological review</i>, pp.174-187. 	Annotated Bibliography Due: October 15th, before 11:55pm
	10/18	Self and Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simon, Robin W. 1995. "Gender, Multiple Roles, Role-Meaning, and Mental Health." <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i>. 36: 182-194. • Burke, P.J. and Harrod, M.M., 2005. "Too much of a good thing?" <i>Social Psychology Quarterly</i>, 68(4): 359-374. 	
10	10/23	Social Networks and Social Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HSMH</i>, ch. 17: "Social Relations, Social Integration, and Social Support." • Berkman, Lisa F. Thomas Glass, Ian Brissette, and Teresa E. Seeman. 2000. "From Social Integration to Health: Durkheim in the New Millenium." <i>Social Science and Medicine</i> 51:843-857. 	
	10/25	Social Networks and Social Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thoits, P.A., 2011. Mechanisms linking social ties and support to physical and mental health. <i>Journal of health and social behavior</i>, 52(2): 145-161. • Walker, Mark H. 2015. "The Contingent Value of Embeddedness: Self-Affirming Social Environments, Network Density, and Well-being." <i>Society and Mental Health</i> 5(2) 128-144. 	
11	10/30	Social Institutions: Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HSMH</i>, ch. 20: "Family Status and Mental Health: Recent Advances and Future Directions." • Simon, Robin W. 2002. "Revisiting the Relationships among Gender, Marital Status, and Mental Health." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 107:1065-1096. 	
	11/1	Social Institutions: Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HSMH</i>, ch. 21: "The Sociology of Work and Well-Being." • Wharton, Amy S. "Work and Family in the 21st Century: Four Research Agendas." <i>Sociology Compass</i> 6(3):219-235. 	
12	11/6	Social Institutions: Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HSMH</i>, ch. 22: "Religion and Mental Health." • Stroebe, Samuel, Mark H. Walker, and Aaron B. Franzen. 2017. "Stress Buffer or Identity Threat? Negative Media Portrayal, Public and Private Religious Involvement, and Mental Health in a National Sample of U.S. Adults." <i>Society and Mental Health</i> 7(2): 85-104. 	
	11/8	Social Institutions: Neighborhood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>HSMH</i>, ch. 23: "Neighborhood Context and Mental Health." 	

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stockdale, Susan E., Kenneth B. Wells, Lingqi Tang, Lily Zhang, and Cathy D. Sherbourne. 2007. "The Importance of Social Context: Neighborhood Stressors, Stress-Buffering Mechanisms, and Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Disorders." <i>Social Science and Medicine</i>. 65(9): 1867-1881. 	
13	11/13	Emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hochschild, Arlie Russell. 1979. "Emotion Work, Feeling Rules, and Social Structure." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 85(3):551-575 Simon, Robin W. and Leda E. Nath. 2006. "Gender and Emotion in the United States: Do Men and Women Differ in Self-Reports of Feelings and Expressive Behavior?" 	First draft of final paper due. Students must bring <u>TWO</u> hard copies to class.
	11/15	Emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kemper, Theodore D. 1987. "How Many Emotions Are There? Wedding the Social and Autonomic Components." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 93:2:263-289. Schmitt, Christopher S. and Candice Clark. 2003. "Sympathy" in <i>The Sociology of Emotions</i>, edited by Jan E. Stets and Jonathan H. Turner. New York: Springer. 	Sign-up Sheet for 1-on-1 meetings with Dr. Walker Posted.
14	11/20	Emotions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheff, Thomas J. 2000. "Shame and the Social Bond: A Sociological Theory." <i>Sociological Theory</i> 18:1:84-99. Erickson, Rebecca J., and Christian Ritter. 2003. "Emotional Labor, Burnout, and Inauthenticity: Does Gender Matter?" 	
	11/22	No Class	<i>No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday</i>	
15	11/27	Peer Workshop	Come to class having read peer rough drafts. Students should come to class with completed review sheets in hand and ready to discuss their fellow students' work.	Review sheets due. Sign-up period for 1-on-1 meetings ends at midnight.
	11/29	1-on-1 Meetings with Dr. Walker		

The final paper and revision memo are due on Tuesday, December 4th before 11:55 PM.