Doctors and Delusions: 
Madness and Medicine in the Modern Era

Welcome! This course examines the relationship between insanity and its social and historical contexts between the 18th-century birth of the asylum and contemporary debates about depression and psychopharmacology. Major themes include the shifting meanings of madness for social categories like class, race, and gender. While the principal focus will be the place of madness and psychiatry in Western medicine, comparisons with Africa and Asia will also play a role in the course.

We will examine the history of madness through a close reading of medical, sociological, philosophical, and popular literature. Focused readings of these texts will help reveal changes in social, medical, and aesthetic views on psychopathology in the modern period, providing a basis for understanding the place of madness in the contemporary world.

You are responsible for attendance and informed participation at class meetings. Written requirements include four short reaction papers (about 2-3 pages each) in which you respond to a specific question on selected readings. There will also be a longer (10-15 page) independent paper on any approved topic concerning madness since 1800, for which you will write two drafts. Your attendance, preparation, and participation will constitute 20 % of your final grade; the reaction papers 40 %; and the final paper 40 %.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, I urge any student with a disability to inform me as soon as possible, so that I may make any necessary accommodations. All such requests are confidential.

Students are expected to familiarize themselves with UW policies on plagiarism and to assume full responsibility for academic integrity for all coursework.

Required Texts:
Sigmund Freud, Five Lectures on Psycho-Analysis.
Sigmund Freud, Three Case Histories.
Pat Barker, Regeneration.
Nathaniel Lachenmeyer, The Outsider: A Journey into My Father’s Struggle with Madness (Middleton Health Sciences Reserve).

Optional Text:
Edward Shorter, A History of Psychiatry: From the Era of the Asylum to the Age of Prozac (Middleton Health Sciences Reserve).
* Readings marked with an asterisk are contained in the course reader, available for purchase at Agricultural Journalism on Henry Mall.

Week One—Pre-Modern Madness and Healing

Sept. 2—Course Introduction

Sept. 4—Madness and Healing before Psychiatry


Weeks Two and Three—Making Modern Madness

Sept. 9—Unchaining the Mad


Sept. 11—Liberation or Confinement? Criticism of the Moral Treatment


Sept. 16—Boundary Disputes: Psychiatry, Religion, and Responsibility


Sept. 18—Sex, Gender, and Pathology in the Victorian Era


FIRST REACTION PAPER DUE IN CLASS, THURSDAY, SEPT. 18.
Weeks Four and Five—Decadence, Degeneration, and Neurosis

RESEARCH CONSULTATIONS: PLEASE SELECT AN APPOINTMENT ON SIGN-UP SHEET OUTSIDE MY OFFICE, MSC 1423.

Sept. 23—Crime, Madness, and Politics: Psychiatry and Degeneration


* Elaine Showalter, *The Female Malady*, 101-120.

Sept. 25—Passion and Restraint: Neurasthenia, Gender, and Modernity


* Elaine Showalter, *The Female Malady*, 121-44.

Sept. 30—Hysteria and the “Talking Cure”

Sigmund Freud, *Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis*.

Oct. 2—No meeting: consultations

Week Six—Applying the Concepts

Oct. 7—Psychoanalysis in Context: The Wolf Man

Freud, *Three Case Histories*, 161-218

Oct. 9—Narrative and Cure

Freud, *Three Case Histories*, 219-80

Week Seven—The Great War, Shell Shock, and Male Hysteria

Oct. 14—War, Trauma, and Hysteria

Pat Barker, *Regeneration*, 1-145

Oct. 16—Reason and Madness at War

Barker, *Regeneration*, 149-250

SECOND REACTION PAPER DUE IN CLASS THURSDAY, OCT. 16.
Oct. 21—Special Meeting: Researching the History of Medicine

***Guest Speaker: Micaela Sullivan-Fowler***
***Meet in Middleton Library, Room 303, 9:30-10:45***

Week Eight—New Paradigms: Schizophrenia and “Primitivism”

Oct. 23—Schizophrenia: Psychosis and its Canvas


Oct. 28—“Primitivism” and the Dangers of “Deculturation”


RESEARCH PROPOSALS DUE IN MY MAILBOX, 5 PM WED. OCT. 29.

Weeks Nine and Ten—Madness in Society: Mental Hygiene and the Production of a Healthy Society

Oct. 30—Psychiatry, Social Work, and the Urban Landscape

***Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Lunbeck, Princeton University***


Nov. 4—Mental Hygiene and Social Fitness


Nov. 6—From Eugenics to Euthanasia: Psychiatry and the State in Nazi Germany


Film: *Selling Murder*
Week Eleven—Minds and Bodies

Nov. 11—Somatic Psychiatry and New Paradigms: Electroshock and Psychosurgery


Nov. 13—Explaining the Turn: State Hospitals and Psychiatry in Crisis


THIRD REACTION PAPER DUE IN CLASS THURSDAY, NOV. 13

Weeks Twelve and Thirteen—Crisis, Drugs, and Resistance

Nov. 18—Chemical Straitjackets

* Jean Thuillier, *Ten Years that Changed the Face of Mental Illness* (London: Martin Dunitz, 1999), 103-53.

Nov. 20—The Counterculture, Protest, and “Antipsychiatry”


Nov. 25—Literature, Madness, and Resistance


FIRST DRAFT OF FINAL PAPER DUE WEDNESDAY, NOV. 26, IN MY MAILBOX.

Nov. 27—NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING DAY

Week Fourteen—Mental Disorders and Contemporary Society

December 2—Schizophrenia

Nathaniel Lachenmeyer, *The Outsider: A Journey into My Father’s Struggle with Madness.*
December 4—Depression


FOURTH REACTION PAPER DUE IN CLASS, THURSDAY, DEC. 4.

Week Fifteen—Mental Health, Healing, and Culture

December 9—The Placebo Effect

***Guest Speaker: Anne Harrington, Harvard University***

Readings TBA

December 11—Culture-Bound Syndromes


FINAL PAPER DUE NO LATER THAN 5:45 pm, Thursday, Dec. 18