



2016-2017  
 Department of Sociology  
 SOC3346F – 530  
 Sociology of Mental Health  
**Thursday 6:30pm-9:30pm, UH27**

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 Office Hours: 3:30pm-4:30pm; By appointment

### Course Description

While sociologists, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and others all deal with issues of mental illness, they often approach the topic in very different ways. In viewing mental illness, sociologists have primarily challenged dominant views of mental illness, examined how social relationships play a role in mental illness, questioned the goals and implications of mental health policy and researched how mental health services are organized and provided.

This course is designed to give students an overview of the ways a sociological perspective informs our understanding of mental health. We will explore various definitions of mental illness, analyze theories of mental disorder, critically analyze different forms of mental illness, examine the social process of labeling mental illness, examine how factors such as gender, socioeconomic status, race, and age affect mental disorder and examine historical and current social responses to mental illness.

**Antirequisite(s):** Sociology 3385F/G, if taken at Brescia in 2014-15

**Prerequisites(s):** 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level, and third or fourth year standing in a module in Sociology.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** *You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites. If you do not have the requisites for this course, and you do not have written special permission from your Dean to enrol in this course, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

### Course Objectives

The objectives of the course are to:

- Develop an understanding of sociological theories and research regarding the definition, experience, and treatment of mental illness;
- Understand the sociological, psychological and biological approaches to the study of mental health;
- Understand the ways in which sociologists have studied mental illness
- Understand how various social factors influence the definition of, causes of, and responses to mental disorders/symptoms
- Explore how the social environment impacts the symptoms of mental disorders

- Examine how sociological/deviance perspectives emphasize that the definitions of mental disorders are socially constructed, vary by culture, and change over history
- Examine how the stigma of mental illness is addressed, and how North American culture and the media influence our perceptions of those who are labeled “mentally ill”
- Develop oral and group communication skills via the mini student presentations

### Required Text

Elliot Goldner, Emily Jenkins, Jessica Prairie, Dan Bilsker. (2011). A Concise Introduction to Mental Health in Canada. Canadian Scholar' Press.

Assigned supplemental readings will be posted on Sakai.

### Evaluation

Midterm Exam (Oct 20)	30%
Final Exam (Scheduled by registrar)	40%
Research Paper (Dec 1)	25%
Mini Presentation	5%

### Examinations

The exams are non-cumulative. The exams will be made up of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank and short/long answer questions. You will be tested on materials covered in the textbook, assigned readings, lecture slides and class videos. Each exam is scheduled for 3 hours in length.

### Research Paper

Students are required to write a paper that relates to the major themes of the course. Before finalizing their topic, students must submit a one page research paper proposal for their instructor's approval. Further information to be provided class.

### Mini Presentation

Each student will be required to conduct one mini presentation. The brief presentation will require students to describe an issue that deals with the topic of mental illness presented by a media source. Further information to be provided class.

### Course Schedule

\*SR: Supplemental Reading Available of Sakai

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings</u>
Sept 8	Introduction & Administrative Details	
Sept 15	The Sociology of Mental Health History and Origins of Mental Health and Illness	Chpt. 1
Sept 22	Perspectives on Mental Health and Illness	Chpts. 2-3
Sept 29	Perspectives on Mental Health and Illness Stress Process Paradigm	SR: Sakai

Oct 6	Prevalence and Patterns of Mental Illness	Chpt. 4 SR: Sakai
Oct 13	The Medicalization of Mental Disorders	SR: Sakai
<b>Oct 20</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	
Oct 27	FALL STUDY BREAK – NO CLASS	
Nov 3	Social Antecedents of Mental Illness	Chpts. 7-10 SR: Sakai
Nov 10	Institutional Antecedents of Mental Illness	Chpt. 6 SR: Sakai
Nov 17	Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System	Chpt. 5 SR: Sakai
Nov 24	Social Consequences of Mental Illness	SR: Sakai
Dec 1	Mental Health Policy and Treatment <b>RESEARCH PAPERS DUE</b>	Chpts. 11-15

### Mobile Phone Policy

All phones are to be shut off at the start of class, except if you have an emergency that you are having to attend to (such as an immediate family member's illness or hospitalization, or your spouse's/domestic partner's impending delivery), in which case you need to let me know at the start of class. **Text messaging is absolutely prohibited during class times.**

### Communications

Email is my preferred method of contact. It should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked, and not written in "text message" format. All communications must be written from your UWO account. The subject heading should read the course title. Sign the email with your full name and student number. Expect a response within 24-48 hours, excluding weekend.

### Late Coursework

All coursework is due on the dates noted. Late coursework will only be accepted without penalty with appropriate documentation. Coursework received after the due date will have their grade reduced by a rate of 10 % per day (including weekends).

**Late Assignment (Hard Copy) Drop Off Box.** There will be a locked box located outside the Dean's Office. The box will be cleared daily at 4 p.m. Anything submitted after 4 p.m. is considered the next day's date.

**2016-17 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

### **1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES**

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html> The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

### **2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS**

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to

maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg130.html> )

### 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

### 4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html>

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

#### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

#### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

## 5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg112.html> )

## 6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

## 7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for information including a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.