During the 20th century the human sciences became caught up in large-scale processes of social reform, revolution, war, postwar reconstruction, and decolonization. Many of these disciplines – psychiatry, psychoanalysis, sexology, eugenics, anthropology, and allied fields – underwent the formative phases of their development within the shadow of the political conflicts and wars that marked what the historian Eric Hobsbawm called the “age of extremes.” What was the relation between politics and these disciplines? What kinds of hopes and promises marked the birth and development of these fields? In what way did these “young sciences” (to paraphrase Freud) become entangled within reformist, utopian, or – in some cases – deeply transgressive modes of social and human engineering? What conceptual, methodological, and ethical responses mark the history of these entanglements? This class will be organized around a combination of seminal theoretical readings and works of historical scholarship that together will help us explore these issues.

Requirements
Requirements include: a) close reading of the assigned texts along with active and informed participation in class discussions; b) at least one critical question sent to class in advance of each meeting and two short analytic summaries of readings (to be assigned on a volunteer basis) sent to class in advance of relevant meeting; 3) final paper.

Questions and summaries must be emailed to class by 12pm of previous day.

Course learning objectives
Students will develop a strong grasp of the major issues, themes, and debates relating to the history of mental illness in the modern era.

Students will demonstrate proficiency in the analysis, evaluation and synthesis of primary and secondary sources through a major research paper.

Students will demonstrate proficiency in historical reasoning, oral presentation and argument.
**Blackboard use is required:** for instructions, contact the computer helpdesk.

**Email:** Please activate your CUNY email account and check it regularly.

**Schedule**

**Aug 31**  
*Introduction to the course*

**Sept 7**  
*What is the History of the Human Sciences?*  
Reading: Hacking, “Making up People”  
Rose, “Assembling the Modern Self”  
Eghigian/Killen/Leuenberger, “Politics and the Human Sciences in the 20th C.”  
Raphael, “Embedding the Human Sciences in Western Societies, 1880-1980”

**Sept 14**  
*Science, Sexuality, Population*  
Reading: Foucault, *History of Sexuality*  
Kevles, *In the Name of Eugenics*, selections

**Sept 21**  
*Psychiatry and War in the 20th Century*  
Reading: Stone, “Shellshock and the Psychologists”  
Showalter, “Male Hysteria: W. Rivers and the Lessons of Shellshock”  
Shepard, *War of Nerves*, selections

**Sept 28**  
*Interwar Society and the Sciences of Psy*  
Reading: Rose, *Governing the Soul*, selections  
Danto, *Freud’s Free Clinics*, selections

**Oct 5**  
*Social and Human Engineering: the case of Soviet Russia*  
Reading: Beer, “Blueprints for Change: The Human Sciences and the Coercive Transformation of Deviants in Russia 1890-1930”  
Etkind, “Psychoanalysis in the Land of the Bolsheviks”

**Oct 12**  
NO CLASS
Oct 19  
*Social and Human Engineering: the case of Nazi Germany*
Reading: Burleigh, “Psychiatry and the Nazi ‘Euthanasia’ Programme”
Peukert, “The Genesis of the Final Solution from the Spirit of Science”
Dickinson, “Bio-politics, Fascism, Democracy”

Oct 26  
*Medicine and Ethics after the Holocaust*
Grodin, “Historical Origins of the Nuremberg Code”
Gere, “The Science of Pain and Pleasure in the Shadow of the Holocaust”

Nov 2  
*Mobilizing the Human Sciences During Wartime*
Reading: Shapira, *The War Inside: Psychoanalysis, Total War, and the Making of the Democratic Self in Postwar Britain*, selections
Thompson, “The Psy Sciences and the Engineering of Society in Britain”

Nov 9  
*The Inner Cold War*
Reading: Lutz, “Epistemology of the Bunker: The Brainwashed and Other Subjects of Permanent War”
Melley, “The Covert Sphere”
Lemov, “The Impossible Experiment”

Nov 16  
*World as Laboratory*
Reading: Lemov, *The World as Laboratory*, selections
Herman, *The Romance of American Psychology*, selections

Nov 23  
*Madness and Decolonization*
Reading: Keller, *Colonial Madness*, selections
Linstrum, *Psychology in the British Empire*, selections

Nov 30  
*The Anti-Psychiatric Moment*
Reading: Goffmann, “Characteristics of Total Institutions”
Foucault, “Psychiatric Power”
Reich, “Over the Cuckoo’s Nest: Russian Variations on a Theme”

Dec 7  
*The Human Sciences in the Age of Neuroscience and Terror*
Reading: APA Report on “Enhanced” Interrogation, selections
Becker, “The Neurosciences and Criminology”
Rose, *The Politics of Life Itself*, selections