Histories of Madness in the Modern Era

draft version

Fall 2015
History 72110
Wed 4:15-6:15

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Office Hours:

This course examines the relationship between insanity and its intellectual, social, and historical contexts from the 18th-century birth of the asylum up to contemporary debates about psycho-pharmacology. Beginning with the age of the so-called “Great Confinement,” the course traces the institutional and therapeutic reforms of the revolutionary and post-revolutionary era; the rise of theories of degeneration and hysteria in the late 19th century; the emergence of psychoanalysis; war neurosis and military psychiatry; relations between psychiatry, totalitarianism, and the legacy of imperialism; the anti-psychiatry movement; and contemporary bio-psychiatry.

While the principal focus will be on histories of madness and psychiatry in the West, comparisons with non-Western societies will also play a role in the course. Attention will be paid to the intense methodological and interpretive debates that have marked the field over the last 30 years, and to the shifting meanings of madness for social categories like class, race, and gender.

Required Texts

Edward Shorter, A History of Psychiatry
Michel Foucault, The Foucault Reader
Elaine Showalter, The Female Malady
Sigmund Freud, Dora: Analysis of a Case of Hysteria
Anne Goldberg, Sex, Religion, and the Making of Modern Madness
Clifford Beers, A Mind that Found Itself
Elizabeth Lunbeck, The Psychiatric Persuasion
Michael Burleigh, Death and Deliverance
Richard Keller, Colonial Madness (electronic resource)
Harry Osterhuis, Stepchildren of Nature: Krafft-Ebing, Psychiatry, and the Making of Sexual Identity
George Makari, Revolution in Mind: The Creation of Psychoanalysis
Paul Lerner, Hysterical Men: War, Psychiatry, and the Politics of Trauma in Germany
Peter Kramer, Listening to Prozac

In addition, several readings are on e-reserve at Mina Rees Library. Other readings will be made available as necessary, via handouts or selected web-sites.
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.
Schedule

Sept 2  
*Introduction to the course*

Sept 9  
*What is the History of Madness?*  
Reading: Rosenhan, “On Being Sane in Insane Places”  
[http://psychrights.org/Articles/Rosenham.htm](http://psychrights.org/Articles/Rosenham.htm)  
Hacking, “The Invention of Split Personalities”  
Hess/Majerus, “Writing the History of Psychiatry in the 20th Century”  
Gilman, “Madness as Disability”

Sept 16  
*Histories of Psychiatry*  
Reading: Shorter, *History of Psychiatry*

  **Watch film “The Madness of King George”**

Sept 23  
NO CLASS

Sept 30  
*Making Madness Modern*  
Foucault, 124-167, 273-289, 206-214, 239-256

Oct 7  
*The Age of Asylum Reform*  
Reading: Digby, “The York Retreat”  
Goldberg, *Sex, Religion, and the Making of Modern Madness*

Oct 14  
*Hysteria and the Invention of the Talking Cure*  
Reading: Charcot, “Lectures on Diseases of Nervous System” *(CP)*  
Breuer, “Anna O” *(CP)*  
Showalter, *The Female Malady*

Oct 21  
*Psychiatry and Sexuality*  
Osterhuis, *Stepchildren of Nature: Krafft-Ebing, Psychiatry, and the Making of Sexual Identity*  
Foucault, 291-330

Oct 28  
*The Birth of Psychoanalysis*  
Reading: Freud, *Dora*  
Makari, *Revolution in Mind: The Creation of Psychoanalysis*
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 4</td>
<td>The Great War and Shellshock</td>
<td>Stone, “Shellshock and the Psychologists” Lerner, <em>Hysterical Men: War, Psychiatry, and the Politics of Trauma in Germany</em></td>
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<td>Outline and bibliography for final paper due</td>
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<td>Nov 18</td>
<td>Nazi Psychiatry and the “Euthanasia” Program</td>
<td>Burleigh, <em>Death &amp; Deliverance</em> Foucault, 258-272</td>
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<td>Nov 25</td>
<td>Madness and Decolonization</td>
<td>Keller, <em>Colonial Madness</em> Fanon, <em>The Wretched of the Earth</em>, selections</td>
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<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>The Psychopharmacological Age</td>
<td>re-read Shorter, ch. 7-8 Kramer, <em>Listening to Prozac</em>, chs ___</td>
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<td>Final paper due</td>
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