

HS3262G: Mental Illness and Healing Across Cultures

Winter | 2025

Prerequisite(s):

Students must be in minimum year 3 to take this course.

Course Information

Instructor Name: Elysée Nouvet (she/her)

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Office Hours Day / Time: **TBA**/F2 11.04 Tf1 0 0 1 71.304 287 215.33 o

Course Description

This course provides students with an introduction to the critical study of global mental health and illness. Through weekly case studies, we will explore how experiences, ideas, and treatment of mental health and illness in particular historical and socio-cultural contexts connect to the values, norms, and power relations at play in understandings and responses to mental distress within those contexts. We will examine how factors such as access to resources, religious beliefs, environment, and social identity can impact social actors' mental health and provide opportunities or limit resources available for healing. Readings for this course are taken from a broad range of disciplines (transcultural psychiatry, sociology, anthropology, history of science, feminist studies, cultural studies). Our goal is to immerse ourselves into culturally diverse experiences and understandings of mental illness, and the way better understand and imagine ethical and actionable options for healing and social inclusion.

Learning Outcomes

Through this course, student will:

- Deepen their understanding of socio-cultural and historical dimensions of mental illness and healing
- Develop and practice their critical health studies analysis and synthesis skills through team-based class work and independent writing opportunities
- Unpack and integrate into their research and practice an understanding of the

Please also let me know:

-If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear to me in OWL Brightspace

-If you have any other questions or concerns: you can contact me, or speak with an Academic Counsellor. We are here to support your learning!

Your mental health

Please remember as you work through this and other courses this term to check in with yourself and be kind to yourself. There is significant flexibility built into the course, through the choice afforded you on [*varies from course to course but flexibility on deadlines and evaluations available in all courses*]: I have done this in recognition that we do not all have the same interests in global health topics (and you may be more drawn to certain subjects), but also in recognition that you are likely under many competing pressures.

Mental Health Support @Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) has a list of options about how to obtain help, if you are experiencing distress.

Course Format and Timetable

Critical reflection and dialogue are foundational elements of this in-person course. Each student is expected to maintain an active presence in the classroom, complete the readings (or viewings/podcasts) on time, and fully engage in class discussions and activities.

Required Course Material:

There is no required textbook to be purchased for the course as readings will largely focus on scholarly articles and related resources, links to which will be provided on the course's OWL Brightspace site.

In addition to required materials, there are a number of recommended readings and resources identified on our course website. Consulting these materials is not required, but may be worth

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* Each synthesis will deal with a weekly topic. You will write on the two weekly topics of your choice, but must complete your first synthesis before February 11, 2025, and the second one no later than April 8 (our last class).

Syntheses are due before class begins on the day we are discussing that topic.

Further guidelines, the marking rubric, and sample syntheses can be found on OWL Brightspace.

Support Services

There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:

1. Academic Support and Engagement - <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca>
2. Wellness and Well-being - <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>
3. Registrar's Office -- <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/>
4. Ombuds Office -- <http://www.uwo.ca/ombuds/>

The websites for Registrarial Services (<http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>), and the same for affiliated university colleges when appropriate, and any appropriate Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>) and the Student Development Services, should be provided for easy access.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/>)

portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is always required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g., December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests (typically scheduled during the last week of the term).

Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Academic consideration requests may be denied when flexibility in assessment has already been included. Examples of flexibility in assessment include when there are assessments not required for calculation of the final grade (e.g. 8 out of 10 quizzes), when there is flexibility in the submission timeframe (e.g. 72 hour no late penalty period), or when timed assessments (e.g., quizzes) are available over an extended period of time (e.g., when you are given a 72 hour time period to start – and finish – the assessment).

Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course syllabus. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Accommodation for Religious Holidays

Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Special Examinations

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting

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 Western University and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Use of Artificial Intelligence for the Completion of Course Work

Within this course, you may only use artificial intelligence tools (e.g., "ChatGPT") in ways that are specifically authorized by the course instructor. All submitted work must reflect your own thoughts and independent written work.

Students in this course are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for reviewing your understanding of assigned materials, brainstorming with the AI on a topic, and preliminary research purposes. These tools can enhance the learning experience if used responsibly. AI can, for example, compliment (not replace) your searches for information on topics, development of outlines for a paper, presentation, infographics, etc. If using these tools, it is essential that you: 1) critically evaluate the AI generated materials; 2) check the cited sources carefully - do not expect quotes or images to be accurate or accurately attributed; 3) continue to exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research; 4) develop your own ideas, arguments, perspectives and any submitted assignments so that these avoid plagiarism from the AI. In short, the use of AI tools is permitted as a starting point for exploration and learning, with students who use it still expected to uphold academic integrity by: 1) appropriately attributing all sources; and 2) avoiding plagiarism (more than 3 words in a row taken from ChatGPT or any other source constitutes plagiarism and can result in appropriate consequences for this academic offense).

Re-submission of Previously Graded Material

Use of Electronic Devices

During Exams:

Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, tablets, cameras, smart glass, smart watches, or iPods) during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations.

During Lectures and Tutorials:

Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

Personal Response Systems: ("clickers") may be used in some classes. For those classes in which we use this technology, it is your responsibility to ensure that the device is activated and functional. You must speak with the course instructor immediately, if you have any concerns about whether or not your clicker is malfunctioning.

You must use only your own clicker. For all components of this course in which clicker records are used to compute a portion of the grade:

The use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence;

The possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offense

Academic Considerations and Absences from Lectures and Assessments

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request (in writing) any necessary academic considerations at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the academic counsellors in their Home Department. Additional information is provided in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Academic Accommodation

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. Students with ongoing accommodation needs within this course are also encouraged to contact [Accessible Education](#), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found [here](#).

Online Proctoring

Tests and examinations in this course may be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet

