

## PHILOSOPHY OF MENTAL HEALTH

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**Office hours:** TBD.

### Course Overview

This course will introduce students to ethics with particular focus on ethical issues related to mental health and psychiatry. The course will begin by introducing some prominent views in ethics and the discussion of ethical theory will continue throughout the semester as we cover some of the major ethical issues related to mental health. These topics include how we characterize mental illness, the values that influence psychiatric practice, the legal responsibilities related to mental health, issues relating to diagnosis and treatment, and the connection between feminism and psychiatry. By the end of the semester students will :

- have knowledge of some of the main views in ethics and be able to apply this knowledge to situations relating to mental health.
- be able to contribute to rigorous philosophical discussion and clearly present philosophical ideas in written form.

**Texts:** All readings will be made available to students online. Most readings will come from the following anthology:

*The Philosophy of Psychiatry*, (2004), edited by Jennifer Radden, Oxford University Press.

Other good sources include:

- *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy and Psychiatry*, (2013), edited by K.W.M. Fulford, M. Davies, R.G.T. Gipps, G. Graham, J. Sadler, G. Stanghellini, T. Thornton. Oxford University Press.
- Graham, G., (2013), *The Disordered Mind: An Introduction to Philosophy of Mind and Mental Illness*, 2nd edition, Routledge Press.
- Elliot, C., (2003), *Better Than Well: American Medicine Meets the American Dream*, W.W. Norton & Company.

### Assignments

**Summary Papers.** Each student is required to turn in 5 summary papers. Students may only turn in one summary paper per section. These papers should be 2 – 3 pages long,

consisting of a short summary of an assigned reading and the student's thoughts/response to that reading. The response portion of the paper should demonstrate that the student has engaged with the reading in a careful and thoughtful way. These papers will be graded on a scale of 0 – 3. Students will receive a **0** if they fail to turn in a summary paper, a **1** if they have failed to accurately summarize and failed to engage with the reading, a **2** if they accurately summarize the reading but do not include a thoughtful response, and a **3** if they accurately summarize and thoughtfully engage with the reading. These papers should be turned in before the class discussion of the assigned reading.

**Quizzes.** There will be 6 quizzes throughout the semester, which will take place at the end of each section and will cover the readings from that section. These quizzes will occur in class. They will be straightforward and short, consisting of 10-15 questions. These questions will be a mix of true/false and short answers. If a student misses class on a quiz day then they will have to make up the quiz during office hours within two weeks of the original quiz date.

**Term Paper.** The major assignment for this course is the final paper, which will be due during finals week. This will be a 5-10 page paper that engages with and develops new ideas about one of the topics covered during the semester. This assignment consists of the following four parts:

**Paper Proposal (5pts):** A paper proposal will be due half-way through the semester. This proposal should identify the question the paper will answer and a proposed thesis statement. The proposal should also identify the course readings that the paper will engage with.

**First Draft (10pts):** Two weeks before the end of the semester, students will be required to turn in a first draft of their paper. This will be an opportunity to receive detailed feedback from me and will not be graded in terms of quality.

**Final Draft (75pts):** The final draft of the paper will be due during finals week. The final draft should reflect revisions from the first draft and will be graded in terms of quality.

**Presentation (10pts):** During finals week, there will be no final exam, but students will be expected to give short, 5-10 minutes, presentations on their final papers. In these presentations, students should introduce the main thesis of the paper and summarize their argument for that thesis.

**Grading.** Overall grades for the course will be determined in the following way:

**Final Paper:** 50%

**Summary Papers:** 20%

**Quizzes:** 20%

**Participation:** 10%

The grading scale is as follows:

<b>A</b> 94+	<b>A-</b> 90-93	<b>B+</b> 87-89
<b>B</b> 83-86	<b>B-</b> 80-82	<b>C+</b> 77-79
<b>C</b> 73-76	<b>C-</b> 70-72	<b>D</b> 60-69
<b>F</b> 59-		

**Attendance and Classroom Policies.** Attendance is mandatory and will factor into the participation grade. A large portion of each class will be discussion and so to better the environment for discussion I ask that you do not bring any laptops or technology to class. Each student is expected to be an active participant in discussion.

**Academic Integrity.** Each student is expected to complete their own work for each of the assignments listed above. Any instances of plagiarism will be taken seriously and appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the academic honor code. More information about this honor code can be found at the following website: <https://honorcode.nd.edu/> If you have any questions or concerns about the honor code, you should talk to me.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS

<b>Introduction to Ethics</b>	
Week 1	EoMP, ch 1 “What is Morality?” EoMP, ch 7 “The Utilitarian Approach”
Week 2	EoMP, ch 10 “Kant and Respect for Persons” EoMP, ch12 “Virtue Ethics”
Week 3	Section Quiz
<b>What is Mental Disorder?</b>	
Week 3	Bolton - “What is Mental Illness?”
Week 4	Graham - <i>The Disordered Mind: An Introduction to Philosophy of Mind and Mental Illness</i> , ch 2 Gert & Culver - PoP, ch29 “Defining Mental Disorder”
Week 5	Elliot - PoP, ch 30 “Mental Health and Its Limits” Section Quiz
<b>Psychiatry and Values</b>	
Week 6	Chadwick & Aindow - PoP, ch 19 “Treatment and Research Ethics” Sadler - “Values in Psychiatric Diagnosis and Classification”
Week 7	Poland - “Deeply Rooted Sources of Error and Bias in Psychiatric Classification” Hopkins & Battin - PoP, ch 21 “Religion”
Week 8	Section Quiz
<b>Psychiatry and the Law</b>	
Week 8	Robinson, PoP ch 18, “Dangerous: The General Duty to All the World”
Week 9	Semester Break
Week 10	Wilson & Adshead - PoP, ch 20 “Criminal Responsibility” Elliot - <i>The Rules of Insanity</i> , ch 1
Week 11	Mele - PoP, ch 5 “Action” Section Quiz
<b>Diagnosis and Treatment</b>	
Week 12	Sadler - PoP, ch 11 “Diagnosis/Antidiagnosis” Elliot - “Amputees by Choice” from <i>Better than Well</i>
Week 13	Elliot - “The Identity Bazaar” from <i>Better than Well</i> Section Quiz
<b>Feminism and Psychiatry</b>	
Week 14	Potter - PoP, ch 15 “Gender” Nissam-Sabat - “Gender and Race in Philosophy of Psychiatry: Science, Relativism, and Phenomenology”
Week 15	Bluhm - “Gender Differences in Depression: Explanations from Feminist Ethics” Section Quiz
Finals Week	Student Presentations & Final Papers due