CULTURE AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY – PSYC 4085 (02)
Spring 2019

Attendance: There are no attendance requirements. YOU DO NOT NEED TO EMAIL ME ABOUT WHY YOU WERE ABSENT IN CLASS.

Instructor: Dr. Ayurdhi Dhar
Email: adhar@westga.edu

Office Hours: Melson Hall, Front campus drive: Room 117
M/W: 11 AM-12.30PM; 2 PM-3.00 PM; 4 PM-5 PM
While these are the office hours, please schedule appointments with me individually. I reserve the right to change these hours.

Text:
All material, including research papers, academic articles, videos, and book chapters will be provided via Courseden. Accustom yourself with Courseden and if confused, seek help.

Course Description and Objectives: We are surrounded by narratives of psychopathology: from “mental health awareness weeks” to celebrities publically endorsing psychopharmacological intervention. It seems we are in the golden age of mental health education as more and more people get diagnosed and then treated. But are we really? Has it actually been that simple and straightforward? Are we mentally healthier than our ancestors, or even people living in other non-industrial cultures? This course is designed to help you understand the current trends in psychopathological research, learn the history of abnormal psychology in the West, and then critique the simplified “narrative of progress” using historical and cultural tools. Most of what you have learned up until now is based on academic work done in a few Western countries. This course will help you realize that as our culture changes, so does the way we think about psychological pain, and the way we feel mental distress. It is important to understand these differences if you want to operate as a psychologist in a world that is increasingly interconnected. Plus, once you see how things are done, thought about, and felt differently across the world, you will be able to constructively critique your own way of doing things in order provide better theories and interventions at home!
Timeline:
Section 1: History of Abnormal psychology; what it is and what it does.
  • Reading the DSM
  • Behaviorism, Psychoanalysis, Biological-Evolutionalry, and Humanistic-Existential takes on psychopathology.
  • Critiques of the DSM 5; Readings sections of Foucault’s Madness & Civilization.
Section 2: Introduction to cultural psychology
  • Basic theories and Understandings
Section 3: Cultural manifestations of psychopathology
  • McNally, Boyle, Hoffman, Bentall, and others.
  • Critique of Global Mental Health Movement: Davar, Mills, Fernando and others.

Course Requirements and Grades:
Co-teaching: 30 points total. 2 students per class will get to facilitate class discussion with me. Each student will have to do this twice in the semester (15 points each time). More on how to go about doing that in “co-teaching” file.

2 Group Discussions: 30 points total. The class will be divided into four groups and times will be allocated between two class periods for each group to discuss topics/chapters/articles. More on this in the “Group discussion” file.

Group Discussion 1: 11th and 13th Feb, 2019

Group Discussion 2: 25th and 27th Mar, 2019

Final Assignment “Dig your own grave”: 40 points. We will as a class come up with a final assignment. The 4 groups will pitch ideas about what the final assignment should be and the idea that gets most class votes will be your final assignment. This has to be creative and it has to show that you have read the material given in class. If I deem the chosen final too easy or light on content, I will simply switch to a final paper. The last word on this is mine. Final assignment to be decided by 2nd Group discussion dates.

Extra Credit: At this point no extra credit is offered in the class.
THINGS I REALLY CARE ABOUT:

Professionalism:
I do not require attendance which means that you are welcome to not show up and you do not have to give me an explanation. But this also means that if you are there and on your phone, I will get distracted, annoyed, and bitter. You will lose 5 points for unprofessional behavior.

If you have made an appointment and you don’t show up without cancelling first, I will deduct 5 points for unprofessional behavior. It’s totally OK if you cannot make it (we all oversleep), just email me and let me know.

If you miss a class, please ask a classmate for their notes. Do not email me asking what was done in the class. That’s highly unprofessional. It is your responsibility to catch up if you miss a class. That said, if you don’t understand a concept or are having difficulty with the content, PLEASE COME AND MEET ME DURING OFFICE HOURS and I will personally help you with that concept.

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Additional Information

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Accessibility Services: Students with a documented disability may work with UWG Accessibility Services to receive essential services specific to their disability. All entitlements to accommodations are based on documentation and USG Board of Regents standards. If a student needs course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if he/she needs to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, the student should notify his/her instructor in writing and provide a copy of his/her Student Accommodations Report (SAR), which is available only from Accessibility Services. Faculty cannot offer accommodations without timely receipt of the SAR; further, no retroactive accommodations will be given. For more information, please contact Accessibility Services.
Center for Academic Success: The Center for Academic Success provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6280 or cas@westga.edu

University Writing Center: The University Writing Center assists students with all areas of the writing process. For more information, contact them: 678-839-6513 or writing@westga.edu

ONLINE COURSES
UWG takes students’ privacy concerns seriously: technology-enhanced and partially and fully online courses use sites and entities beyond UWG and students have the right to know the privacy policies of these entities. For more information on privacy and accessibility for the most commonly used sites, as well as technology requirements visit the UWG Online site.

Students enrolled in online courses can find answers to many of their questions in the Online/Off-Campus Student Guide.

If a student is experiencing distress and needs help, please see the resources available at the UWG Cares site. Online counseling is also available for online students.

HONOR CODE
At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student’s conduct record at UWG.
Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student’s account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the Student Handbook.

**UWG EMAIL POLICY**

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student’s responsibility to check his or her email.

**CREDIT HOUR POLICY**

The University of West Georgia grants one semester hour of credit for work equivalent to a minimum of one hour (50 minutes) of in-class or other direct faculty instruction AND two hours of student work outside of class per week for approximately fifteen weeks. For each course, the course syllabus will document the amount of in-class (or other direct faculty instruction) and out-of-class work required to earn the credit hour(s) assigned to the course. Out-of-class work will include all forms of credit-bearing activity, including but not limited to assignments, readings, observations, and musical practice. Where available, the university grants academic credit for students who verify via competency-based testing, that they have accomplished the learning outcomes associated with a course that would normally meet the requirements outlined above (e.g. AP credit, CLEP, and departmental exams).

**HB 280 (Campus Carry)**

UWG follows University System of Georgia (USG) guidance:

[http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information](http://www.usg.edu/hb280/additional_information)

You may also visit our website for help with USG Guidance:

[https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php](https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php)

**Mental Health Support:**
If you or another student find that you are experiencing a mental health issue, free confidential services are available on campus in the **Counseling Center**. Students who have experienced sexual or domestic violence may receive confidential medical and advocacy services with the Patient Advocates in **Health Services**. To report a concern anonymously, please go to **UWGcares**.