Course Objectives
This course introduces the student to the theory and practice of modern treatment of serious mental illness.

“Serious mental illness” is an administrative classification, typically combining information on diagnosis, disability, and duration. Practically speaking, most attention will be focused on schizophrenia and bipolar illness; chronic major depression; and borderline personality disorder. The course will be concerned with advanced psychopathology, treatment approaches, broadly defined, and some key systemic issues (organization/integration of services, communication across disciplines, housing/employment, financing, policy, etc.).

Requirements / Grading
Your final grade in the course is intended to reflect your grasp of the essential subject matter, the quality of your written work, and the level of skill and understanding reflected in your participation.

Your final grade will be based on:

Class Participation: Your active participation in class affects everyone's learning experience. Because we are asking you to take an active role in shaping the class agenda, your participation is particularly important.

Reading: The reading in this course is diverse in content, pertaining not only to psychopathology, but on occasion to social and institutional processes more typically discussed in courses on policy or administration, as well as explanatory and interpretive approaches more characteristics of certain humanities (e.g., philosophy or cultural studies). You will sometimes be given individual responsibility for a reading in class.
Presentation of a reading: In your presentation, you will be expected to take responsibility for organizing the content, and presenting it in a way that covers the major points, engages with the key clinical and other issues raised by a text, and brings your fellow students (and instructors) into the discussion. You should be prepared to discuss the reading with substantial familiarity, offering evaluation and commentary where appropriate. When you present material, make every effort to speak plainly, avoiding technical jargon when it is unnecessary, and to focus on central points and themes. Excellent presentations exhibit an awareness of the difference between minor details and major points.

Assignments

(1) Class presentations. As noted, you will be asked to take responsibility for select readings for the course on one or more occasions. You will think about how best to convey content of the material and lead us in discussion of the reading, using a range of questions and topics designed to focus attention on key clinical, treatment, or policy issues. (See above.)
(3) Final paper: Write an extended discussion of an area of interest concerned with the content of the course. Approximately 8-12 pages.

Readings: Assignments will vary by week. All will be available on SAKAI.

Departmental and University Policies:

Unless otherwise noted all formal written work should use the Style Sheet of the American Psychological Association. See: http://apastyle.apa.org/ (full access via Login to Rutgers University Libraries home page: http://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/)

Disabilities. Students with disabilities who qualify for reasonable accommodations may arrange for these through the Office of Disability Services, Kreeger Learning Center, 151 College Avenue; dfoffice@rci.rutgers.edu

Academic Integrity. Work submitted for this course must be your own. You are responsible for knowing and conforming to all professional and university standards. See: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/students.shtml

Note: some minor changes in readings may be made in the course of the semester.
CLASS MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS #1: OVERVIEW OF SMI CLASS; INTRODUCTION TO PHENOMENOLOGICAL APPROACH TO SCHIZOPHRENIA (LS):
Sass presents intro to sz, also “Anxiety and insight in schizophrenia,” with Ppt and handout.
READINGS:

CLASS #2: PHENOMENOLOGY OF SCHIZOPHRENIA CONTINUED (LS):
Sass presents re “Paradoxes of emotional experience in schizophrenia,” with Ppt.
READINGS:

CLASS #3: ISSUES IN MAINSTREAM PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND DIAGNOSIS (JW)
Topic: DIAGNOSIS
Note: While the list of required readings looks long, almost all readings are short.
Required:
   Background on Diagnosis (recommended, not required):

Policy Topics:

CLASS 4: ISSUES IN MAINSTREAM PSYCHOPATHOLOGY AND DIAGNOSIS, CONTINUED (JW):
Schizophrenia Readings:

Frith CD, Friston False perceptions and false beliefs. Neurosciences and the Human Person: New Perspectives on Human Activities Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Scripta Varia 121, Vatican City 2013
www.casinapioiv.va/content/dam/accademia/pdf/sv121/sv121-frithc.pdf


Practice-Related:


CLASS #5: PHENOMENOLOGY OF SCHIZOPHRENIA CONTINUED: DELUSIONS (LS):
READINGS:
**CLASS #6: HISTORY OF MADNESS; HISTORY OF ASYLUMS (LS, JW):**
Sass presents re Foucault and the history of madness; Walkup begins re history of asylums, with Ppt.

**READINGS:**
*Times Literary Supplement (TLS)*, #5870. October 2, 2015: 3-5.

**ASYLUM READINGS:**

Beers, C. – selections


**CLASS #7: RISE AND DECLINE OF THE STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL SYSTEM (JW):**

**READINGS:**

Goffman, selections.

Grob, selections

*Optional background reading from the period:*
Bly, Nellie, Ten Days in a Madhouse:
http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/bly/madhouse/madhouse.html
Chapter 6, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16. (Note: these “chapters” are only a few pages each.) Nice audiobook available at: http://www.learnoutloud.com/Catalog/Social-Sciences/Psychology/Ten-Days-in-a-Madhouse/18986
Titticutt Follies (video)
CLASS #8: MADNESS AND MODERNISM, MADNESS AND MODERNITY (LS):
Sass presents re Madness/Modernism.
READINGS:

CLASS #9: MODERN INPATIENT MODELS (JW).

READINGS, Required:
Kernberg, O. Severe Personality Disorders. Selected Chapters


Recommended additional reading:

CLASS #10: SCHIZOPHRENIA AS SELF-DISORDER, PHENOMENOLOGICAL INTERVIEWING (LS):
Sass presents the topic.
View DVD of EASE oriented interview with patient (“Maria”),
READINGS:


**CLASS # 11: BIPOLAR ILLNESS AND DEPRESSION (JW):**
Discussion of Sarah Kane “4:38 psychosis”; also the beginning 10 minutes of the movie by Lars von Trier, “Melancholia.”

**READINGS:**


Kane, Sarah. ”4:48 Psychosis.” (a theatrical portrait of severe depression; read at least the first half of this play)

JW Readings:


Optional but strongly recommended:

**CLASS #12: SEVERE PERSONALITY DISORDER, PARTICULARLY BORDERLINE: MAINSTREAM INTRO AND REVIEW (JW)**

**READGINGS, Required:**


CLASS #13: INTRODUCTION TO BORDERLINE PERSONALITY, ESPECIALLY PSYCHODYNAMIC PERSPECTIVES (LS):
READINGS:
Borderline:


CLASS #14: COMMUNITY CARE (JW)
Organizational and Environmental Issues:
READINGS:


Psychotherapy:

CLASS #15: TO BE DECIDED  (Visitor? More re Borderline? Other topic?)