Instructor: Dr. Ellen Schattschneider
Class: Tuesday and Thursday, 5:00–6:20 p.m.
Office Hours: FRIDAY, 12:30-2:00PM & by appointment
Office: Brown 202
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Teaching Assistant: Dr. Holly Walters
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Teaching Assistant: Ms. Alexandra Martin
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course explores anthropological perspectives on mental health and mental illness, with careful attention to varied constructions of pathology and therapy across human cultures. We begin with comparative questions: are there universal standards of positive mental and emotional functioning? Are there overall commonalities in approaches to psychic and emotional disturbances. After considering the history of ‘madness’ in the West, we consider early anthropological models of culture and mental illness. We next turn to ritualized therapeutic interventions in small scale indigenous societies, and consider a range of case studies from around the world. We conclude with a unit on culture and mental health in the United States and the “globalization” of American models of the psyche.

LEARNING GOALS: Students will be asked to master the following skills in this course, including:

CORE SKILLS
• critical thinking, including the ability to analyze, interpret and synthesize a diverse variety of materials across several disciplinary boundaries, including anthropology, the visual and performative arts (including film), psychoanalytic theory, and literature.
• assess the values of topic-driven and disciplinarily informed analysis
• working independently to develop a final research paper on a topic of their own choice, in consultation with the instructor
• By the conclusion of the course, students can expect to have a good understanding of the
following fields:

**KNOWLEDGE**
- A broad interdisciplinary understanding of cultural formulations of the category of “mental illness” in comparative cultural peeress times (anthropology, psychology/psychoanalytic theory)
- An understanding of “object relations theory” (psychology/psychoanalytic theory)
- Comprehension of contemporary notions of personhood, mental health and challenges posed by contemporary life experiences (anthropology, psychoanalytic theory)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION**

**POSTINGS: 3 Responses to readings @ 10%**

**PAPERS—OPTION #1: (3 papers on an assigned topic—@ 25% each) @ 75%**

**PAPERS—OPTION #2: (1 paper on assigned topic—“Paper #1”—AND a Final Independent Research Paper, with required preliminary one-page Abstract AND additional Annotated Bibliography due earlier) @ 75% (NOTE: the Final Independent Research Paper Abstract and Annotated Bibliography are required, and receive detailed comments, but not graded—participation in this part of the assignment is included as part of Final Paper Grade)**

**CLASS PARTICIPATION** (including regular contributions to class discussion; “Opening Questions”; and Attendance) @ 15%

**DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS**

**IMPORTANT:** Please submit ALL your written work as a PDF, as an attached document.

**POSTINGS—Periodic Reading Responses (3 postings total)—all submitted on LATTE:**
- Posting #1: Due 10/5 @ 10:00AM
- Posting #2: Due 11/5 @ 5:00PM
- Posting #3: Due 11/30 @ 5:00PM

Students will be asked to respond to the readings periodically in “Posting Assignments” (four times over the course of the semester) on LATTE. Postings will be approximately 250 words crafted in response to prompts querying the readings. Responses should stress the basic arguments outlined in relevant readings and class discussions, responding critically to the material, and at times raising questions for class discussion.

**PAPERS:**
- **PAPER #1 (ALL students write this paper) 7-8 pages, double spaced—Due: 10/12 @ 10:00AM @ 10:00AM (topic TBA—will be posted on LATTE, in appropriate “Assignments” Folder)**

**OPTION #1:**
- **PAPER #2 (OPTION #1) 7-8 pages, double spaced—Due: 11/19 @ 5:00PM (topic TBA—will be posted on LATTE, in appropriate “Assignments” Folder)**
- **PAPER #3 (OPTION #1) 7-8 pages, double spaced—Due: 12/17 @ 5:00PM (topic TBA—will be posted on LATTE, in appropriate “Assignments” Folder)**
OPTION #2:

- **FINAL RESEARCH PAPER ABSTRACT & ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY, Due: 11/19 @ 5:00PM**

- **COMPLETED FINAL RESEARCH PAPER (14-16 pages, double spaced), Due 12/17 at 10:00AM**

Students who chose OPTION #2 (Final Research Paper) will be asked to submit a **1 page abstract** of the designated topic, outlining the main thesis, theoretical approach, and primary data. In addition, students must submit an **annotated bibliography** of approximately 6-8 outside sources, as well as 3-5 sources from class readings. (“Annotated” in this context means a brief explanation of how you anticipate this source will contribute to your final paper project—you do not have to have read all the possible sources—but some familiarity with a possible source will help).

The final paper project (14-16pages) should demonstrate a creative engagement with the issues raised in the course of the semester. It is expected that you will “take on” a set of problems and/or topics of interest, and take it beyond what is covered in class. We will be discussing (both individually and collectively in class) possible topics and approaches.

*For students who would like comments on a completed final draft of their paper may submit it 1 week prior to the final deadline to the LATTE Assignments Folder for “Completed Drafts”.*

- **CLASS PARTICIPATION** is composed of the following elements:
  1. attendance
  2. timely completion of reading assignments (by the date listed in the syllabus)
  3. participation in “Opening Questions” exercise at beginning of class
  4. thoughtful and regular contributions to class discussions, including participation in several in-class exercises
  5. occasional brief in-class reading responses

- **ATTENDANCE**, on time, is required. After two absences, each additional absence will lead to a deduction of 5% of the overall class grade per each missed class. All medically excused absences must be confirmed by your Dean of Students.

- **READINGS** must be completed by the assigned date; come to class ready to engage in thoughtful discussion of each assigned reading. Except for the books, all readings are available in electronic form on LATTE, or through other electronic data site. *Students are expected to bring hard copies of all the readings to class, along with detailed readings notes.*

- **OPENING QUESTIONS**: students will be asked to introduce a selected reading (from the assigned readings for a particular class) by posing several questions about issues raised in the reading, to facilitate beginning class discussion. These brief presentations will be scheduled during the first full week of class.

- **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & PLAGIARISM**: You may only submit your own original work in this course; this includes quizzes, exams, response essays, written papers, and other media. Please be careful to cite precisely and properly the sources of all authors and persons you have drawn upon in your written work. Plagiarism (from published or internet sources) is a serious violation of academic integrity and of the relationship of trust between student and instructor. Please take special care to indicate the precise source of all materials found on the web, indicating the correct URL address of any material you have quoted or in any way drawn upon. Remember, you must
indicate through quotations, indentation and citation when quoting from any outside source (internet or print). Please consult the Chicago Manual of Style (online or in the Reference section of the library) if you are uncertain how to cite sources.

• Late work will only be accepted under exceptional circumstances, at the discretion of the instructors, and if accepted, will be penalized.

• PLEASE NOTE: Students are responsible for properly posting all assigned work on LATTE, in a MS Word .doc format. If you have any questions on how to do this, please consult the LTS Help Desk in the library. Technical difficulties do not constitute an “excused” submission, and will be counted as late.

• Accommodations: If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see the instructors at the start of the semester.

• Four-Credit Course (with three hours of class-time per week): Success in this this four credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

GRADUATE STUDENTS:

• Readings: Graduate students are encouraged to read “beyond” the syllabus whenever possible, following the work of a particular author, or reading more widely on a particular topic, in consultation with the instructor, and are expected to do all the “Recommended” reading.

• Postings: Follow the undergraduate postings, but please write a lengthier response (500 words or more)

• Paper #1: Graduate students will be required to write Paper #1 (8-10 pages)

• Final Research Paper: A research-length paper (at least 25 pages or longer) plus bibliography on a topic of their own choosing, in consultation with the instructor (a meeting with the instructor is required). Please follow the deadlines and instructions for OPTION #2 above, re. the research paper option, due date for abstract/bibliography due on 11/19 @ 10:00AM; and final completed research paper due on 12/17 at 10:00AM.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

The following required books are available for purchase in the university bookstore:


• Brandon Kohrt and Emily Mendenhall, editors. *Global Mental Health: Anthropological Perspectives* (Routledge, 2016) ISBN 1315428032, 9781315428031

*PLEASE NOTE:* This class is a laptop computer & cell phone free environment — please mute your cell phone, and stow it away, out of sight, along with your laptop.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Thursday, 8/30:** Introduction: Approaching “Culture” and “Mental Illness” in Comparative Perspective

- Introduction of key themes; screening of short section of Eleanor Longden’s TED talk, “Voices in my Head.”

**I. CULTURAL INTERPRETATIONS OF MADNESS**

**Tuesday, 9/4:** Histories of Madness in the West

- Roy Porter. Chapter 3: “Madness Rationalized” AND Chapter 4: “Fools and Folly”. In *Madness: A Brief History.* (LATTE)


**Thursday, 9/6:** No Class (Brandeis Monday)

**Tuesday, 9/11:** No Class (Rosh Hashanah)

**Thursday, 9/13 & Tuesday, 9/18:** Early Approaches to Culture and Mental Life

- Ralph Linton. Part II. “Cultural Influences in Neurosis and Psychosis.” In *Culture and Mental Disorders,* edited by Marvin K. Opler. (LATTE)

- Irving Hallowell. Chapter 1; “Psychic Stress and Cultural Patterns”. In *Culture and Mental Health: Cross Cultural Studies,* edited by Marvin K. Opler. (LATTE)


Thursday, 9/20: Concluding Discussion of Early Approaches to Culture and Mental Life (Freud, Linton, Frazer et al)

Thursday, 9/27, and 10/2: I. Personhood and Emotion across Cultures & II. Problematizing the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual) and Psychiatry—PART I

** PLEASE NOTE: I’ve highlighted in RED THE 5 MOST IMPORTANT READINGS FOR THIS SESSION ON THURSDAY, 9/27 — 2 PIECES EACH by KLEINMAN and GOOD; and one piece by KIRMAYER). While this is a chunk of reading, this is the *only* class for this week.

We will still have a brief discussion of the readings done by Groups I & II—so please come prepared with thoughts and questions on the readings by Robert Levy and Michelle Rosaldo.

I. PERSONHOOD AND EMOTION ACROSS CULTURES


II. PROBLEMATIZING THE DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual) Problematizing the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual) — PART I


Tuesday, 9/25: NO CLASS—BRANDEIS MONDAY

Thursday, 10/4: Problematizing the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual) — PART II


** FRIDAY, 10/5: POSTING #1 DUE @ 10:00AM on LATTE
Tuesday, 10/9: Culture and Experience I

- Janis Jenkins. *Extraordinary Conditions: Culture and Experience in Mental Illness*. INTRODUCTION and PART ONE.

Thursday, 10/11: Culture and Experience II

- Janis Jenkins. *Extraordinary Conditions: Culture and Experience in Mental Illness*. PART TWO.

** SUNDAY, 10/14: PAPER #1 DUE @ 12:00 noon—submitted to LATTE **

II. DISSOCIATION / POSSESSION / TRANCE / PERSONALITY DISORDERS

Tuesday, 10/16: Culture and Experience III

- Conclusion: Janis Jenkins. *Extraordinary Conditions: Culture and Experience in Mental Illness*. PART TWO (especially Chapters 3 & 5)

Thursday, 10/18: Anthropological Interpretations: Possession/Dissociation I


III. CLASSICAL CASE STUDIES IN PSYCHOANALYSIS
(Dora, and the Wolfman): TOWARDS ANTHROPOLOGICAL INTERPRETATIONS

Tuesday, 10/23: Hysteria I

- Freud, Sigmund. (1905) “Fragment of an Analysis of a Case History.” [Dora]. (LATTE)
- Freud, Sigmund & J. Bruer. (1895) “Studies on Hysteria.” (LATTE)

Thursday, 10/25: Hysteria II


Thursday, 11/1: A Feminist Response to “Dora”

- Juliet Mitchell. “Hysteria” and “Dora: A Fragment of a Case of Hysteria in a Female.” (LATTE)

IV. CULTURE, SOCIAL SPACE and MENTAL HEALTH IN JAPAN

Thursday, 11/1: Dependence as Foundation and Pathology

- Takeo Doi. The Anatomy of Dependence. (selections) (LATTE)

**MONDAY, 11/5: POSTING #2 DUE at 5:00PM on LATTE

Tuesday, 11/6: Schizophrenia in Comparative Perspective—Japan I

- Karen Nakamura. A Disability of the Soul: An Ethnography of Schizophrenia and Mental Illness in Contemporary Japan. (first half)
Thursday 11/8: Schizophrenia in Comparative Perspective—Japan II

• Karen Nakamura. *A Disability of the Soul* (second half)
• RECOMMENDED: Kawai Hayao. *Buddhism and the Art of Psychotherapy*. (Chapters 1, 3 and 4) (LATTE)
• Review sections of film: *Bethel: Community and Schizophrenia in Northern Japan* (Karen Nakamura, 2009)

V. TRAUMA IN CROSS CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Tuesday, 11/13: Trauma in Comparative Perspective


**THURSDAY, 11/15: Dr. Holly Walters and Alexandra Martin (Ph.D. candidate, Anthropology) will present their research—READINGS WILL BE POSTED ON LATTE**

**MONDAY, 11/19: Paper #2 Due at 5:00PM on LATTE—OR—RESEARCH PAPER ABSTRACT & ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Tuesday, 11/20: Inventing PTSD

  —CHAPTER 1: Making Traumatic Memory
  —CHAPTER 2: World War I
  —CHAPTER 3: The DSM III Revolution
THURSDAY, 11/22: NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Tuesday, 11/27: Psychiatry, Trauma and Mental Illness in Iran I

• Orkideh Behrouzan. Prozac Diaries: Psychiatry and Generational Memory in Iran. (Stanford University Press)

Thursday, 11/29: Psychiatry, Trauma and Mental Illness in Iran II

• Orkideh Behrouzan. Prozac Diaries: Psychiatry and Generational Memory in Iran. (Stanford University Press)

** FRIDAY, 11/30 : POSTING #3 DUE at 4:00PM on LATTE

Tuesday 12/4: Exporting “Mental Illness”

• Ethan Waters. Crazy Like Us. (selected chapters)

Thursday, 12/6: Anthropological Perspectives I

• Brandon Kohrt and Emily Mendenhall, editors. Global Mental Health: Anthropological Perspectives (Routledge, 2016)

Concentrate on the following chapters assigned to 4 groups (TBA) which will begin discussion with “opening questions” relevant to the readings:

—GROUP 1—Chapter 4: “Mental Health, Temporality and Urban Displacement for Iraqi Refugees.” Nadia El-Shaarawi

—GROUP 2—Chapter 5: “Khat Consumption, Time, and Mental Well-being among Unemployed Young Men in Jimma, Ethiopia.” Daniel Mains


—GROUP 4—Chapter 7: “Grandmothers, Children, and Intergenerational Distress in Nicaraguan Transnational Families.” Kristin Yarris

Tuesday, 12/11: Anthropological Perspectives II & Concluding Reflections

• Brandon Kohrt and Emily Mendenhall, editors. Global Mental Health: Anthropological Perspectives (Routledge, 2016)

Concentrate on the following chapters assigned to 5 groups (TBA) which will begin discussion with “opening questions”
relevant to the readings:

—GROUP 1—Chapter 8: “Addiction in Colombia, Daniel H. Lende and Sarah Fishleder Part II: Treatment Approaches and Access to Care in Low and High Resource Settings.” Brandon Kohrt, Emily Mendenhall, and Peter J. Brown

—GROUP 2—Chapter 9: “Perceived Discrimination and Mental Health of Haitian Migrants in the Dominican Republic.” Hunter Keys

—GROUP 3—Chapter 10: Religion and the Mental Health Resilience of Indigenous Indian “Wildlife Refugees.” Jeffrey Snodgrass

—GROUP 4—Chapter 12: “Poverty, Depression, and Diabetes among Mexican Immigrants in the United States.” Emily Mendenhall

—GROUP 5—Chapter 13: “Women Combat Veterans and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in the U.S.” Erin P. Finley

**Monday, 12/17: FINAL PAPERS DUE @ 10:00AM (PAPER #3—OR—FINAL RESEARCH PAPER and BIBLIOGRAPHY)