

ANTHROPOLOGY 467/667: CULTURE AND MENTAL DISORDERS--Spring 2010

Instructor: Dr. John Marshall Townsend. Office Hours in 525 Eggers, 1-2 pm M, W, and by appointment. Phone: 443-4851 Email: JMTSU44@AOL.COM

Classroom:4507 Setnor, SUNY Health Science Center. Thursdays, 6:30-9:20 pm.

Texts: Books are on sale at the Orange Book Store, Marshall Square Mall (478-6821).

(1) K. Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

(2) H. Green, *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*

Online Readings--in order of assignment

(1) Kleinman, *Rethinking Psychiatry*, Chapters 1, 2, & 3

(2) Rosen, "Ancient Palestine & Neighbouring Adjacent Areas"

(3) Silverman, "Shamans & Schizophrenia".

(4) Al-Issa, "Culture & Mental Illness in an International Perspective"

(5) Sijuwola, "Culture, Religion, & Mental Illness in Nigeria".

(6) Rosen, "Irrationality & Madness in 17th & 18th Century Europe"

(7) Eaton & Weil, "Mental health of the Hutterites"

(8) Murphy, "Psychotherapeutic aspects of shamanism"

(9) Kaplan & Johnson, "Social meaning of Navaho psychopathology and psychotherapy"

(10) Edgerton, "On the 'recognition' of mental illness"

(11) Townsend & Rakfeldt, "Hospitalization & First-Contact Mental Patients"

(12) Jefferson, "I am crazy wild this minute . . ."

(13) Sechehaye, "Autobiography of a schizophrenic girl"

Content

Psychological and cultural determinants of mental disorders are examined; both cross-cultural variation and universals are explored in traditional cultures and modern nations, e.g., Africa, Mexico, Native Americans, Hutterites, Near East. First-person accounts are used to analyze the inner world of mental illness, and a bio-cultural model of psychosis is proposed.

Evaluation

A. All undergraduates will submit three ten-page papers. The papers must be typed, double -spaced, and are due on the dates listed below. Late papers will be accepted up to one week after the due date but they will be penalized one grade point. Notes from the Student Health Service stating merely that the student was "seen" for a complaint are not acceptable excuses for tardy work. Medical excuses must specify that the student was incapable of completing school work during the time period in question and be signed by a physician or registered nurse.

B. Graduate students will submit the equivalent of three ten-page papers on the dates listed below. If the student plans a single research project, the first two papers serve as progress reports, e.g., Paper 1 should be an annotated bibliography.

Classroom Discussion and Attendance:

The class will be conducted as a seminar. Each week a student(s) will present and analyze some outside readings which the class will then discuss and relate to the week's assigned readings. These readings and this material, as well as the results of the discussion, will be incorporated in the papers. Class participation counts 20% of your grade. I also welcome your questions and reactions in my office hours.

UNIT I: MENTAL DISORDERS IN CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE.

Jan. 21 Orientation

Jan 28 Read Chapters 1, 2, and 3 in Kleinman, online readings.

Feb 4 I. Al-Issa, "Culture & Mental Illness in an International Perspective"; O. A. Sijuwola, "Culture, Religion, & Mental Illness in Nigeria", online readings.

Feb 11 G. Rosen, "Ancient Palestine & Neighbouring Adjacent Areas"; J. Silverman, "Shamans & Schizophrenia", online readings.

Feb. 18 G. Rosen, "Irrationality & Madness in 17th & 18th Century Europe", online

Feb. 25 Guest talk: Wm. Jankowiak. Readings TBA

March 4 **PAPER DUE.** In about 10-12 pages, answer the following question: As explained by each author, how do mental disorders differ cross-culturally and why?

UNIT II: CULTURAL DETERMINANTS OF SYMPTOMS: LABELING, FOLK PSYCHOTHERAPY

March 11 Eaton & Weil, "Mental health of the Hutterites", online.

March 18 SU Spring Break! No class.

March 25 J. Murphy, "Psychotherapeutic aspects of shamanism"; Kaplan & Johnson, "Social meaning of Navaho psychopathology and psychotherapy", online.

April 1 Edgerton, , "On the recognition of mental illness", online.

April 8 PAPER 2 DUE: In about 10-12 pp., answer the following questions: (1) What are the factors outlined by each author that determine (a) whether a person will be labeled mentally ill, and (b) how this person is treated? (2) what is folk psychotherapy and how does it work?

UNIT III: INNER WORLD OF MENTAL ILLNESS

April 15 Townsend & Rakfeldt, "Hospitalization & First-Contact Mental Patients", online.

April 22 Read *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

April 29 Last Class: Read *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*, **OR**, (1) L. Jefferson, "I am crazy wild this minute . . . ", **AND** (2) M. Sechehaye, "Autobiography of a schizophrenic girl", online.

May 6 **PAPER 3 DUE:** How would (a) a clinician, and (b) a social-constructionist explain the experiences of MacMurphy, and either Deborah, **OR** Lara and Renee? Specify particular types of clinician(s) and social-constructionist(s).