

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Sociology of Mental Health
Sociology 3346F
Section 530
Fall, 2019

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne Asare-Bediako

Office: UH 356

Office Hours: Tuesday 5:30pm to 6:30pm (or by appointment)

Email: ynyinak@uwo.ca (not through owl, please)

Class: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Location: BR-202

COURSE DESCRIPTION

From a sociological perspective, this course explores the concept of mental health and illness. Primarily, it examines the connection between social structure/processes and mental health outcomes. Some of the main topics that will be discussed include sociological approaches to mental health and illness, social factors and mental illness, the meaning, experience and social consequences of mental illness, as well as mental health care systems.

Antirequisite(s): Sociology 3385F/G, if taken at Brescia in 2014-15

Prerequisites(s): 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level, and third or fourth year standing in a module in Sociology.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites. If you do not have the requisites for this course, and you do not have written special permission from your Dean to enroll in this course, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course the student will be able to,

- Understand and distinguish the different perspectives on mental health and illness “Brescia competency – critical thinking”
- Identify and understand the import of social status and location on mental health, mental health outcomes and mental health care “Brescia competency – inquiry and analysis”

- Discuss and promote mental health and mental health care issues at the local, national and global levels “Brescia competency – social awareness and engagement”.
- Develop written and oral communication skills through class presentations and written assignments “Brescia competency – communication”
- Critically evaluate, analyze and discuss current literature on mental health “Brescia competency – inquiry and analysis”

REQUIRED TEXT(S)

- Elliot Goldner, Emily Jenkins, Jessica Prairie, Dan Bilsker. (2011). A Concise Introduction to Mental Health in Canada. Canadian Scholar’ Press.
- Academic journals and online articles.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Your final grades will include: participation (20%), term-paper (20%), mid-term (25%) and final exam (35%)

Participation: Each student will be required to do a 15 to 20-minute presentation and present a one-page critical paper on an article they have selected. Depending on the weekly slot selected, each student must choose an article related to the reading(s)/topic for that week. Presentations will be worth 10%, and the critical paper, 5% of your final grade. A 5% grade will also be awarded for participation in in-class and/or online discussions.

Research-paper: Each student is required to write an 8 to 10-page paper on a topic related to the sociology of mental health. Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the course materials, and to incorporate theories and approaches discussed in class. Further details about the paper will be provided during the course of the semester. The final paper is worth 20% of your final course grade.

NOTE! A HARD COPY of assignments must be submitted at the BEGINNING OF CLASS on the specified due date. Unless otherwise stated or permitted, electronic submissions will be awarded a grade of 0, and late submissions will be penalized at a rate of 10% per day.

Late Assignment (Hard Copy) Drop Off Box. There will be a locked box located outside the Dean's Office. The box will be cleared daily at 4 p.m. Anything submitted after 4 p.m. will therefore be considered as submitted the next day.

Mid-term and Final Exam: Both exams will consist of multiple-choice, short answer and short essay questions covering the lectures, films, and reading assignments. You are responsible for all the material in the assigned chapters and readings even if this material is not covered in class. The final exam is **cumulative**, but will be largely based on materials covered after the mid-term. The midterm and final exam are worth 25% and 35% of your final grade, respectively.

EVALUATION BREAKDOWN

Mid-term Exam: =25%

Presentation/Critical Paper = 15%

Participation in In-class and online discussion = 5%

Term Paper = 20%

Final Exam: 35%

HOW TO CONTACT ME

I will be available to respond to questions regarding the course, requirements and materials during office hours. You are also welcome to communicate with me through email. I request, however, that you refrain from emailing me with questions that have already being addressed online, by this course outline and in class. Only urgent enquiries will receive attention and a response within 48 hours of receipt. All non-urgent enquiries can be addressed in class or during office hours.

ATTENDANCE AND CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Students are encouraged to attend class regularly, pay attention and to participate in all in-class and out-of-class discussions and assignments or activities.

LAPTOPS AND MOBILE PHONE POLICY

Laptops will be permitted in class if they are only being used for notetaking. Students found using laptops for activities not related to this class will be told to put the laptop away and not be allowed to use the laptop for the rest of the class. All cell phones must be turned off at the beginning of class. Phone use and texting are not permitted during class.

HOW TO GET IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Sakai OWL (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) will be used to post course information, content, reminders, and important instructions regarding deadlines, expectations, requirements, etc. It is expected that you check OWL regularly to ensure that you are kept up to date on new and revised course content. During the course, I will post or email additional content and/or materials that may aid in your learning and understanding of course topics.

TOPICAL OUTLINE

***Supplementary Readings (SR) (Will be posted on OWL)**

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept 10	Course syllabus/Mental Health and Illness: History and Origins	Chpt. 1
Sep 17	Perspectives on Mental Health and Illness	Chpts. 2-3, SR
Sep 24	Stress and Mental Health: Understanding the Stress Process	SR
Oct 1	Prevalence and Patterns of Mental Illness	Chpt. 4, SR
Oct 8	Socioeconomic Inequalities and Mental Health	SR
Oct 15	MIDTERM EXAM	
Oct 22	Social Antecedents of Mental Illness	Chpts. 7-10, SR
Oct 29	Institutional Antecedents of Mental Illness	Chpt. 6, SR
Nov 5	FALL READING WEEK	
Nov 12	Mental Health among Special/Specific Populations	Chpt. 5, SR
Nov 19	Social Consequences of Mental Illness	SR
Nov 26	Mental Health Policy and Treatment	Chpts. 11-15
Dec 3	REVIEW/RESEARCH PAPERS DUE	
Dec. 8 – 19	FINAL EXAMS	

2019-20 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12.

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form** to clarify how they will fulfill the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such

requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf ;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to the [Registrar's website](http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/), <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia** (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.
