

PHIL/PSYC 345: Philosophy of Psychiatry
Instructor: Brandon Ashby
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Office location: University of Arizona Social Sciences 138
Term: Fall 2018
Course Location: Wherever internet is available
Online Office Hours: Chat Sessions by appointment

1. Subject to change policy

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

2. Textbooks:

There are two textbooks for this course:

The second edition of George Graham's "The Disordered Mind: An Introduction to Philosophy of Mind and Mental Illness", Routledge, 2013.

Tom Burns' "Psychiatry A Very Short Introduction", Oxford University Press 2006.

All other readings will be posted as PDFs on D2L.

3. Course Content:

We take a lot of things for granted. For most practical purposes, this works just fine – you can get around town even if you think that the world is flat. But when you want to understand what reality is fundamentally like, you have to question a lot of things that we ordinarily take for granted. In this class, we are interested in getting at the truth about mental health and mental illness. This will ask us to question the intuitive picture that we have of human psychology. For instance, does a delusional person actually believe that their uncle's thoughts are being transmitted to them through snowflakes? (That's a real-life example that we'll discuss in the class, by the way.) But, if she doesn't believe it, then why does she say it and, at least to some extent, act like she believes it? Over the course of the term, we shall examine specific issues surrounding the notion of 'mental disorder'. These include how the notion relates to matters of psychiatric practice, rationality, philosophy of science, metaphysics and moral responsibility. Along the way, we shall make use of disorders like schizophrenia, major-depression, anxiety disorders, delusional disorders, body-integrity disorders and others as case studies for discussion.

4. Email policy

It can sometimes take me as long as 72 hours to respond to email. I will try to respond sooner than that, but I cannot guarantee that I always will be able to. So, email me sooner rather than later if you have any questions.

5. Your Own Mental Health

During the semester we will learn about and discuss a variety of mental illnesses. A common phenomenon that arises in such situations has been termed 'intern's disease', which is when a person studying such illnesses starts to see symptoms in themselves and others. Self-diagnosing is not a reliable way of determining if you have a mental illness.

If at any point during the semester you feel the need to talk to a mental-health professional about any concerns you may have, the University of Arizona's Counseling and Psychiatric Services can help. Their phone number is 520-621-3334, and their website is <http://www.health.arizona.edu/caps.htm>. Don't hesitate to use these services if you feel the need to.

6. Notification of Objectionable Materials

Please be aware that we shall be discussing some potentially disturbing topics in this course, such as suicide and individuals who voluntarily seek the amputation of their own limbs.

7. Assignments

Throughout the course you will have the following assignments:

- One syllabus quiz - 2.5% of your final grade
- Ten reading quizzes - 25% of your final grade
- Three writing assignments - 25% of your final grade
- Three exams - 47.5% of your final grade

All exams and quizzes are open book and open note. Collaboration between students, i.e., taking the test or quiz together and talking about it as you take it, is *not* allowed.

7.1 Syllabus Quiz

The syllabus quiz is worth 2.5% of your final grade. It covers the course policies and course structure as described in this document.

7.2 Reading quizzes

Each week (except exam weeks), there will be a reading quiz. For each reading quiz, there will be a five-day (120 hour) period during which you can open and take the quiz. There will be ten reading quizzes total. I drop your two lowest reading quiz scores. The reading quizzes are worth a total of 25% of your final grade. The quizzes will test whether or not you are doing the readings and watching the lectures. The quizzes will be approximately ten questions. The questions will be in true/false and multiple choice.

7.3 Short writing assignments

You will have a total of three short writing assignments throughout the semester. I drop your lowest short writing assignment score. The short writing assignments are worth a total of 25% of your final grade. You will have the option to turn in a draft of your first writing assignment for comments before submitting your final draft for a grade. For each short writing assignment, I will post a list of essay prompts under the "content" tab of the D2L course website, and you should respond to one and only one of the essay prompts per short writing assignment. The essay prompts can be on any material covered since the last short writing assignment was posted. Each short writing assignment must be 750 words (+/- 50). The files must be in .pdf, .rtf, .doc, or .xdoc format. (Note, the .pages file format used by the Pages word processor for Mac is not recognized).

7.4 Exams

You will have three exams during the course of the semester. Each exam is worth 15.83% of your final grade. Each exam can cover any material presented since the last exam. No exam grades will be dropped. Each exam will be posted on a Friday at 10PM and you will have until the following Friday at 10PM to submit the exam. You can find the exams under the “quizzes” tab of the D2L course website. The exams will be harder than the reading quizzes and will test your comprehension of the material.

8. What to do if you are struggling

If you are completing all the assignments, and you are trying to understand the course material, but you are still not doing well in the course, email me early in the term so that we can figure out what might be confusing you or how to adjust your study habits. Don't wait until most of the term has passed to ask for help. I am happy to work with you to try to find study strategies that work for you.

9. Academic Dishonesty

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>.

The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism, available at <http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/plagiarism/index.html>.

Selling class notes and/or other course materials to other students or to a third party for resale is not permitted without the instructor's express written consent. Violations to this and other course rules are subject to the Code of Academic Integrity and may result in course sanctions. Additionally, students who use D2L or UA e-mail to sell or buy these copyrighted materials are subject to Code of Conduct Violations for misuse of student e-mail addresses. This conduct may also constitute copyright infringement.

Everything you submit in this course will be sent through a plagiarism detection service called Turnitin.com. For more information about this, you may visit:

<https://turnitin.com/static/training/student.php>

You are expected to electronically return a Pledge of Academic Integrity, which you will find under Course Information. Until you return this Pledge of Academic Integrity, you will not be able to view or take any of the assignments for the course.

11. Missed Work

The only excuses I accept for allowing make-up work are:

- a) a pre-approved Dean's excuse that covers four days prior to the due date for the quiz, short writing assignment, or exam.
- b) holidays or special events by organized religions with which you show affiliation that cover all four days prior to the due date of the quiz, short writing assignment, or exam;

c) an extended illness or injury that covers all of four days prior to the due date for the quiz, short writing assignment, or exam. (If this happens, we'll have to talk.)

11.1 Quizzes and writing assignments

Unless you meet one of conditions a)-c) above, you will not be allowed to make-up a quiz or writing assignment.

11.2 Exams

If you miss an exam for any reason other than a)-c) above, you will be allowed to make up that exam, with a 5.83 point penalty (each test is out of 15.83 points), on the last day of class. This is the only time that make-up exams will be offered. If you miss more than one exam, you will have to take all of them on the last day in the same allotted time. No additional time will be granted. A separate penalty applies to each exam. You may not take a make-up exam as a second attempt for the purpose of getting a better grade.

12. Rounding Grades

I do not round final grades by more than one percentage point.

13. Grade Disputes

If you feel that you have more than a minor grievance with a score, I will take those very seriously. Appeals regarding a grade received must be submitted in writing within 72 hours after the grade is posted. You will be expected to provide a cogent analysis of your work and a thorough explanation and argument for the specific grade you think you should have received. Please realize that the following four things (among others) do not count as reasons:

- You worked really hard.
- Your friend (or anyone other than a philosophy department faculty member) thinks your paper should have gotten a higher score.
- You really want an A in this course and thought you'd easily get it.
- You really need an A in this course for your GPA or you'll lose your scholarship.

By submitting an appeal, you should understand that you are requesting a re-evaluation of your work, and your grade can go up or down.

14. Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W)

Requests for incomplete (I) or withdrawal (W) must be made in accordance with University policies, which are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete> and <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal> respectively.

15. Non-Tolerance of Threatening Behavior Policy

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>.

16. Non-Discrimination Policy

The University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free of discrimination; see <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy> Our classroom is a place where everyone is encouraged to express well-formed opinions and their reasons for those opinions. We also want to create a tolerant and open environment where such opinions can be expressed without resorting to bullying or discrimination of others.

17. Disability Accommodation

Our goal in this classroom is that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact the Disability Resource Center (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on the Disability Resource Center and reasonable accommodations, please visit <http://drc.arizona.edu>.

If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Please be aware that the accessible table and chairs in this room should remain available for students who find that standard classroom seating is not usable.

18. Absence and Class Participation Policy

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop>

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable: <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>.

Absences preapproved by the UA Dean of Students (or dean's designee) will be honored. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/employmenthuman-resources/attendance>.

19. Course Schedule

Lectures and reading assignments are posted in black font.

Graded assignments are posted in red font and are underlined.

If you wish to makeup a missed exam, you must let me know by no later than 11:59 PM Sunday, August 5 at 10PM.

Module 1: Basic Issues in the Philosophy of Psychiatry and the History of Psychiatry

Tuesday, Aug 21

- Watch lecture 1
- Read the syllabus
- Syllabus quiz: Covers Watch lecture 1 and the course syllabus. Closes at Monday, August 28th at 10PM

Thursday, Aug 23

- Watch lecture 1.5
- Read Belle et al. 'Explaining Delusions: A Cognitive Perspective' PDF on D2L
- Read Yount et al. 'The Capgras and Cotard Delusions' PDF on D2L

Tuesday, Aug 28

- Watch lecture 2
- Read pgs. 1-8 of Graham's *The Disordered Mind* (i.e., sections 1 and 2 of Ch. 1. They are titled 'Stability and instability' and 'One brief history')

Thursday, Aug 30

- Watch lecture 3
- Read Ch. 1 of Burns' *Very Short Introduction to Psychiatry*
- 1st reading quiz: Covers lectures 2 & 3 and the associated reading assignments. Closes Monday, September 3rd at 10PM

Tuesday, Sept 4

- Watch lecture 4
- Read pgs. 8-17 of Graham's *The Disordered Mind* (i.e., sections 3-4 of Ch. 1 titled 'What is this book about?' and 'Summary')
- Read Ch. 2 of Burns' *Very Short Introduction to Psychiatry*

Thursday, Sept 6

- Watch lecture 5
- Read pgs. 19-37 of Graham's *The Disordered Mind* (i.e., sections 1-3 of Ch. 2 titled 'Mental disorder has consequences', 'What should a theory of mental disorders do?' and 'The mind of mental disorder')
- 2nd reading quiz: Covers lectures 4 and 5 and the associated readings. Closes Monday, September 10th at 10PM

Tuesday, Sept 11

- Watch lecture 6
- Read pgs. 37-53 of Graham's *The Disordered Mind* (i.e., sections 4-6 of Ch. 2 titled 'Exemplars of mental disorder', 'Roles of the mental in mental disorder', and 'Summary' as well as sections 1 and 2 of Ch. 3 titled 'What makes mental disorder undesirable?' and 'Morally therapeutic interlude and the lure of the disease model')

Thursday, Sept 13

- Watch lecture 7
- Read Ch. 3 of Burns' *Very Short Introduction to Psychiatry*
- 3rd reading quiz: Covers lectures 6 and 7 and the associated readings. Closes Monday, September 17th at 10PM

Tuesday, Sept 18

- Watch lecture 8
- Read pgs. 53-73 of Graham's *The Disordered Mind* (i.e., 3-5 of Ch. 3 titled 'Are mental disorders diseases?', 'Mental disorder, brain disorder and DSM', and 'Summary')

Thursday, Sept 20

- Watch lecture 9
- Read Wakefield's "Disorder as Harmful Dysfunction" PDF on D2L
- 4th reading quiz: Covers lecture 8 and 9 and the associated readings. Closes Monday, September 24th at 10PM

Tuesday, Sept 25

- Watch lecture 10
- No new reading, covers the Wakefield reading from lecture 9

Thursday, Sept 27

- Watch lecture 11
- Read "Darwinian Models of Psychopathology" PDF on D2L
- 1st Exam: Covers lectures 2-11 and the associated readings. Closes Friday, October 5th at 10PM
- First essay is due Friday, October 5th at 10PM.

Module 2: The Metaphysics and Epistemology of Mental Illness

Tuesday, Oct 9

- Watch lecture 12
- Read Stein et al. 'What is a psychiatric/mental disorder?' PDF on D2L

Thursday, Oct 11

- Watch lecture 13
- Read Graham's *Disordered Mind* pages 75-85 (i.e., sections 1 and 2 of Ch. 4 titled 'Mental disorder and the mind/body problem' and 'Pro-dualism: the first line of defense')
- Reading quiz no. 5: Covers lecture 12 and 13 and the associated readings. Closes Monday, October 15th at 10PM

Tuesday, Oct 16

- Watch lecture 14
- Read Plylyshyn's 'What's in your mind?' PDF on D2L
- Read Graham's *Disordered Mind* pages 85-93 (i.e., section 3 of Ch. 4 titled 'metaphysical ecumenism and physicalism: the second line of defense')

Thursday, Oct 18

- Watch lecture 15
- Read Graham's *Disordered Mind* pages 93-103 (i.e., section 4 of Ch. 4 titled 'mental disorder and respect for persons')

- [Reading quiz no. 6: Covers lectures 14 and 15 and the associated readings. Closes Monday, October 22nd at 10PM](#)

Tuesday, Oct 23

- Watch lecture 16
- Read Szasz's 'The myth of mental illness' PDF on D2L

Thursday, Oct 25

- Watch lecture 17
- Read Rosenhan's 'On being sane in insane places' PDF on D2L
- [Reading quiz no. 7: Covers lectures 16 and 17. Closes Monday, October 29th at 10PM](#)

Tuesday, Oct 30

- Watch lecture 18
- Reread Graham's *Disordered Mind* pages 93-103 (i.e., section 4 of Ch. 4 titled 'mental disorder and respect for persons')

Thursday, Nov 1

- Watch lecture 19
- Read Poland's 'How to move beyond the concept of schizophrenia' PDF on D2L
- [Exam no. 2: Covers lectures 12-19 and the associated readings \(i.e., all of Module 2\). Closes Friday, November 9th at 10PM](#)
- [Essay two: Due Friday, November 9th at 10PM](#)

Module 3: Delusions and Ethical Issues in Psychiatry

Tuesday, Nov 13

- Watch lecture 20
- Read Graham's *Disordered Mind* pages 203-225 (i.e., sections 1-3 of Ch. 8 titled 'Symptom and schizophrenia', 'Grand delusions', and 'Realism among the ruins')

Thursday, Nov 15

- Watch lecture 21
- Read Graham's *Disordered Mind* pages 225-233 (i.e., sections 4-5 of Ch. 8 titled 'Paranoia, benevolence and imagination', and 'Summary')
- [Reading quiz no. 8: Covers lectures 20 and 21 and the associated readings. Closes Monday, November 19th at 10PM](#)

Tuesday, Nov 20

- Watch lectures 22 and 23
- Read Bayne's 'Delusion and self-deception' PDF on D2L
- [Reading quiz no. 9: Covers lectures 22 and 23 and the associated readings. Closes Monday, November 26th at 10PM](#)

Thursday, Nov 22nd

- Thanksgiving break.

Tuesday, Nov 27

- Watch lecture 24
- Read Coltheart et al.'s 'Delusional belief' PDF on D2L

Thursday, Nov 29

- Watch lecture 25
- Read Burns' *Very Short Intro to Psychiatry* ch. 6
- Broome et al. 'Moral responsibility and mental illness' PDF on D2L
- Reading quiz no. 10: Covers lectures 24 and 25 and the associated readings. Closes Monday, December 3rd at 10PM

Tuesday, Dec 4

- Watch lecture 26
- Ready Bayne and Levy 'Amputees by choice' PDF on D2L
- Essay three: Due Friday, December 7th at 10PM
- Exam 3: Covers lectures 20-26 and the associated readings (i.e., everything in Module 3). Closes December 13th at 10PM.