HISTORY OF SCIENCE 175
MADNESS AND MEDICINE:
THEMES IN THE HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRY
Spring Term, 2003

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Lectures:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 AM
Science Center C
Section Hour: to be scheduled
Course website: www.fas.harvard.edu/~hs175/

HOUSEKEEPING:
The reading material for this course is primarily contained within a two-volume
sourcebook consisting of both primary and secondary sources. The sourcebook is
available for purchase at Gnomon Copy on 1218 Mass Ave in Harvard Square.

In addition, three books are required for this course: Edward Shorter’s History of
Psychiatry, Peter Kramer’s Listening to Prozac, and Kay Redfield Jamison’s An Unquiet
Mind. All are available for purchase in the textbook department at the Coop. All are also
available on reserve at Lamont. Readings from these are identified in the syllabus with an
asterisk (*).

Finally, this course makes use of various on-line sources (including audio and video
material). These can be accessed directly by clicking on the relevant titles from the on-
line version of this syllabus.

There are four teaching fellows for the course. They can be reached at the following
e-mail addresses:

Kristen Haring (Head TF): haring@fas.harvard.edu
Nathan Greenslit: npg@mit.edu
Beth Johnston: bethjohnston93@hotmail.com
Kevin Stoller: stoller@fas.harvard.edu

BREAKDOWN OF CLASS REQUIREMENTS:
Midterm (15%); Historical Writing Exercise (15%); Small Research Project (20%);
Section participation (15%); Final (35%)
LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE:

Th, Jan. 30
People, places, themes: getting oriented
No reading

UNIT ONE: THE "CONTAINMENT" OF MADNESS

Tu, Feb 4
Images of beginning: The "birth" of the asylum, the "birth" of psychiatry

Reading

Th, Feb 6
Angry historians: Michel Foucault, Marxism, and new origin stories

Reading

Tu, Feb 11
Buildings, patients, doctors: visiting the 19th-century asylum

Reading
UNIT TWO: WELLSPRINGS OF MADNESS

Th, Feb 13
Bad biology--madness as degeneration

Reading

Tu, Feb 18
Bad biology--the mad brain

Reading

Th, Feb 20
Hysteria, from Charcot to Freud

Reading

FIRST SHORT PAPER (HISTORICAL BOOK REVIEW) DUE IN SECTION THIS WEEK

Tu, Feb 25
Freud in the trenches: from hysteria to shellshock

Reading
Th, Feb 27
*The making of schizophrenia: madness for our time*

**Reading**


Tu, March 4
*MIDTERM*

**UNIT THREE: PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF MADNESS**

Th, March 6
*Preventing madness: "mental hygiene"*

**Reading**

- Buck versus Bell, 1927 [http://www.crimetheory.com/Archive/BvB/index.html](http://www.crimetheory.com/Archive/BvB/index.html)

Tu, March 11
*Fever therapy, shock therapy: the first somatic treatments for madness*

**Reading**

Th, March 13
Psychosurgery

Reading
• Kaempffert, Walter, "Turning the Mind Inside Out" in *Saturday Evening Post* (May 24, 1941) pp. 18-19, 69, 71-74.

Tu, March 18
World War II and the treatment of "war neuroses"

FILM: "Let There be Light" (John Huston, 1948)

Reading

Th, March 20
Schizophrenia after World War II: the rise and fall of the "schizophrenogenic mother"
(Guest lecture: Deborah Weinstein)

Reading
• Fromm-Reichmann, Frieda, "Notes on the mother role in the family group" (1940) *Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic* 4: 132-148 (including discussion, p. 145-8).

SPRING BREAK

Tu., April 1
Drugs for schizophrenia: from “major tranquilizers” to “anti-psychotics”

Reading
• *Shorter, A History of Psychiatry*, 239-262.

**Th, April 3**  
*Schizophrenia as brain disease, schizophrenia in the family*

**Reading**

**Tu, April 8**  
*Manic-depression and lithium: managing the highs and lows of the "other" psychosis*

**Reading**
- Website for the National Depressive and Manic-Depressive Association (NMDA): [www.ndmda.org](http://www.ndmda.org).

**Th, April 10**  
*Depression and its drugs: from psychic “energizers” to Prozac*

**Reading**

**Tu, April 15**  
*Psychoanalysis and its rebels: the persistence of psychotherapy in American psychiatry*  
(Guest lecture: Rachael Rosner)

**Reading**
"Therapy's Nervous Breakdown" [essay review of recent books on the history of psychotherapy] Salon.com (Feb1997):
http://www.salon.com/feb97/therapy970203.html

UNIT FOUR: MADNESS AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Th, April 17

*Psychiatry and the law: uneasy relations*

(Guest lecture: Nicholas Weiss)

**Reading**

- [Selected articles about the case of Russell E. Weston, in *The Washington Post*, to be handed out in section.]

Th, April 22

"Anti-psychiatry:" Szasz, civil right, and the "myth of mental illness"

**Reading**

- The Thomas S. Szasz CyberCenter for Liberty and Responsibility:
  http://www.szasz.com/

Tu, April 24

"Anti-psychiatry:" Laing, the counter-culture, and the "psychedelics" of madness

**Reading**

Tu, April 29

*Psychiatry fights back: writing the DSM, the new "Bible" of mental illness*

**Reading**

Th, May 1

*Of two minds? Taking the temperature of psychiatry today, between PTSD and Prozac*

- Conversation with Judith Herman, M.D.: The Case of Trauma and Recovery," September 21, 2000, [http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people/Herman/herman-con0.html](http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people/Herman/herman-con0.html).
- Laura Miller, Review of Tanya Luhrmann’s *Of Two Minds* [http://archive.salon.com/books/review/2000/05/25/luhrmann/](http://archive.salon.com/books/review/2000/05/25/luhrmann/)

SECOND SHORT (RESEARCH) PAPER IS DUE AT THIS LAST CLASS