Philosophy of Mental Health

Time and Place

Physical Venue:

Tuesdays 13:30-16:00

Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen,

South Campus, Karen Blixens Plads 16, Room 6B.0.22

Online Platform:

https://ucph-ku.zoom.us/j/2188071867

Description of Course

Mental illness is an increasing problem involving dramatic personal and socioeconomic costs. Developments in genetics, evolutionary biology, and neuroscience over the last two decades have made it obvious for psychiatrists and psychologists alike that the question 'what is mental illness?' is still an open question that requires interdisciplinary resources. Philosophy of mental health is an attempt to develop a solid conceptual framework for the interdisciplinary exploration of mental illness. This course is an introduction to the burgeoning field of philosophy of psychiatry. Against a solid historical background, the course sets out to present, examine, and discuss concepts fundamental to our understanding of mental illness (mind, body, self, person, rationality, emotion, normality/disorder), the meaning of psychopathology, the relationship between biology (genetics, evolutionary biology, and neuroscience in particular) and subjectivity, and the question of therapy (the values and norms of well-being).

Learning Objectives

This course will introduce the student to some of basic philosophical dimensions of mental health. This introduction will enable the student to understand and evaluate critically the problems involved in the growing challenges to mental health. Besides getting a solid understanding of the historical background of contemporary philosophy of mental health, the student can expect to learn about the strengths and limits of scientific explanations of mental illness; the complex relationship of biological, psychological, and social factors involved in mental illness; the question of psychopathology and phenomenology in a scientific culture; the problem of health care; the issue of medicalization; and the scope and aim of therapy.

Faculty

René Rosfort, PhD & MA (University of Copenhagen, 2008 & 2003). Associate Professor of Ethics and Philosophy of Religion (Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen). For more information, see **here (http://teol.ku.dk/skc/english/staff/?pure=en/persons/77458)**

Office Hours

Wednesdays 1:00-3:00pm

Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen

South Campus, Karen Blixens Plads 16, Room 6B.1.19

Textbooks

- George Graham. *The Disordered Mind: An Introduction to Philosophy of Mind and Mental Illness*, 3r^{d} edition London: Routledge 2021.
- Richard J. McNally. *What is Mental Illness?* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press 2011.
- Roy Porter. *Madness: A Brief History of Mental Illness*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2002.

Expectations of the students

The students are expected to have prepared themselves carefully for each class, that is, to have done the required reading and to think about issues, problems, and questions to be discussed in class. Moreover, the students are expected to engage in the discussions as well as the group work, and to make use of both the theoretical tools and the historical background when discussing the issues in question. According to UCPH policy, all students must be present 75% of the time to receive a grade.

Requirements

For undergraduate students (bachelor students):

Active attendance (at least attendance in 75% of the sessions documented by protocol). The syllabus volume and content are determined by the teacher, and three papers are to be submitted to the teacher of each 9,600-12,000 characters, ie. 4-5 pages, as well as a final major assignment, which has s size of 19,200-24,000 characters, i.e. 8-10 pages, and based on 400-500 pages literature in agreement with the teacher. The assignments are assessed by the teacher and the final assessment is given in accordance with the 7-point grading scale. If participation takes place via streaming for more than 25% of the sessions, the following is required to pass the course: An assignment that has a scope of 36,000-48,000 characters, i.e. 15-20 pages, and based on 1,200 to 1,500 pages of literature. The teacher must approve the subject and literature.

For graduate students (kandidat/master students):

Active attendance (at least attendance in 75% of the sessions documented by protocol). The syllabus volume and content are determined by the teacher, and three papers are to be

submitted to the teacher of each 9,600-12,000 characters, ie. 4-5 pages, as well as a final paper of 26,400-36,000 characters, i.e. 11-15 pages, and based on 800-1000 pages of literature in agreement with the teacher. The assignments are assessed by the teacher, and the final assessment is given in accordance with the 7-point grading scale. If participation takes place via streaming for more than 25% of the sessions, the following is required to pass the course: An assignment of 60,000-72,000 characters, i.e. 25-30 pages, and based on approx. 1,500 pages of literature. The teacher must approve the subject and literature.

Grading

3 short assignments of 4-5 pages (each counting for 15% of the final grade)	45%
A final paper of 10-12 pages (10-12 pages)	45%
Engaged participation	10%

Plagiarism Policy

In accordance with UCPH rules for academic ethics, there will be a no tolerance policy towards cheating and plagiarism. The submission of any paper which is not your own work will result in an automatic fail and may have severe consequences for your future studies

Fagets læseplan

Spring til i dag | ✎ Rediger

Læseplan-siden viser en tabel-orienteret visning af fagets program og basis for fagets karaktergivning. Du kan tilføje alle andre kommentarer, noter, eller tanker, du har om fagets struktur, politik eller andet.

For at tilføje kommentarer, klik "Rediger" linket øverst.

Oversigt over fag:

Dato	Nærmere oplysninger	Forfalder
tirs den 31. Aug 2021	Session 1. Introduction: What Is Mental Health and Why Does Our Mind Suffer? (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83840&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 7. Sep 2021	Session 2. A Brief History of Suffering I: From Humoralism to Nerves (500 BCE—1800 CE) (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83841&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 21. Sep 2021	Session 3. A Brief History of Suffering II: From Pinel Over Freud to DSM-5 (1800—2013) (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83842&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 28. Sep 2021	Session 4. A Suffering Mind —A Disturbing Society—A Broken Brain: The Encounter of Three Cultures (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83847&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00
man den 4. Okt 2021	1st Short Assignment (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/52636/assignments/131073)	forfalder 23.59
tirs den 5. Okt 2021	Session 5. An Impersonal Disease: Evolution, Genes, and Neuroscience (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83843&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00

Dato	Nærmere oplysninger	Forfalder
tirs den 19. Okt 2021	Session 6. A Societal Problem: Antipsychiatry, Scientific Constructions, and Society (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83850&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 26. Okt 2021	Session 7. Being a Self: Phenomenology and the First-Person Perspective (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83846&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00
man den 1. Nov 2021	2nd Short Assignment (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/52636/assignments/131074)	forfalder 23.59
tirs den 9. Nov 2021	Session 8. A Personal Illness: Psychopathology (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83839&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 16. Nov 2021	Session 9. Care and Caring: The Values and Norms of Mental Health (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83844&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00
man den 22. Nov 2021	3rd Short Assignment (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/52636/assignments/131075)	forfalder 23.59
tirs den 23. Nov 2021	Session 10. Being a Person: Well-Being over Time (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83848&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 30. Nov 2021	Session 11. Dealing with Suffering: Therapy and Medicine (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83845&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 7. Dec 2021	Session 12. Living with Fragility: A Life-Long Challenge (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=83849&include_contexts=course_52636)	13.30 til 16:00
tors den 16. Dec 2021	Final Paper (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/52636/assignments/131076)	forfalder 23.59