

# Philosophy of Mental Health

## Time and Place

Tuesdays 13.30-16.00

Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen,

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

## 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) (<http://teol.ku.dk/skc/english/staff/?pure=en/persons/77458>)

## Textbooks

- George Graham. *The Disordered Mind: An Introduction to Philosophy of Mind and Mental Illness*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition London: Routledge 2013.
- 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.

## Grading

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


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	
tirs den 21. Jan 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54944&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 1. Introduction: What Is Mental Health and Why Does Our Mind Suffer? (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54944&amp;include_contexts=course_34538)</a>	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 28. Jan 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54943&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 2. A Brief History of Suffering I: From Humoralism to Nerves (500 BCE—1800 CE) (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54943&amp;include_contexts=course_34538)</a>	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 11. Feb 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54936&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 3. A Brief History of Suffering II: From Pinel Over Freud to DSM-5 (1800—2013) (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54936&amp;include_contexts=course_34538)</a>	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 18. Feb 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54942&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 4. A Suffering Mind—A Disturbing Society—A Broken Brain: The Encounter of Three Cultures (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54942&amp;include_contexts=course_34538)</a>	13.30 til 16:00
man den 2. Mar 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/34538/assignments/90625">1st Short Assignment (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/34538/assignments/90625)</a>	forfalder 23.59
tirs den 3. Mar 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54941&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 5. An Impersonal Disease: Evolution, Genes, and Neuroscience (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54941&amp;include_contexts=course_34538)</a>	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 10. Mar 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54940&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 6. A Societal Problem: Antipsychiatry, Scientific Constructions, and Society (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54940&amp;include_contexts=course_34538)</a>	13.30 til 16:00
man den 23. Mar 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/34538/assignments/90626">2nd Short Assignment (https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/34538/assignments/90626)</a>	forfalder 23.59
tirs den 24. Mar 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54939&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 7. Being a Self: Phenomenology and the First-Person Perspective (https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54939&amp;include_contexts=course_34538)</a>	13.30 til 16:00

Dato	Nærmere oplysninger	
tirs den 31. Mar 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54935&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 8. A Personal Illness: Psychopathology</a> ( <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54935&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54935&amp;include_contexts=course_34538</a> )	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 7. Apr 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54934&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 9. Care and Caring: The Values and Norms of Mental Health</a> ( <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54934&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54934&amp;include_contexts=course_34538</a> )	13.30 til 16:00
man den 13. Apr 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/34538/assignments/90627">3rd Short Assignment</a> ( <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/34538/assignments/90627">https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/34538/assignments/90627</a> )	forfalder 23.59
tirs den 14. Apr 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54938&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 10. Being a Person: Well-Being over Time</a> ( <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54938&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54938&amp;include_contexts=course_34538</a> )	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 21. Apr 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54945&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 11. Dealing with Suffering: Therapy and Medicine</a> ( <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54945&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54945&amp;include_contexts=course_34538</a> )	13.30 til 16:00
tirs den 28. Apr 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54937&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">Session 12. Living with Fragility: A Life-Long Challenge</a> ( <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54937&amp;include_contexts=course_34538">https://absalon.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=54937&amp;include_contexts=course_34538</a> )	13.30 til 16:00
tors den 7. Maj 2020	 <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/34538/assignments/90628">Final Paper</a> ( <a href="https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/34538/assignments/90628">https://absalon.instructure.com/courses/34538/assignments/90628</a> )	forfalder 23.59