



Module Specification

Critical Psychopathology

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Critical Psychopathology

Module code: USPK6H-30-M

Level: Level 7

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Psychology

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: Theory and Practice in Counselling Psychology 1 2023-24

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Not applicable

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: See Learning Outcomes.

Outline syllabus: The syllabus includes:

Psychological knowledge:

Theories relevant to presenting problems of anxiety, panic, addictions, sexual abuse, PTSD, depression, loss, psychosis, eating disorders, personality 'disorders', as well as complex psychodynamic patterns of relating.

Diagnostic classificatory systems; diagnostic criteria of major disorders and differential diagnoses; client presentation of major disorders; core etiological models of psychiatry.

Personal development:

Personal exploration of the relevance of presenting problems and how this relates to counselling psychology practice.

Development of personal awareness of attitudes and values around mental health.

Professional issues/client work:

Explore case examples drawn from students' own experience of working with clients' presenting issues.

Professional roles and responsibilities in National Health structure; interrelationship of counselling psychology role with other professional roles; referral systems and community service networks; current political developments in mental health.

Advanced interview, assessment, reporting and recording skills.

Cultural and Political knowledge:

National Health structure; Mental health act; Non-government community organisations and networks; service user movements.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Interactive lectures, workshops, experiential exercises, case discussion.

Students are required to be in clinical placement with clients while attending the module.

A wide range of materials will be made available through Blackboard. Students will be directed to relevant online resources, and activities will be programmed online around these.

Students will receive 54 hours of contact which will be in the form of interactive lectures.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 A critical awareness of a range of presenting problems across the life span, from multiple theoretical perspectives and in varying contexts

MO2 A reflective awareness of their responses to complex presenting issues and implications of their own beliefs, attitudes and values about psychological health and illness

MO3 A critical understanding of systems of psychiatric diagnosis (DSM and ICD), including meanings, consequences, limitations of, and alternatives to, such systems

MO4 A critical understanding of the cultural and political implications of the terminology of psychiatric diagnosis

MO5 Demonstrate competence in the assessment, formulation and evaluation of client issues

MO6 Use self and life experience and demonstrate creativity and innovation in their work

MO7 Demonstrate ability to synthesise and evaluate material and arguments across the curriculum

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 246 hours

Face-to-face learning = 54 hours

Total = 300

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uspk6h-30-m.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/uspk6h-30-m.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: For the first assessment, the student has to write a case study on a client that they are working with in their clinical placement. Marking is not blind, as students have to reflect on their own process and emotional responses to the material. In addition, we discuss their clients in class, thus ensuring the authenticity of this assignment.

Assessment 1: 3500 word case study on a client, with focus on one diagnostic category.

Assessment 2: 3000 word theoretical essay.

Assessment tasks:

Case Study (First Sit)

Description: 3500 word client case study from practice - pass/fail

Weighting:

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: 3000 word essay

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO6, MO7

Case Study (Resit)

Description: 3500 word client case study from practice - pass/fail

Weighting:

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO4, MO5, MO6, MO7

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: 3000 word essay

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO3, MO4, MO6, MO7

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: