Module Specification

Philosophy of Mental Health and Psychiatry

Version: 2023-24, v2.0, 06 Jul 2023

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Philosophy of Mental Health and Psychiatry

Module code: UZRYFJ-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2023-24

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

Faculty: Faculty of Health & Applied Sciences

Department: HAS Dept of Social Sciences

Partner institutions: None

Field: Philosophy

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: The module addresses the underlying concepts, paradigms and ethical assumptions in mental health, its treatment, mental health policy, and the representation and public perception of mental illness.

Features: Not applicable

Educational aims: The aims of this module are to:

Address the underlying concepts, paradigms and ethical assumptions in mental health treatment, mental health policy design and the representation and public perception of mental illness.

Engage critically with a range of philosophical literature in the field, and apply philosophical critical thinking skills to deepen understanding of the meaning, diagnosis and causation of mental illness.

Consider how research in fields such as psychiatry, psychology and neuroscience can impact on philosophical understandings of areas such as personhood, responsibility and consciousness.

Encourage interdisciplinary dialogue, allowing students to consider intersections between research in philosophy and other disciplines such as psychology, criminology, sociology and psychoanalysis.

Work with internal practitioners from outside our discipline and with external practitioners working in the mental health field.

In the context of the above - examine the claim that our current historical period is characterised by particular patterns of mental health concerns, diagnosis, and treatment (anxiety, self-harm, depression, narcissism etc.) - and explore possible reasons for this.

Outline syllabus: The module may examine themes relevant to the module aims - such as:

The idea of mental health (including critical and sceptical positions, cross-cultural issues, the idea of addiction, the idea of depression, the idea of madness)

Paradigms of psychiatric treatment (for example debates between biomedical and socio-cultural treatments, debates around diagnosis, what is psychiatry, the anti-psychiatry movement, psychoanalytic theory, existential therapy)

Ethics of mental health (for example ethical and criminal responsibility, the use of involuntary confinement and questions of mental competency and autonomy, widespread use of prescription medication, public health funding priorities, responsibility and addiction)

Mental disorders and the philosophy of mind (implications for questions in the philosophy of mind and theories of the self of phenomenon such as psychosis, hallucination multiple personality disorder etc)

Society and Mental health (structural causation, the impact of digital media, contemporary challenges such as climate change anxiety, therapy as social regulation)

The module will engage with a range of relevant thinkers such as Jaspers, Foucault, Fanon, Jaynes, Hacking, Graham, Fulford, Pickard, Fisher, Stiegler, Freud.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: The module will employ a combination of lectures, seminars, and workshops. Our pedagogy is interactive, discussion-based, and student-facing. Students are an active part of the learning process, and will be asked to contribute ideas, questions, and critical standpoints. The learning environment is designed to promote peer-to-peer support and exchange.

While teaching and learning will be predominantly classroom based, appropriate use will be made of online resources and learning environments.

The content of the module would be appropriate for the use of live briefs.

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

MO1 Display a critical awareness of the relevant areas of psychiatry and mental health.

MO2 Critically evaluate paradigms of psychiatry and mental health and show an awareness of relevant ethical issues

MO3 Critically think about broader philosophical implications, such as those for philosophy of mind.

MO4 Communicate philosophical concepts and arguments at the appropriate level through a variety of formats.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 117 hours

Face-to-face learning = 33 hours

Total = 150

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/650FE6F6-EB9C-CF2C-5D43-033C7CFC4930.html?lang=en-GB&login=1

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Assessment for this module is as follows:

Assessment part A: a portfolio (50%), which will typically include tasks such as discussion Board contributions; Viva Presentations.

Rationale: these kinds of tasks retain a degree of 'controlled conditions' while assessing both subject content and a range of transferable skills.

Assessment part B: a 2000-word written assignment (50%) such as essay, blog, review.

Rationale: these tasks provide an opportunity for more in depth coursework and assess the students ability to convey ideas in an extended written format.

Assessment part A tasks provide an opportunity for formative assessment.

Assessment tasks:

Portfolio (First Sit)

Description: A task such as

1. Discussion board contributions

2. Presentation

3. Viva

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: A task such as

1. Essay

2. Blog

3. Review

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: A task such as

1. Discussion board contributions

2. Presentation

3. Viva

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: A task such as

1. Essay
2. Blog
3. Review

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Philosophy [Sep][FT][Frenchay][3yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Philosophy {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Philosophy [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Philosophy [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Philosophy {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2019-20

Philosophy [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2018-19