



Module Specification

Philosophy of Mental Health and Psychiatry

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Philosophy of Mental Health and Psychiatry

Module code: UZRYFJ-15-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2024-25

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School 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

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/650FE6F6-EB9C-CF2C-5D43-033C7CFC4930.html?lang=en-GB&login=1) 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: Portfolio (100%)

The portfolio will usually comprise of one main report responding to a problem in the philosophy of mental health and psychiatry and engaging with philosophical issues that intersect with real world challenges in the delivery of mental health treatment or social issues in mental health.

The question may set by the module leader(s) or be a live brief set by mental health practitioners/organisation(s) working in the field.

Additional portfolio credit could, for example, be given for preparatory or reflective work with respect to the report. For example, the portfolio mark might comprised of

30% for discussion board questions during the module and 70% for the report, or 70% for a written report and 30% for an oral reflection or presentation following the report.

The exact format and division of marks will be decided in advance of the start of the module run by the module leader (and where applicable in discussion with a practitioner or organisation setting the live brief) and clearly stipulated in the assessment guide and module handbook.

Assessment tasks:**Portfolio (First Sit)**

Description: Portfolio of tasks and live brief exercises

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Portfolio (Resit)

Description: Portfolio of tasks and live brief exercises

Weighting: 100 %

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

Philosophy [Sep][PT][Frenchay][6yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Philosophy [Sep][SW][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22

Philosophy {Foundation} [Sep][SW][Frenchay][5yrs] BA (Hons) 2020-21

Philosophy [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2022-23

Philosophy {Foundation} [Sep][FT][Frenchay][4yrs] BA (Hons) 2021-22