

PSY 370 Violence and Mental Illness. Spring 2019

I. COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Guido Travaini

Instructor's Email: gtravaini@fus.edu, travaini.guido@gmail.com

Office Hours: to be defined

Class location: Lowerre Academic Center/2 Class meeting times: Wed 10.00 – 12.45

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The topics of mental illness and violence have always influenced the world of art in its literary, pictorial, theatrical and cinematographic expressions. In this course the concepts of violence and mental illness will be defined through the psychopathological and criminological knowledge. These topics will then be analyzed from a historical, social and cultural perspective.

In this highly multidisciplinary course there will be space for a comparison with the artistic manifestations that have dealt with the issues highlighted above.

Artistic contributions will be shared both to encourage learning and to stimulate discussion on complex issues. External teachers are expected to participate.

This course will endeavor to define what is meant by mental illness, violence and mental health, how these definitions are historically, socially, and culturally situated and how they relate to violence and crime. Course materials will draw from a wide range of disciplines, including psychiatry, psychology, sociology and criminology, as well as portrayals in art, films and the narratives of people living with and affected by mental illness. This multidisciplinary course builds on a solid psychological and criminological theoretical basis, then opens to contributions from other disciplines, including invited guests from the Franklin faculties and experts in the field.

III. RATIONALE

This course aims to allow students to become familiar with the basic concepts of mental illness, violence, criminology and forensic psychopathology and which will be useful in their future professional activities.

IV. COURSE GOALS

The goals of this course are the following:

- 1. Identify and understand the major theories, principles, and research findings in mental health, violence and crime
- 2. Critically evaluate clinical, sociological and criminological theories and research
- 3. Apply social theories and principles to real cases
- 4. Write clearly and logically, being able to explain one's position on a variety of issues in discussion forums. Respond to peers' written comments appropriately.

V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES



Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1. Method: Demonstrate an understanding of the basic scientific method underlying criminological and psychopathology theories
- 2. Research: Demonstrate a general knowledge of the main theories and current findings within each of the research topics covered during the course.
- 3. Application: Recognize and appreciate how fundamental theories and experimental results apply to everyday situations.

VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS

- Textbook:
- Power Point Presentations
- Specific literature about different topics will be handed out in class

VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Midterm Exam 25% Final Exam 25% Quiz 10% Attendance and class participation 40%

VIII. ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Regular reading and review of information provided are essential for learning; therefore, two exams are planned for this course. Each exam will be based on multiple choice questions / open questions and will be worth 50 points. The key to succeed in these exams is to keep up with the reading, take notes and study. To help you stay on track and provide interim feedback on your understanding of specific topics, there will be one quiz worth 10 points.

IX. GRADING POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

A through F scale (plus/minus when applicable)

X. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class.

The course attendance must be of minimum 80% of the overall lessons.

XI. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

See the Academic Catalog for full statement (page 199): https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS_ACADEMIC_CATALOG_2018_2020_web.pdf

XII. RESOURCES AVAILABLE



WLC, Learning Disabilities, Information Technology, Library, USI, etc.

XIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Indicative Course Schedule

Class of: Topic

Instructor

January 23 Course presentation

Guido Travaini

January 30 What is violence?

Guido Travaini

February 6 Violence within the family

Guido Travaini

February 13 Hate Crimes

Guido Travaini

February 20 Violence: an archaeological vision

Greg Warden

February 27 Depression

Cristina Colombo

March 6 Midterm exam

Guido Travaini

March 27 Schizophrenia

Cristina Colombo

April 3 Maniac syndrome

Cristina Colombo

April 10 Addictions and violence

Guido Travaini

April 17 New forms of art and violence

Guido Travaini

April 24 Case study

Guido Travaini

May 8 Final exam in class

XIV. BIBLIOGRAPHY



A bibliography is often helpful if you want to encourage students to use certain books in our library.