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Department of History

444 Gregory Hall
Office Hours: Friday, 1:30-3:30

Madness and Society in the Modern World

Part One: The Nineteenth Century (The Enlightenment to Freud)

Subject of the Course: What is insanity? How do we define the normal and the pathological? Who in society is best suited to determine psychological health and sickness? Can there be a science of emotion and sexuality? How do class, race, religion, and gender influence our views of human mental functioning? Can the human mind know itself? At the beginning of the twenty-first-century, the sciences of the mind—psychiatry, psychoanalysis, clinical psychology, psychopharmacology, the cognitive neurosciences—claim tremendous scientific authority and exert enormous cultural influence. Yet these are only several of the urgent questions that remain controversial or unanswered today.

This seminar will seek to explore these and many related subjects. Our approach will be historical. Specifically, we will study the social, cultural, intellectual, and institutional history of madness and psychiatry in Britain, continental Europe, and North America from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Topics will include: the origins of psychiatric humanitarianism, medical professionalization, the history of psychiatric diagnostics, the emergence of the modern asylum, patient autobiography, women in the mental health system, the history of the insanity defense in the courts, Victorian nervousness and hysteria, psychiatry and heredity, the beginnings of medical sexology, Freud and the coming of psychoanalysis, and shell shock in the First World War.

Structure of the Course: The course will meet twice weekly. On Tuesdays, we will discuss the assigned weekly reading. We will then gather on Thursdays to watch a movie dealing with the themes of Tuesday's class. Afterwards, we will discuss the film briefly.

Course Readings: The following mandatory books are available in the university bookstore:

Barker, Pat, Regeneration: A Novel (1991).

Krafft-Ebing, Richard von, Psychopathia Sexualis (1886).

Lombroso, Cesare and Guglielmo Ferrero, The Criminal Woman, The Prostitute, and the Normal Woman (1894).

Rosenberg, Charles E., The Trial of the Assassin Guiteau: Psychiatry and Law in the American Gilded Age (1968).

Shannonhouse, Rebecca, ed., Out of Her Mind: Women Writing on Madness (2000).

In addition to these texts, photocopies of several week's assigned reading are available as numbered course packets at Dup-It, which is located at 808 South Sixth Street in Champaign, and at the Reserve Desk of the Undergraduate Library.

Course Requirements: 1) attendance at and regular and informed participation in both Tuesday and Thursday classes; 2) a five-to-six-page essay on an assigned question due Friday February 27; and 3) an in-class presentation of about twenty minutes on a relevant book or article drawn from the weekly supplemental reading listed below.

Beyond these requirements, students have a choice between two options: **either** an analytical book report of six-to-eight pages due on at the end of the semester **and** a three-hour comprehensive final examination **or** an 18-20-page research paper, on a topic of special interest to you, due the same day as the exam.

Schedule of Classes

Class 1:
Preliminaries

Class 2:
Introduction: What is the History of Madness and Psychiatry? Why Study It?

David L. Rosenhan, "On Being Sane in Insane Places," Science, vol. 179 (1973), 250-58.

Michel Foucault, "Madness and Culture," in Mental Illness and Psychology (1954; 1962), Part II, 60-88. (packet #1)

Class 3:
January 29

Girl, Interrupted (1999), directed by James Mangold, starring Winona Ryder, Angelina Jolie, Whoopi Goldberg, and Vanessa Redgrave.

Class 4:
The Enlightenment Origins of Modern Psychiatry

Philippe Pinel, A Treatise of Insanity (1801), Section Two. (packet #2)

Report: Ida Macalpine and Richard Hunter, George III and the Mad-Business (1969), Introduction, chaps. 1-5, 11, 17-19; William F. Bynum, "Rationales for Therapy in British Psychiatry, 1780-1835," Medical History, 18 (1974), 317-334.

Class 5:

The Madness of King George (1994), directed by Nicholas Hytner, starring Nigel Hamilton and Rupert Everett.

**Class 6:
Interpreting the "Moral Treatment"**

J. Crichton-Browne, "The History and Progress of Psychological Medicine," Journal of Mental Science, 7 (1861), 19-31.

Michel Foucault, Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason (1961), chaps. 8 and 9.

Andrew Scull, Social Order/Mental Disorder: Anglo-American Psychiatry in Historical Perspective (1989), chap. 4. (packet #3)

Report: Andrew Scull, The Most Solitary of Afflictions: Madness and Society in Britain, 1700-1900 (1993), chaps. 1-3.

Class 7:

Quills (2000), directed by Philip Kaufman, starring Geoffrey Rush, Kate Winslet, and Joaquin Phoenix.

**Class 8:
The Social and Cultural Construction of Diagnoses: The Case of Monomania**

J.-E.-D. Esquirol, "Monomania," in Mental Maladies: A Treatise on Insanity (1838), 319-376.

Jan Goldstein, Console and Classify: The French Psychiatric Profession in the Nineteenth Century, chap. 5. (packet #4)

Report: Karl Figlio, "Chlorosis and Chronic Disease in Nineteenth-Century Britain: The Social Construction of Somatic Illness in a Capitalist Society," Social History, 3 (1978), 167-97; Wilbur J. Scott, "PTSD in DSM-III: A Case Study in the Politics of Diagnosis and Disease," Social Problems, 37 (1990), 294-310; Joan Jacobs Brumberg, "From Psychiatric Syndrome to 'Communicable' Disease: The Case of Anorexia Nervosa," in Charles E. Rosenberg and Janet Golden, eds., Framing Disease: A Cultural History (1992), chap. 7.

Class 9:

Equus (1977), directed by Sidney Lumet, starring Richard Burton.

Class 10:
The “Birth of the Asylum”

Anne Digby, Madness, Morality, and Medicine: A Study of the York Retreat, 1796-1914 (1985), chaps. 1-6, 8. (packet #5)

Reports: Andrew Scull, “The Most Solitary of Afflictions:” Madness and Society in Britain, 1700-1900 (1993), Introduction, chaps. 2, 3; Joseph Melling and Bill Forsythe, Insanity, Institutions, and Society, 1800-1914: A Social History of Madness in Comparative Perspective (1999), chap. 1; Colin Gale and Robert Howard, Presumed Curable: An Illustrated Casebook of Victorian Psychiatric Patients in Bethlem Hospital (2003).

Class 11:

I Never Promised You a Rose Garden (1977), directed by Anthony Page, starring Bibi Andersson and Kathleen Quinlan; Good Will Hunting (1997), directed by Gus Van Sant Jr., starring Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck, and Minnie Driver.

First assigned essay due

Class 12:
The Voice of the Patient: The “Mad Woman” in the Nineteenth Century

Rebecca Shannonhouse, ed., Out of Her Mind: Women Writing on Madness (2000), 3-69.

Report: Joan Brumberg, Fasting Girls: The History of Anorexia Nervosa (1989); Nancy Tomes, “‘Devils in the Heart:’ A Nineteenth-Century Perspective on Women and Depression,” Transactions and Studies of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, series V, 13 (1991), 363-86; Nancy Tomes, “Feminist Histories of Psychiatry,” in Mark S. Micale and Roy Porter, eds., Discovering the History of Psychiatry (1994), chap. 19.

Class 13:

The Snake Pit (1948), directed by Anatole Litvak, starring Olivia de Havilland and Leo Genn.

Class 14:
Neurasthenia, or the Medicalization of Everyday Emotional Life

George Miller Beard, A Practical Treatise on Nervous Exhaustion (Neurasthenia) (1880), chaps. 1, 2, 5. (packet #6)

Report: Marijke Gijswijt-Hofstra and Roy Porter, eds., Cultures of Neurasthenia: From Beard to the First World War (2001), Introduction, chaps 1, 2, 4; Anson Rabinbach, "The Body Without Fatigue: A Nineteenth-Century Utopia," in Seymour Drescher et al., eds., Political Symbolism in Modern Europe (1982), 46-62; Susan E. Abbey and Paul E. Garfinkel, "Neurasthenia and Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: The Role of Culture in the Making of a Diagnosis," American Journal of Psychiatry, 148 (December 1991), 1638-46.

Class 15:

The Road to Wellville (1994), directed by Alan Parker, starring Anthony Hopkins, Matthew Broderick, John Cusack, and Dana Carvey.

Class 16:

Legal Psychiatry and the Early Insanity Plea

Charles E. Rosenberg, The Trail of the Assassin Guiteau: Psychiatry and Law in the Gilded Age (1968).

Report: Foucault, Michel, "About the Concept of the 'Dangerous Individual' in 19th-Century Legal Psychiatry," International Journal of Law and Psychiatry, 1 (1978), 1-18; James C. Mohr, Doctors and the Law: Medical Jurisprudence in Nineteenth-Century America (1993), Introduction, chaps. 10, 12; Joel Peter Eigen, Witnessing Insanity: Madness and Mad-Doctors in the English Court (1995).

Class 17:

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1919), directed by Robert Wiene, starring Werner Krauss; Psycho (1960), directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh, and Simon Oakland; The Insanity Defense (1985), Produced by the National Institute of Justice and the U.S. Police Foundation.

Class 18:

Psychiatry and Sexuality: The Emergence of Sexology

Richard von Krafft-Ebing, Psychopathia Sexualis (1886), 3-24, 79-381 (selected case histories).

Report: Ronald Bayer, Homosexuality and American Psychiatry: The Politics of Diagnosis, second edition (1987); Harry Oosterhuis, Stepchildren of Nature: Krafft-Ebing, Psychiatry, and the Making of Sexual Identity (2000).

Class 19:

Film: Male Homosexuality (1980). Presented the the Social Psychiatry Research Institute. Narrated by Charles W. Socarides; The Einstein of Sex (1999), directed by Rosa von Praunheim, starring Ben Becker.

Class 20:**Psychiatry, Heredity, and Degeneration**

Cesare Lombroso and Guglielmo Ferrero, The Criminal Woman, The Prostitute, and the Normal Woman (1893), Parts III and IV.

Report: Stephen Jay Gould, "Carrie Buck's Daughter," in The Flamingo's Smile: Reflections in Natural History (1985), chap. 20; J. Edward Chamberlin and Sander L. Gilman, eds., Degeneration: The Dark Side of Progress (1985); Ian Dowbiggin, Keeping America Sane: The Story of Eugenics and Psychiatry in the United States and Canada, 1880-1940 (1997).

Class 21:

Documentary: Selling Murder: Killing Films of the Third Reich.

Class 22:**Freud and the Emergence of Psychoanalysis**

Josef Breuer and Sigmund Freud, "Case Histories: Fräulein Anna O.," in Studies in Hysteria (1895), 21-47. (packet #7)

Report: Richard Wollheim, Sigmund Freud (1971), chap. 1; Peter Gay, Freud: A Life for Our Time (1988), chap. 2; Albrecht Hirsh Müller, The Life and Work of Josef Breuer (1989), 95-132.

Class 23:

Freud: The Secret Passion (1962), directed by John Huston, screenplay by Jean-Paul Sartre, starring Montgomery Clift; The Story of Anna O.: A Study in Hysteria (1979), historical reenactment; Spellbound (1945), directed by Alfred Hitchcock, starring Ingrid Bergman and Gregory Peck.

Class 24:**Shell Shock and the First World War**

Pat Barker, Regeneration: A Novel (1991).

Report: Eric J. Leed, No Man's Land: Combat and Identity in World War I (1979), chap. 5; Elaine Showalter, The Female Malady: Women, Madness, and English Culture, 1830-1980 (1985), chap. 7; Mark S. Micale and Paul Lerner, eds., Traumatic Pasts: Medicine, Psychiatry, and Trauma in the Modern Age, 1870-1930 (2001), Introduction; Paul Lerner, Hysterical Men: War, Psychiatry, and the Politics of Trauma in Germany, 1890-1930 (2003), Introduction, Part 2.

Class 25:

Behind the Lines (1994), directed by Gilles Mackinnon, starring Jonathan Price and James Wilby; Let There Be Light (1946), directed by John Huston.

Class 26:

Some Conclusions: One Hundred Years of Psychiatry

Final Examination
Research Papers Due