

## **Course Title: A History of Psychiatry**

**Course Instructors:** Gideon Manning, PhD, Kirsten Moore-Sheeley, PhD  
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**Online Meetings:** Wednesday, 5-6pm, October 18-November 29 (\*\*no meeting November 22\*\*)

**Course Description:** Definitions and diagnosis of mental illness have changed dramatically over time, as have medical interventions. This course will explore the history of Psychiatry with an emphasis on the conceptual, social, scientific, technological, and institutional factors leading to the creation of the modern discipline in the twentieth century. Specific topics will include the origins, assumptions, and evolution of scientific notions of mental illness, development of institutions and treatments, and the ways psychiatrists (and others) have sought to legitimize the specialty. The last three meetings of the course will feature guest lecturers who will reflect on the past, present, and future of Psychiatry.

### **Learning outcomes:**

1. Understand the evolution of Psychiatry as a distinct specialty in the twentieth century.
2. Appreciate the assumptions and changes in social, cultural, patient, government, and professional expectations around the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness.
3. Apply the lessons learned to understand the current state of psychiatry, its recognized challenges, and anticipate its future.

### **Optional background reading**

R. Porter, *Madness: A Brief History* (2002)

A. Harrington, *Mind fixers: psychiatry's troubled search for the biology of mental illness* (2019)

## **Course Topics and Schedule (subject to revision)**

### Week 1. Introduction

Readings: Selections from primary sources; J. Wakefield, "The Concept of Mental Disorder"

### Week 2. Practices and sites of treatment

Readings: Selections from primary sources; R. Porter, *Madness: A Brief History*

### Week 3. Competition between the brain and mind

Readings: Selections from primary sources; J. Braslow, "History and evidence-based medicine"

### Week 4. The DSM – Guest: Dominic Murphy, PhD (University of Sydney)

Readings: TBD

### Week 5. Biomedicalization of addiction and race – Guest: Marco Ramos, MD, PhD (Yale)

Readings: M. Ramos, "Mental illness is not in your head"

### Week 6. Technology and the future of psychiatry – Guest: Elias Aboujaoude, MD, MA (CSMC)

Readings: TBD