GALLATIN SCHOOL OF INDIVIDUALIZED STUDY  
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY  

Mad Pride/Mad Science  

Fall 2011 Course K20.1311  
Thursday 3:30-6:10  1 Wash Pl, Room 527  
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Office hours by appointment: Tuesday (10-12:30) and Thurs (10-12:30)  

Course Overview  

Despite the seriousness of what we call mental illness—it’s pervasive incidence and the extensive suffering it can cause—we struggle to understand the multiple meanings of psychic difference. Most psychiatric research (‘mad science’) has embraced a biological model that articulates mental illness as a medical disease involving neurological pathology. And other clinical models, even if they are not based in biology, also tend to emphasize pathology (more ‘mad science’). Yet, historically and in our own time, there remain a wealth of alternative approaches for understanding psychic life. Within these possibilities, it is not hard to find celebratory models (‘mad pride’) that emphasize the generative dimensions of psychic difference.  

This course will use a comparative and interdisciplinary approach to develop a rich understanding of the many “models of madness” (as they are sometimes called). Awareness of divergent understandings of mental difference allows us to ask important philosophic and political questions that go beyond the models themselves. Which of these models is “best?” Which comes closest to the “truth?” Can one model, or a combination
of models, offer a “solution?” What does a “solution” for psychic difference really mean?

And, most important, who should answer these questions and for whom?

**Required Texts:**

*Of Two Minds* by T. M. Luhrmann  
*Chekhov: Five Plays: Ivanov, the Seagull, Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters, and the Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov, Translated by Ronald Hingley, Oxford University Press  
*Narrative Psychiatry* by Bradley Lewis  
*Firewalkers: Madness, Beauty, and Mystery* by Vocal  
*Navigating the Space* by the Icarus Project  
*Unholy Ghost: Writers on Depression* by Nell Casey (not in bookstore)

**Class Schedule**

**SECTION ONE**

1.) Sept 8 **Introduction**  
   Film: Crooked Beauty

2.) Sept 15 **Three Points of View**  
   Pro-psychiatry:  
   - Andreason and Black: “History of Psychiatry”  
   Anti-psychiatry:  
   - Szasz: “Mental Illness is Still a Myth”  
   - Foucault: “The Historical Constitution of Mental Illness”  
   Post-psychiatry:  
   - Bracken and Thomas: Postpsychiatry: A New Direction in Mental Health  
   Suggested:  
   - Lewis: Psychiatry and Postmodern Theory  
   - Bracken and Thomas: From Szasz to Foucault: On the Role of Critical Psychiatry

3.) Sept 22 **Listening to Chekhov**  
   Chekhov: *Ivanov*  
   *Narrative Psychiatry*: Intro and Chapter 1  
   Play: Ivanov
4.) Sept 29 Narrative Psychiatry

   Narrative Psychiatry
   Chap 3 Narrative Psychotherapy
   Chap 4 Narrative Psychiatry
   Ricoeur: Life in Quest of a Narrative

First Paper Topic

5.) Oct 6 Narrative Psychiatry (professor away)

   Mrs. Dutta and the Literary Case
   Divakaruni: Mrs. Dutta Writes a Letter

   Film: Ordinary People

6.) Oct 13 Models of Madness

   Narrative Psychiatry
   Chap 6 Mainstream Stories—Biopsychiatry, Cognitive Behavioral, and Psychoanalysis

   Memoirs:
   Styron: Darkness Visible (Unholy Ghost)
   Dormen: Planet No (Unholy Ghost)
   Porter: Down the Tracks (Poets on Prozac)

7.) Oct 20 Psychiatry in Transition

   Luhrman: Of Two Minds Intro (p. 3-8), Chapter 1 (p. 25-84)

   Video: Beck

FIRST PAPER DUE!!!!

SECTION TWO

8. Oct 27 Models of Madness Continued

   Narrative Psychiatry
   Chap 7 Mainstream Stories II—Interpersonal, Family, and Humanistic
   Shaffer: Humanistic Psychology (chapter 1 and 2)

   Video: Rogers
9. Nov 3 Models of Madness Continued—Historical and Generative Options

Narrative Psychiatry
  Chap 8 Alternative Stories
Lewis: History of Depression
Budbill: The Uses of Depression (*Poets on Prozac*)
Kaysen: One Cheer for Melancholy (*Unholy Ghost*)

Suggested
  Walsh: Complementary Therapy

10. Nov 10 Neurochemical Selves

Rose: Neurochemical Selves
Moncrieff: Psychiatric Drug Promotion and the Politics of Neoliberalism
Matheson: Corporate Science
Giovani: The Case for Cosmetic Psychiatry: Treatment Without Diagnosis
Pitts-Taylor: The Plastic Brain: Neoliberalism and the Neuronal Self

Video: Big Bucks, Big Pharma Selling Sickness

Suggested:
  Angel: The Epidemic of Mental Illness and Illusions of Psychiatry
  Sismondo: Ghost Management

11. Nov 17 Mad Pride, Recovery, and Disability Activism

Adbusters: Mad Pride/Mad World
Mindfreedom Website: [http://www.mindfreedom.org/](http://www.mindfreedom.org/)
Lewis: Mad Fight: Psychiatry and Disability Activism
SAMHSA: Recovery Consensus Statement
Hopper: Rethinking Social Recovery
Straus: Autism as Culture

Nov 24th No Class—NYU Holiday

12. Dec 1 Recovery Narratives and Community

*Firewalkers*

13. Dec 8 Navigating the Spaces

*Narrative Psychiatry*
  Chap 9 Doing Narrative Psych
Chap 10 Critical Reflections
Shenk: A Melancholy of My Own (*Unholy Ghost*)
Ridge and Ziebland: ‘The Old Me Could Never Have Done That:’ How People Give Meaning to Recovery Following Depression

Suggested:
Gwenth Lewis: Dark Gifts (*Poets on Prozac*)

14. Dec 15 **Navigating the Spaces**

Icarus Project: Navigating the Space between Brilliance and Madness
Icarus Project Website: [http://theicarusproject.net/](http://theicarusproject.net/)
Lewis: Recovery and College Mental Health: The Rise of Campus Icarus (with rejection letter)

Film: Crooked Beauty

**Paper Due: Friday Dec 16th at 5 PM**

**Course Requirements**

Grades are based on three parts: attendance/participation (20%) and 2 papers (40% each). There will be an opportunity to rewrite the first paper if you desire. The attendance/participation grade is composed of weekly class attendance and participation.

Each class will begin with a short lecture on the material for that week. We then break up into small groups to select quotes we wish to discuss further. To prepare for this part of the class please type two quotes from the week’s readings which you have questions or comments (include page numbers so we can find your quotes). The last part of the class we spend discussing the quotes selected. At the end of the each section, these quotes will be collected as part of your participation grade.

The papers are 6 pages type written, double spaced. Please use the material from the class to develop the topic question I hand out. Back up your thesis with arguments
and examples from the class readings (include internal citations with page numbers and a reference list at the end). A good paper demonstrates that you have integrated the material from the class discussions and readings and can use it to analyze your topic. Use the bulk of your energy reading closely and thinking seriously about the materials you have (rather than doing outside research). Also, be sure and give your paper a title.

The grading scale for the class will be as follows: 93-100% (A) 90-92 (A-), 87-89 (B+), 83-86 (B), 80-82 (B-), 77-79 (C+), 70-76 (C), 63-69 (D), and below (F).