Instructor: Sharon Abramowitz
Office Hours: in Turlington B128, TUESDAYS 11:30-1:00, or by appointment.
Office #: Main Office: Grinter Hall #494, (352) 273-4763, Turlington Office: B128
Email: sabramowitz@ufl.edu, cell (617) 599-0191

Synopsis
This seminar brings together interdisciplinary perspectives on the role of culture in understanding mental health, mental illness, human behavior and psychopathology. Readings are drawn from anthropology, psychology, public health and epidemiology, neuroscience, and popular culture in order to gain a varied and complex perspective on what mental illness is, how it is understood and managed in everyday life in “modern” and “traditional” societies, and how social and medical communities respond to mental illness from social management, treatment, and public policy perspectives. The goal of this course is to emphasize the centrality of culture as a force that defines the incidence, occurrence, and course of mental illness. The broader aims of this course are to familiarize students with interdisciplinary perspectives on culture and psychopathology, and facilitate the development of “cultural competence” in research and clinical practice.

Course Objectives
• By the end of the semester, you will have been introduced to a diversity of cultural approaches to psychiatry, psychology, psychopathology, mental health and mental illness.
• You will have acquired a fluency in the core concepts of medical and psychological anthropology, medical sociology, and psychiatric epidemiology, and been exposed to a broad range of theories and methodologies in medical anthropology.
• You will be able to analyze modern psychiatry as a cultural domain.
• You will have gained foundational knowledge regarding the classification, typology, epidemiology, and illness course of major mental illnesses.
• You will have been exposed to how mental illness interacts with in a wide variety of political, economic, social, and geographic contexts, including the social institutions, structures, and processes that shape psychiatric / mental illness outcomes processes and outcomes at both the local level of practice, and the global level of transnational intervention.

Requirements
Class Participation (20%)
1 Assignment (10%)
2 Quizzes (50%)
Final Poster (20%)

Class Participation and Attendance Policy
Class participation is mandatory, and class participation will be based on attendance. Attendance is mandatory, and foundational concepts and definitions that cannot be found in the readings will be introduced during lecture at every course meeting. During our course meetings, every student will be expected to participate in class discussion in a way that provokes thoughtful engagement with classmates.

PLEASE INFORM THE PROFESSOR IMMEDIATELY AND IN WRITING IF YOU ANTICIPATE HAVING TO BE ABSENT FROM THE COURSE ON ANY DATES THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER SO THAT YOUR ABSENCE WON'T IMPACT YOUR GRADE.
Assignments, Quizzes, Poster
There will be 1 two-page assignment due at midnight on Sunday, September 7th, 2014. Submission will be online. Further instructions will be posted through the course website.

There will be 2 take-home quizzes, which will be administered through the e-Learning system. Each quiz will include three to four open-ended questions addressing the readings, the lectures, and class discussions, as well as key concepts and and the broader themes of the course. For the first two quizzes, each answer should range from 250-500 words, with each quiz totalling approximately 750-1500 words. The final quiz will have customized instructions. Quizzes will open at 8:00AM on the first day, and they will close at midnight on the due date.

During this time, students may engage in an open-book review of the materials. You may consult with your peers while working on take-home quizzes, but all work needs to be submitted individually, and it must be original. No group work will be accepted. Final quiz answers must be submitted electronically. Any references cited in the quizzes must be presented in appropriate citation format. All references require parenthetical citations and bibliographic references. The bibliographic material must be submitted in formal APA, Chicago Style, or American Anthropological Association citation conventions. If you are aware of a pending conflict with the quizzes, please let the instructor know immediately so that alternative accommodations can be made.

There will be 1 research poster project. All students will be expected to present their posters on the last day of class, to their peers. Poster research, poster preparation, and poster presentation are all part of the grade.

Extra Credit

Grades
Grades for this course will be assigned according to UF’s grading policy. For further information, please review the UF policy here: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#grades.

Course Readings and Materials (Recommended, not Required)
All readings will be posted in the resources folder of the course website as pdfs. It is recommended to students that they purchase books in electronic version (aka Kindle), or previously owned, via the Internet.

Policy on Late Assignments
You are required to complete all assignments by the stated due dates. Late assignments will lose one half-letter grade for each day past the deadline. There are no make-up opportunities for any assignment, as you will have ample time to complete each requirement. I will not assign grades of “incomplete” except under extreme circumstances (and only if you have completed 50% of the coursework). You must provide documentation of such circumstances from an appropriate authority.

“Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalogue at http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance/aspx.

Recommendations Policy
I am happy to write letters of recommendation for students who have earned a B+ or higher for any course I teach. In order to obtain a letter of recommendation, students must request the letter of recommendation at least 21 days prior to due date. Students must also: (1) meet with me during office
hours or during a scheduled appointment time to discuss their goal; (2) provide a current resume, statement of purpose, and instructions regarding submission; (3) take responsibility for all relevant procedures and deadlines.

**Academic Honor Code**

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge, which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida Community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the honor code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scce/process/student-conduct-honor-code/) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel.

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. For more information, contact:

Dean of Students Office Disability Resource Center

202 Peabody Hall or 0020 Reid Hall

Phone: (352) 392-1261 Phone: (352) 392-8570

**University of Florida Counseling Services**

Resources are available on-campus for students that feel like they are struggling in their personal or academic life. These resources include:

- University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
  - [http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx)
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling
- University Police Department, 392-1111, or 9-1-1 for emergencies

**Online Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at [http://evaluations.ufl.edu](http://evaluations.ufl.edu). Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at [http://evaluations.ufl.edu/results](http://evaluations.ufl.edu/results).
## Course Schedule and Readings

(An asterisk **"*"** indicates readings recommended to graduate students. All other readings are required unless otherwise indicated.)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignment</th>
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| 9/11   | Culture-Bound Syndromes & Idioms of Distress | }
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/25</td>
<td>No Class</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>10/7</td>
<td>Depression</td>
<td>Obeyesekere, G. (1985). Depression, Buddhism and the work of</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>References</td>
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<td>10/21</td>
<td>Class Choice/ Catch-up Day/ Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment/Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/23</td>
<td>NO CLASS: First Exam (Online)</td>
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| 10/28 | Race, Mental Illness, and Criminality  
| 10/30 | Body Dysphorias and Sex as a Risk Factor  
| 11/4  | Colonialism as a Risk Factor (FANON)  
| 11/6  | The Problem of "The Self"  
| 11/11 | Veteran’s Day: No Class |
| 11/13 | Non-Western Psychiatries  
| 11/18 | The Impact of Globalization  
Ethan Watters: Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche  
Kitanaka, Junko: Depression in Japan: Psychiatric Cures for a Society in Distress  
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>11/20</td>
<td>No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>Stigma and Human Rights</td>
<td>Stigma- Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/27</td>
<td>Happy Thanksgiving! (No class)</td>
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|         |                                            | Robert Whitaker *Anatomy of an Epidemic*  
|         |                                            | Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia (Deleuze Guattari)             |
| 12/3-12/8 | No Class: Second Exam (online)           |                                                                          |
| 12/9    | Last Day of Class: Research Poster Presentations |                                                                          |
Recommended Readings:

* Kleinman, Psychiatric Disorders
* Rubel, Epidemiology of a Folk Illness
* Ozawa-de Silva, Internet Suicide
* Kraepelin (1912) Lectures on Clinical Psychiatry
* Kleinman, A. “Do Psychiatric Disorders Differ in Different Cultures” - The Findings” Chapters 3 in Rethinking Psychiatry
* Emily Martin, Bipolar Expeditions
* Estroff, Sue. Making It Crazy: An Ethnography of Psychiatric Clients in an American Community. UC Press.
* Luhrmann, T. M. (2007). Social defeat and the culture of chronicity: or, why schizophrenia does so well over there and so badly here. Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry, 31 (2),135 - 172.