That any sane nation, having observed that you could provide for the supply of bread by giving bakers a pecuniary interest in baking for you, should go on to give a surgeon a pecuniary interest in cutting off your leg, is enough to make one despair of political humanity.

George Bernard Shaw, *The Doctor's Dilemma*

Know that many personal troubles cannot be solved merely as troubles, but must be understood in terms of public issues … Know that the human meaning of public issues must be revealed by relating them to personal troubles — and to the problems of individual life. C. Wright Mills. *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford, 1959, p. 226.

**Course Description:**
This course will cover the various mental health services and programs for adults, children, and youth, and the roles that social workers perform. Promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services to the mentally ill, developmentally disabled, learning disabled and substance abuse populations will be surveyed. Contemporary policy issues, legislation, ethical issues, controversies, social movements, and trends affecting services to those with mental illness and mental disorders will be discussed. The historical context of services and how the mentally ill have been historically stigmatized and conceptualized will be reviewed, so that students will be able to develop critical thinking about mental health services. The impact of differences in the key diversity dimensions such as ability, age, class, color, culture, ethnicity, family structure, gender (including gender identity and gender expression) marital status, national origin, race, religion or spirituality, sex, and sexual orientation will be examined, as these relate to various mental health policies and services. This course will also survey the various self-help, mutual aid, and natural/informal helping systems.

**Course Content:**
The processes and politics of mental health policy making and program development will be examined from the perspective of historical, contemporary, and future models of the mental health system. Alternative approaches to defining mental health and mental illness, developmental and other disabilities, and substance related disorders will be addressed. Epidemiological findings about the incidence and prevalence of disorders and the utilization of mental health services will be examined. A review of local, state, and national models for mental health programs and systems, along with consideration of self-help services and advocacy programs, will provide students with an opportunity to understand a range of approaches to promotion, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation services, financing, and service delivery. This course will include consideration of individual rights, especially the rights of populations at risk, rights regarding civil commitment and treatment, professional roles vis.-a-vis. consumer rights, and
Attention will be given to persons with mental illness, developmental disabilities, learning disabilities, and substance abuse disorders—or combinations of these conditions—with special focus on individuals with severe and persistent mental conditions. U.S. mental health policy will be examined as it is enacted in programs and services, social entitlements, financing arrangements, and organizational missions. Ethical and value dilemmas connected to these topics will be examined within an American as well as comparative historical and cultural context. The major focus of this course will be on public policies and services, with an ongoing examination of the relationships of this public domain to the non-profit and for-profit sector. Special consideration will be given to how the contemporary mental health system relates to and is experienced by economically disadvantaged persons, women, transgendered, lesbian, bisexual, gay, and queer persons, and persons of color.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the historical context of mental health policies and services, and apply this knowledge in making a critical analysis of existing and proposed mental health systems.
2. Identify the social work practitioner's role in mental health policies and services in relation to:
   a) initiating and modifying policy and programs by providing professional activities, such as advocacy, public education, and service coordination.
   b) applying the values and ethics of the social work profession to the mental health field, especially the rights of individuals regarding civil commitment, treatment, and social services.
3. Explain how public health concepts and epidemiological data are used in developing and changing policies and monitoring mental health programs.
4. Identify and analyze the effects of oppression, discrimination, stigma, and other negative social influences on consumers of mental health services.
5. Analyze current mental health policies, legal issues, delivery systems, service settings, target populations, and service approaches in relation to contemporary social work practice in mental health.
6. Apply knowledge of the etiology of mental illness and other disabilities and the effects of psychiatric labels on the creation of programs for the prevention of illness and promotion of health in keeping with professional goals of social justice.
7. Discuss typical ethical concerns related to mental health policies and services.

**Course Design:**

The instructor will utilize lectures, videos, guided discussions, and may draw upon exercises, guest speakers, and field visits. References and required readings provide the basis for class discussion, exercises, and written essay assignments.

**Theme Relation to Multiculturalism & Diversity:**

Multiculturalism and diversity issues will be presented in relation to the various definitions of mental health, mental illness, disabilities, and substance related disorders. Data from epidemiological studies will be examined in order to focus on populations at risk including those defined by ability, age, class, color, culture, ethnicity, family structure, gender (including gender identity and gender expression) marital status, national origin, race, religion or spirituality, sex, and sexual orientation, in regard to a) incidence and prevalence rates, and b) acceptability, accessibility, availability, and utilization of services.
Theme Relation to Social Justice: The study of the mental health service delivery system will provide students the opportunity to assess the system in terms of injustice and the effects of stigma and discrimination on those with psychiatric labels and populations at risk. The objectives of social change and social justice will be explored in relation to legal issues and individual rights that pertain to mental health policy making and program development.

Theme Relation to Promotion, Prevention, Treatment & Rehabilitation: An examination of the community mental health movement will allow for an emphasis on promotion of mental health and prevention of mental illness and disabilities. Research on risk and protective factors related to mental health prevention programs and how knowledge can be translated into effective interventions will be explored.

Theme Relation to Behavioral and Social Science Research: Behavioral and social science conceptual frameworks and empirical findings will be presented throughout the course, on such topics as: epidemiology of disorders and disabilities; causes of illness and disability; program evaluations on the effectiveness of community-based mental health programs; financing of mental health services; and services to women, ethnic minorities, and economically disadvantaged populations.

Relationship to SW Ethics and Values: This course will examine current ethical issues and controversies in the field of mental health policies and services. The NASW Code of Ethics will be used to inform practice in this area. Students will analyze ethical issues related to: stigmatization and psychiatric labels; client confidentiality; client rights and prerogatives, especially the rights of populations at risk and those related to civil commitment and treatment; prevention and elimination of discrimination; equal access to resources, services, and opportunities; respect for the diversity of cultures; changes in policy and legislation that promote improvements in social conditions; and informed participation of the public.

Intensive Focus on PODS: This course integrates PODS content and skills with a special emphasis on the identification of theories, practice, and/or policies that promote social justice, illuminate social injustices and are consistent with scientific and professional knowledge. Through the use of a variety of instructional methods, this course will support students developing a vision of social justice, learn to recognize and reduce mechanisms that support oppression and injustice, work toward social justice processes, apply intersectionality and intercultural frameworks and strengthen critical consciousness, self knowledge and self awareness to facilitate PODS learning.

Accommodation: If you have a disability and desire accommodation, please make an appointment to see me early in the term.

Class Participation

Thoughtful and insightful participation is preferable to frequent contributions that merely restate presented facts, are not on topic, or make unsubstantiated claims. The best contributions are those that are relevant to the question at hand. They often build on or respond to the observations of others, make links to prior classes, or draw on materials and lessons from other courses. Debates
and disagreements can be powerful opportunities for learning. We look forward to these types of dialogues with you. (*My sentiments, however source unknown*).

**Laptops**

Please use your laptop only for class purposes. PLEASE respect classmates.

**Required Text**

**Better But Not Well: Mental Health Policy in The United States since 1950**  
Frank, Richard G. and Gilied, Sherry A  
ISBN-13 978-0801884436

**American Psychosis**  
Torrey, E Fuller  
ISBN-13 978-0199988716

**The Insanity Offense**  
Torrey, E Fuller  
ISBN-13 978-0393341379

**SOURCE MATERIALS**

**National and international sites**

World Health Organization on mental health policy, planning and service development  

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration web site  

National Institute of Mental Health web site  

National Alliance on Mental Illness  

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance  

**An interesting consumer site**  
County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency – Network of Care  
[http://sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh/home/index.cfm](http://sandiego.networkofcare.org/mh/home/index.cfm)

**U-M campus sites**

[http://hr.umich.edu/mhealthy/programs/mental_emotional/understandingu/](http://hr.umich.edu/mhealthy/programs/mental_emotional/understandingu/)
UM Depression Center – Depression Resources – Support Groups
http://www2.med.umich.edu/psychiatry/umdc/resourcesupport.cfm

Michigan & Washtenaw County sites

Michigan Department of Community Health
http://www.mdch.state.mi.us/

Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards
http://www.macmhb.org/

Washtenaw County Community Mental Health

NAMI – Michigan
http://mi.nami.org/

NAMI - Washtenaw County
http://namiwc.org/

ASSIGNMENTS

1. In the News (10%) At the beginning of each class we will spend a few minutes in discussion on relevant mental health policy issues in the news.

Required Media. The best way to keep current on policy issues is to regularly read, watch and/or listen to legitimate sources of news coverage. As with any news source, one should be careful to distinguish between the news reports and the editorial commentary. Recommended media sources include:


- The News Hour (Mon-Fri, on Public TV). In the local area there are at least 3 showings of the News Hour per evening (6pm; 6:30 pm; and again around midnight) as well as online. Check your local listings. The News Hour is online at www.Pbs.org/newshour/ and has extensive links to additional material. Other sources of information include: MSNBC Countdown or ABC Nightline.

Recommended Media

- Local Newspaper (Detroit Free Press; Ann Arbor News);
- CNN News and Policy discussions;
- National Public Radio programs such as “All Things Considered” and/or “Morning Edition”. This can be accessed locally via WKAR-FM (90.5) or WUOM-FM (91.7) or online.
- Evening Network News - (CBS, ABC, NBC).
2. **Group Presentation** (30%) Separate handout to be provided.

3. **Field visit** (20%) Separate handout to be provided.

4. **Policy Reform Paper** (30%) - Separate handout to be provided.

5. **Final Examination** (10%).

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**Final Grade**

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<td>D-</td>
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**From the Student Guide**

**Grades in Academic Courses**

Letter grades from "A" through "E" are given for class performance. "A" grades are given for exceptional individual performance and mastery of the material. The use of "A+", "A", and "A-" distinguish the degree of superiority. "B" grades are given to students who demonstrate mastery of the material. "B+" is used for students who perform just above the mastery level but not in an exceptional manner. "B-" is used for students just below the mastery level. "C" grades are given when mastery of the material is minimal. A "C-" is the lowest grade which carries credit. "D" grades indicate deficiency and carry no credit. "E" grades indicate failure and carry no credit.

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**Preliminary Schedule of Topics, Readings, and Assignments, additions will be made.**

1-13-20 | What is policy?
1/14/20 | Who should determine policy?
The relevance of policy to both the Interpersonal Practitioner and the Macro Practitioners
Discussion of syllabus and assignments

Choose Policy analysis team

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1-20-20 | **Martin Luther King** - No Class
1/21/20 | 1. Frank and Gilied Chapter 1 Introduction
2. American Psychosis Chapter 1, A man with a problem
3. Insanity Defense Chapter 1 Introduction
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<td>Frank and Gilied, Chapter 2 The population with Mental Illness</td>
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<td>American Psychosis, Chapter 2 Robert Felix</td>
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Discussion
Policy analysis team- choose policy for analysis

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<td>Frank and Gilied, Chapter 3 Evolving technology…</td>
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<td>American Psychosis, Chapter 3 The Birth of Federal Mental Health Programs</td>
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Discussion
Introduction of Policy Analysis Process

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<td>Frank and Gilied, Chapter 4, Health Care Financing…</td>
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<td>American Psychosis, Chapter 4, The short …</td>
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Discussion
Policy analysis Team Step 1

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Policy Analysis Team Step 3

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<td>SPRING BREAK! ENJOY!!!!!</td>
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3-9-20

3/10/20
1. Frank and Gilied  Chapter 7, Assessing Wellbeing.
2. American Psychosis  Chapter 7 Dimensions of the current…
3. Insanity Defense  Chapter 7, God Does Not…
Discussion
Policy Analysis Team Step 4 and 5

Discussion
3-16-20

3/17/20

1. Frank and Gilied  Chapter 8, Looking Forward…
2. American Psychosis  Chapter 8 Solutions…
3. Insanity Defense  Chapter 8, The Consequences…
Discussion
Policy Analysis Team Step 6 and 7

3-23-20

3/24/20

1. The Insanity Defense Chapter 10,11,12
Discussion
Policy Analysis Team Step 8

4-6-20

4/7/20

In Class Examination

4-13-20

4/14/20

Presentations

4-20-20

4/21/20

Wrap-Up!