

SOCI 345¹

Sociology of Mental Health, Summer 2023

Instructor: Ashley Berard, aberard@uvic.ca

Course Description:

This course will provide a sociological overview of the construction of mental health and illness. Topics will include; the theoretical foundations of the sociology of mental health, the social conditions that influence mental well-being, the experiences and social meanings of mental illness and its treatment, institutionalization and deinstitutionalization, and the social construction of mental conditions. The course will also cover the intersections of mental health and social media, as well as mental health and colonization.

This course will be fully online. Live Zoom lectures will occur Mondays from 6:30-8:20pm and will be recorded. Instead of a lecture on Wednesday, students will be required to complete a weekly asynchronous component, which will occur on Brightspace.

Course Description:

The learning objectives are: (1) to become familiar with key sociological concepts and debates concerning the nature of mental illness; (2) to gain a broad understanding of the relationship between mental illness and mental health in relation to various aspects of social structure; (3) to develop insights into the lived experience of mental illness; and (4) to become aware of alternate paradigms for mitigating the impact of mental illness and improving mental health.

Course Pre-requisites:

There are no pre-requisites for Soci 345. Students from outside Sociology and/or the Faculty of Social Science are encouraged to take this course.

Required Resources May Include:

There is no textbook for this course. All required readings will be listed in the course syllabus and will be available via Brightspace. Material will include journal articles, textbook chapters, and videos.

¹ Please note that this online outline is only intended to give an overall and approximate sense of the course. A detailed course outline will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.