

HSTM 30832/40332
Madness and Society in the Modern Age
Semester 2
Lectures: Tuesdays 10-11; Seminars: tbc

Drawing on history of medicine, social history, and cultural history, this module examines the histories of mental illness and psychiatry from the late 18th century to the present. We discuss how insanity has been understood, treated, represented and experienced within larger social, cultural and intellectual frameworks. Our focus is on developments in Britain, but with frequent reference to developments in Continental Europe and North America.



The topics we investigate include:

- Reform and the expansion of asylums in the 19th century
- The role of biological explanations for and biological treatments of mental illness, from phrenology to ECT
- Gender, culture, race, and representations and experiences of madness
- Shell-shock, Freud, and interwar British culture
- The rise of psychopharmacology

TEACHING: This module meets for one lecture and one seminar per week. Course materials include primary sources, from asylum admissions records to films and advertisements, as well as scholarly analyses.

CREDITS: available as either a 10-credit (HSTM30832) or 20-credit module (HSTM40332).

ASSESSMENT:

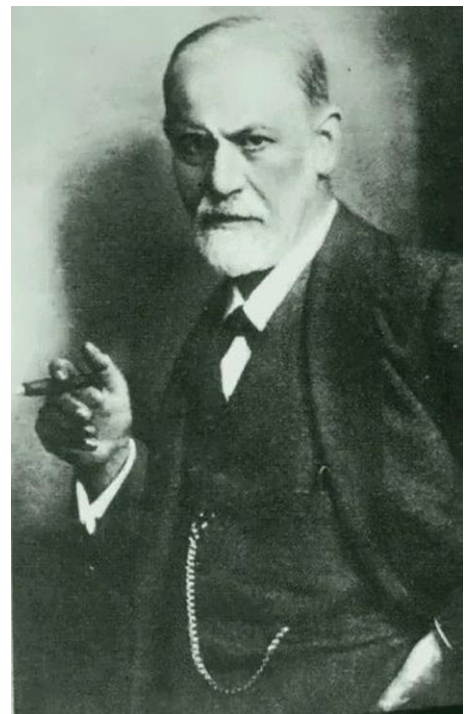
We hope that assessment in 2020/21 will be by coursework only. (this still has to be confirmed)

10-credit students will submit an article review (500 words) and a short (1000 word) piece of writing: either historically informed creative writing or a blog post.

20-credit students also submit a longer research project essay (3000 words) using both primary and secondary sources.

Some typical project essay topics are:

- Popular representations of the relationship between Freud and his patients
- Depictions of shell shock in centenary commemorations of the Great War



This module does NOT require a science background, nor does it require any prerequisite HSTM units.

QUESTIONS? WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Contact Dr Carsten Timmermann (Carsten.timmermann@manchester.ac.uk)