

Madness and Society in the Modern Age

Semester 2. Unit Coordinator: Prof Carsten Timmermann

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 Continental Europe and North America. We also look at psychiatry in colonial contexts.



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, race, culture, 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. Seminars are focused on discussion of readings and small group learning activities. Our materials include primary sources, from asylum admissions records to films and advertisements, as well as scholarly analyses.

CREDITS: available as either a 10-credit or 20-credit module.

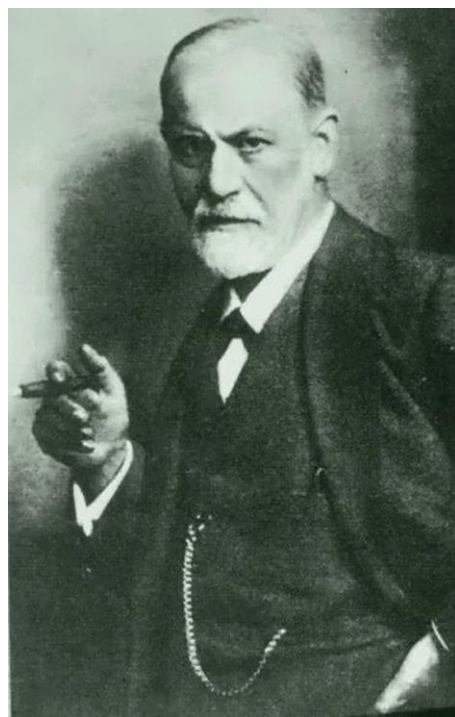
ASSESSMENT:

10-credit students write a short (1000 word) essay and take a final exam. The short essay counts for 50% and the exam for 50% of the module mark.

20-credit students also write a research project essay (3000 words) using both primary and secondary sources; the project essay contributes 50% to the overall mark, the short essay 25%, and the exam 25%.

INDICATIVE READING:

- ✓ Andrew Scull, *Madness in Civilization: A Cultural History of Insanity* (Thames & Hudson, 2015).
- ✓ Tracey Loughran, *Shell-Shock and Medical Culture in First World War Britain* (Cambridge University Press, 2016).
- ✓ David L. Herzberg, *Happy Pills in America: From Miltown to Prozac* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009).



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

QUESTIONS? WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Email the unit coordinator: carsten.timmermann@manchester.ac.uk

Or join me for a virtual Q&A session on zoom, on Wed 14 June, 11am-12noon, <https://zoom.us/j/97769172041>