COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the role of media in shaping our understanding of mental health and mental illness. Students will produce traditional, academic assignments as well as work aimed at non-academic audiences.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students should be able to:
- Critically analyze and discuss the dominant discourse and commonly held assumptions regarding mental health and mental illness.
- Identify, analyze and discuss propaganda and its use and influence in mental health, broadly speaking.
- Critically analyze, describe and discuss roles played by and influence of the media in popular portrayals of mental health and mental illness.
- Review and critically analyze relevant literature to enable and advance understanding.
- Demonstrate proficiency in skills related to research and effective academic communication.
- Participate in the co-creation of a learning experience that is vital and engaging.

PREREQUISITES AND/OR ANTIREQUISITES:

**FIMS:** Requisites: Restricted to years 3 & 4 FIMS modules. Not open to MIT minor module. Cross-listed with HS3093F. Antirequisite: MIT 3432F if taken in 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18 or 2018-19.

**SHS:** Requisites: School of Health Studies registration restricted to students in their 3rd or 4th year. Cross-listed with MIT3202F.

**NOTE:** Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

**Extra Information:** 3 lecture hours.

**Course Weight:** 0.5 course.
COURSE INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Marnie Wedlake, PhD, RP
Email: mwedlak@uwo.ca (contact me using this email address only — PLEASE INCLUDE THE COURSE NUMBER IN THE SUBJECT LINE)

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:30am to 12:00pm — Meetings will take place using Zoom (sign-up available in OWL)

Teaching Assistant: Tania Al-Jilawi; Email: tania.al-jilawi@schulich.uwo.ca

Course Website: https://owl.uwo.ca

NOTE: All lectures will be offered both in-person and online. Students may choose to attend either the in-person lectures OR the online, asynchronous lectures.

***YOU DO NOT HAVE TO TELL DR. WEDLAK OR THE TA IF YOU DECIDE TO ATTEND THE ONLINE LECTURES. AND YOU DO NOT NEED TO TELL DR. WEDLAK OR THE TA WHY YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO ATTEND THE ONLINE LECTURES.***

Days & Times of In-person Lectures: Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30pm

Location of In-person Lectures: FNB-1200

Online Lectures: Will be posted to OWL by 9:00am on Mondays

NOTE REGARDING IN-PERSON LEARNING:

1. In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, all remaining course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

2. Students will be expected to wear triple layer non-medical masks at all times in the classroom as per university policy and public health directives. Students who are unable to wear a mask for medical reasons should seek accommodation through Accessible Education.

3. Students are expected not to eat or drink while in class to ensure masks stay in place. Students will be able to eat and drink outside of the classroom during scheduled breaks.

ASSIGNED READINGS AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS:

There are no textbooks for this course. All assigned readings will be available, without cost, through Western’s Library System, online and/or through our OWL site.

Readings and course materials will be assigned for each topic of the course. Sources might include peer reviewed journal articles, grey literature, popular press articles, films, video clips, website content, etc.
Materials assigned will correspond to the lecture topic. Additional materials may be assigned at any time, and will be posted on the course website. Students are responsible for the content covered in all assigned course materials.

**A COMPLETE LIST OF LECTURE TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS WILL BE POSTED TO OWL BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS.**

**LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

This course experience will function according to the assumption that successful learning happens in environments where learning is co-created by the instructor and the students.

As the instructor, I will endeavour to provide students with course experiences that are optimally engaging, motivating, and interesting. In return, I will expect students to attend all classes, and contribute to the collaborative nature of the learning experience through their active participation in discussions, by completing the assigned readings, and by offering constructive feedback as will be deemed useful to the overall learning experience.

Ideally, we will co-create a learning environment that welcomes and encourages group dialogues that are dynamic, passionate, and open-minded. That is, a learning experience that is vital and engaging for all. In this regard, it is my hope that we will come together in the spirit of community and shared interest to co-create a learning environment that is supported by civility and mutual respect. In doing so, we will set the stage for a healthy and stimulating intellectual forum.

Finally, if you are having problems with any aspect of the course, please contact me. I’m genuinely committed to your learning experience, I’m approachable, and I welcome your comments, your constructive criticisms and, of course, your questions.

**EVALUATION**

1. **Critical Analysis based on ONE of a choice of SIX films – 15%** - Due Monday October 4th 2021. **Must be submitted through OWL by 4:00pm on Monday October 4th 2021.** Complete details regarding the film analysis will be provided at the beginning of the term.


3. **Two-part Group Project – 40% (Part 1 = 20% + Part 2 = 20%).** Due dates: **Part 1 will be due on Monday November 22nd 2021. Part 2 will be due on Monday December 6th 2021. Both parts must be submitted through OWL by 4:00pm on the date they are due.**

The group project will consist of 2 parts: a written submission and a presentation delivered to the class. Students will be randomly assigned to groups. The number of students assigned to each group will depend on the number of students enrolled in the course.

Complete details regarding the group project will be provided in the month of September.
4. 500 Word Personal Reflection Paper – 10%. Due Wednesday December 8th 2021. Must be submitted through OWL by 4:00pm on Wednesday December 8th 2021. This project is your opportunity to reflect on your experience of the course.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

With this, I respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. I acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (e.g. First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and I accept responsibility as a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and community service.

GENERAL COURSE NOTES PROVIDED SEPARATELY FOR MIT AND SHS

MEDIA, INFORMATION & TECHNOCULTURE - NOTES FROM THE FIMS DEAN’S OFFICE

Rights and Responsibilities
The conditions governing a student’s ability to pursue their undergraduate education at Western are ratified by Senate and can be found on the Academic Policies section of the University Secretariat: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/rights_responsibilities.html

Statement on Academic Offences
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: Academic Calendar - Western University (uwo.ca)

Plagiarism
Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software Turnitin under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system.

Accommodation Policies
Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities.
**Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the semester, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student’s final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances: during exam periods, absence of a duration greater than 48 hours, assessments worth more than 30% of the student’s final grade, if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year.

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are NOT met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate, if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact the FIMS Undergraduate Student Services Office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student’s home Faculty. For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see Policy on Academic Consideration For Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see: https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/pdf/medicalform.pdf

In the event of a Covid-19 resurgence, it is possible that different procedures may need to be put in place on short notice.

**Religious Accommodation**

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Academic Calendar.

**Grading at FIMS**

- Normally, first year courses required for entry into an MIT or MPI module (MIT 1020E and MIT 1025F/G) are expected to have a course average between 68-72%.
- Normally, second year required courses (MIT 2000, 2100, 2200, 2500) are expected to have a course average between 70 and 75%.
- Normally, third year required courses (MIT 3000, 3100) are expected to have a course average between 72 and 77%.

Elective courses and 4th year seminars have no recommended course averages.

**Support Services**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/

- **Office of the Registrar**: https://www.registrar.uwo.ca
- **Mental Health Support**: https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html
• **Accessible Education**: http://academicsupport.uwo.ca
• **Accessibility Information**: https://www.accessibility.uwo.ca
• **Writing Support Centre**: http://writing.uwo.ca
• **Learning Skills Services**: https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/
• **Academic Learning and Support for Online Learning**: https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/types/academic-and-learning-support.html
• **Indigenous Services**: https://indigenous.uwo.ca
• **Western International**: https://international.uwo.ca
• **Career Centre**: http://careerexperience.uwo.ca

**Suggested Grade Ranges in MIT, MPI and MTP**

**Guidelines to the MIT Grade Range**
These guidelines are benchmarks, and are not to be followed as rigid regulations. They will be adjusted as appropriate to take into account the level of the course and any specific instructions given by a professor. As well, competency in English language usage (including spelling and grammar) may be taken into account in the assignment of grades by individual instructors. Note that the 70-79 grade range is broken into two divisions, as this is the grade range into which a large number of students fall.

- **90-100 (Outstanding, A+)**
  The report shows sparkling originality and exhibits a high degree of critical analysis of the topic. Sophisticated synthesis and analysis of the theoretical and conceptual dimensions of the topic are demonstrated. Mastery of complex material and ideas is immediately evident. The topic is treated with sensitivity and subtlety of thought. The quality of the writing and background research is exemplary.

- **80-89 (Excellent, A)**
  The report shows originality and exhibits a high degree of critical analysis of the topic; it gets to the heart of the matter with comments and/or questions. It is clearly focused and logically organized. The quality of writing makes the report immediately understandable. Mastery of complex material and ideas is demonstrated. The report is of appropriate length, while preserving the priorities and emphasis of the material, so that the result is meaningful, not simplistic.

- **75-79 (Very Good, B+)**
  The report shows above average analysis, critical thinking and independent thought. Claims are supported by ample evidence and the components of the topic are well-researched and presented. The topic is addressed in reasonable depth and/or breadth and covers material appropriate to the course. The analysis is organized around focal points and the argument is easily followed. The report demonstrates an above average ability to write in an intelligible style and to condense material meaningfully and with a concern for priorities of that material.

- **70-74 (Good, B)**
  The report shows an attempt at analysis and critical thinking. Claims are supported by reasonable evidence. The topic is addressed in some depth and/or breadth, with references to the appropriate literature and course material. The analysis is organized around focal points. The report is generally well written and well argued.

- **60-69 (Competent, C)**
  The report demonstrates adequate comprehension of the topic. The report is on topic and is a reasonable summary of material covered in the course, but goes no further. Facts are stated
accurately; the quality of writing is sufficiently intelligible with enough elaboration and enough connections made between ideas to permit a reader to understand the point of the report.

- **50-59 (Marginal, D)**
The report shows less than adequate comprehension of the topic and of the material covered by the course. The report is a less than adequate summary of sources and/or is considerably off-topic. Facts are stated inaccurately or ambiguously; the writing style is difficult to follow; there is insufficient elaboration to permit reader’s comprehension of relations among ideas; little judgment is shown in selecting detail for inclusion in the report.

- **Below 50 (Unacceptable, F)**
The report demonstrates a failure to comprehend the topic. The material is disorganized and unintelligible. The report clearly does not meet the minimal requirements of the assignment.

**Guidelines of Academic Appeals for FIMS Students**

**Grounds for Appeal**

The Faculty of Information and Media Studies does not view the appeals process as an opportunity for students to solicit a second opinion on a grade assigned to a particular piece of work. Appeals must pertain to the final grade in a course, and will only be entertained if sufficient grounds for appeal can be met, including: medical or compassionate circumstances, a defect in the evaluation process, bias, inaccuracy or unfairness.

**Stages in the Appeals Process**

The first stage of the process is a discussion of the disputed grade with the appropriate Teaching Assistant (if applicable), and subsequently, the course Instructor. For grades assigned to individual assignments, essays, lab reports, projects and tests completed throughout the term, the student first must appeal to the Teaching Assistant or Instructor of the course, within three weeks of the date on which the Instructor or Teaching Assistant returned the assignments to the class. The Appeals Committee will not hear any further appeals about the final grade in any course unless this first step has been taken.

If completion of the first stage has not resolved the matter, the student may appeal the final grade in the course to the FIMS Appeals Committee. Appeals of final grades must be within the time frame indicated in the Undergraduate Calendar. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the appeal is submitted within the deadline. The student shall submit a formal letter to the FIMS Appeals Committee outlining the grounds for the appeal, the remedy sought and relevant materials including the information about when and with whom (Teaching Assistant and/or Instructor) the student met, as described in Stage 1. If the appeal involves a request for work to be regraded, the original marked work and a clean copy (if possible) must be included. If the appeal is commenced once the deadline has passed, it will not be considered either by the Appeals Committee or by the Associate Dean.

The FIMS Appeals Committee has the discretion to determine whether the grounds for appeal have been met. If the Committee deems that the reasons for the appeal are not legitimate, the Associate Dean will be informed. The appeal will be terminated and the student will be informed.

If the Committee decides that the grounds for appeal have been met, the following steps will be taken: 1. the course Instructor will be shown the appeal letter and offered an opportunity to make a written response; 2. if work is to be regraded, a reader will be appointed who is competent in the area in
question and was not involved in the assignment of the original mark. The reader will consider the work in question and will arrive at an independent evaluation. If there is a large discrepancy between the original mark and the regraded mark, a second reader may be appointed by the Committee. If the appointed reader(s) arrive at a grade within five marks of the original, the original grade will stand.

The FIMS Appeals Committee will review the evidence and will make a recommendation on the case to the Associate Dean Undergraduate. The Associate Dean Undergraduate will consider the recommendation from the Appeals Committee, and will make a decision. The student and the instructor will be notified promptly and in writing by the Associate Dean of the decision and of the change in grade, if any. Within the Faculty of Information and Media Studies, the Associate Dean's decision on the matter is final. Further appeals are possible under certain circumstances to the Senate Review Board Academic (for Undergraduate students) or to the Faculty of Graduate Studies (for Graduate students) but the student should carefully consult the guidelines regarding such Appeals.

GENERAL COURSE NOTES - SCHOOL OF HEALTH STUDIES

Academic Consideration

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by extenuating circumstances, including short-term illness or injury. Reasonable academic consideration is a cooperative process between the University, the student, and academic staff. All participants in the process must act in good faith, and fulfil their respective obligations, if it is to succeed.

Students who experience an extenuating circumstance (illness, injury, or other extenuating circumstance) sufficiently significant as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements, may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

(i) Submitting a Self-Reported Absence form, provided that the conditions for submission are met;
(ii) For medical absences, submitting a Student Medical Certificate (SMC) signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner, in order to be eligible for Academic Consideration; or
(iii) For non-medical absences, submitting appropriate documentation (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to Academic Counselling in their Faculty of registration, in order to be eligible for academic consideration.

Students seeking academic consideration:

• Are advised to consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying handing in work;
• Are encouraged to make appropriate decisions, based on their specific circumstances, recognizing that minor ailments (e.g., upset stomach) or upsets (e.g., argument with a friend) are not normally an appropriate basis for a self-reported absence;
• Must communicate with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by either the self-reported absence or SMC, or immediately upon their return following a documented absence;
• Are advised that all necessary documentation, forms, etc. are to be submitted to academic counselling within two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities.
Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance (48 hours or less) that is sufficiently severe as to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements (e.g., attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours or less. The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

a. Students will be allowed a maximum of two self-reported absences between September and April, and one self-reported absence between May and August;
b. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30pm;
c. The duration of the excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period, should the student undertake significant academic responsibilities (e.g., write a test, submit a paper) during that time;
d. The duration of an excused absence will terminate at 8:30am on the day following the last day of classes each semester, regardless of how many days of absence have elapsed;
e. Self-reported absences will not be allowed for scheduled final examinations; for midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations (i.e., “bellringers”);
f. Self-reporting may not be used for assessments (e.g., midterm exams, tests, reports, presentations, or essays) worth more than 30% of any given course;

Students must be in touch with their instructors no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form, to clarify how they will be expected to fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed.

**On the Use of Electronic Devices**

**During Exams:** Unless you have medical accommodations that require you to do so, or explicit permission from the instructor of the course, you may not use any electronic devices during ANY tests, quizzes, midterms, examinations, or other in-class evaluations.

**During Lectures and Tutorials:** Although you are welcome to use a computer during lecture and tutorial periods, you are expected to use the computer for scholastic purposes only, and refrain from engaging in any activities that may distract other students from learning. From time to time, your professor may ask the class to turn off all computers, to facilitate learning or discussion of the material presented in a particular class. Unless explicitly noted otherwise, you may not make audio or video recordings of lectures – nor may you edit, re-use, distribute, or re-broadcast any of the material posted to the course website.

**Statement on Academic Offences:**
Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/apppeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

**Support Services:**
There are various support services around campus and these include, but are not limited to:
1. Student Development Centre -- [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/)
2. Student Health -- [https://www.uwo.ca/health/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/)

**On Health and Wellness:**

The undergraduate experience is rewarding and challenging socially, emotionally, and intellectually. Finding ways to balance scholarly life with our personal lives can be tough, but it’s important to learn how to manage stress. Western provides several health and wellness-related services to students, which may be found at [http://www.health.uwo.ca/](http://www.health.uwo.ca/). You can also check out the Campus Recreation Centre or the McIntosh Gallery ([http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/](http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/)), for alternative spaces to reconnect with your bodies and restore your spirit. You may also want to access local resources that are closer to where you are living during the school year. Recalibrating ourselves emotionally begins with slowing down, reminding ourselves that we are ok, and taking a few deep, slow breaths. This remarkably effective strategy brings the body from stress mode into a more relaxed state.

If you are in emotional or mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [Mental Health Support - Health & Wellness - Western University (uwo.ca)](http://www.health.uwo.ca/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. To help you learn more about mental health, Western has developed an interactive mental health learning module, found here: [Health & Wellness - Western University (uwo.ca)](http://www.health.uwo.ca/). It’s also advisable to have a wellness safety plan if you don’t want to reach out to formal services. Having the numbers of a few trusted individuals is another strategy.

**The School of Health Studies grade policy:**

The university-wide descriptor of the meaning of letter grades, as approved by Senate:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>Superior work that is clearly above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>Good work, meeting all requirements and eminently satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>Competent work, meeting requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>Fair work, minimally acceptable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>below 50</td>
<td>Fail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is expected that the grades for this course will fall between 74 and 80%. In the event that the course average falls outside this range, a constant may be added (or subtracted) from each student’s grade, by the instructor, to bring the class average in line with school policy.