UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Disease, Science, and Society: Images From The Cinema and History

2223-2-E2004P041

Learning area

LEARNING AREA n. 3: STUDY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ASPECTS RELATED TO COMMUNICATION PROCESSES

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding
According to the Learning Area n°3 (Study of the socioeconomic and cultural issues of communication), the laboratory intends to promote:
• the knowledge and understanding of the problem of the relationship between health & disease, normality & pathology, norm & deviance.
• the knowledge and understanding of the historical roots of stereotypes about mental illnesses.
Capability to apply knowledge and understanding
According to the Learning Area n°3 (Study of the socioeconomic and cultural issues of communication), the laboratory intends to promote:
• the capability of conveying complex contents into clear, incisive and reasoned forms of communication.

Contents

The evolution of the conceptions of the relationship between health & disease, normality & pathology, norm & deviance will be analyzed. By means of a focus on psychiatry, students will be called to recognize and analyze the evolution of those scientific and social representations of mental illness which, historically bound to science and

culture, still represent a relevant conceptual frame of the current communication on the subject.

Detailed program

• Merging and diverging of scientific and social representations of madness
• Mental illness as brain disease: an historical analysis of a commonplace.
• From brain to the person to society: the case of schizophrenia.
• Psychiatry and social criticism.
• The media impact on the public perception of mental illnesses.
• Questioning stereotypes: from mental disease as a natural object to the sick citizen. Mental illness and human condition.

Prerequisites

None

Teaching methods

Presentation and analysis of special issues concerning mental illnesses through the exam of visual materials

Assessment methods

In order to check the capability of conveying such complex contents as those on mental illness and/or health into clear, incisive and reasoned forms of communication, students are required to present a written project of a cultural event (exhibition, literary review, film exhibition, press review, musical review, etc.) on issues connected to the topics addressed in the laboratory.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

• S. Gilman, Immagini della malattia: dalla follia all'AIDS, Bologna, Il Mulino, 1993.
• S. Sontag, Malattia come metafora, Torino, Einaudi, 1979.
• V. Woolf, Sulla malattia, Torino, Bollati Boringhieri, 2006.
• V.P. Babini, Liberi tutti. Manicomi e psichiatri in Italia: una storia del Novecento, Bologna, Il Mulino, 2009.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | REDUCED INEQUALITIES | PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS