Syllabus

CULTURE AND PATHOLOGY - 54200

Last update 12-01-2014

HU Credits:  4

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Cultural Studies

Academic year: 1

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Sigal Gooldin

Coordinator Email: sgoldin@mscc.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Tue 12:30-13:30

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Sigal Gooldin
Course/Module description:
This seminar examines the rise of 'the pathological' as a modern object of cultural knowledge, and the social mechanisms and political and economic contexts which shape 'modern pathologies' such as eating disorders, addictions, infertility, 'sexual deviance', depression, anxiety, 'yuppie disease', and others. Discussions will refer to the following questions: what is pathology? Is the border between 'the normal' and 'the pathological' always distinct? How do modern pathological conditions evolve and do they come to be social, physical, and mental realities?

Course/Module aims:
(A) To introduce students with sociological, anthropological, and historical literature on various aspects of physical, mental, and social 'pathologies', with a particular focus on the social construction of 'pathological states' in late-modernity.
(B) To introduce students with the major analytical tools (theoretical perspectives, concepts, and methodological strategies) for a cultural study of 'pathological states'.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- to develop an individual research project, based on empirical and theoretical knowledge on pathologies and culture in modern societies.

Attendance requirements (%):
minimum 80%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: class meetings, group discussions, individual tutoring.

Course/Module Content:
1. Basic concepts in the study of pathologies in cultures
2. Pathologies and the politics of knowledge
3. Historical transformations in Pathologization and de-pathologization
4. Pathology and social class
5. Medicalization and pathologization of difference and 'others'
6. Pathologies between the global and local
7. Pathologies as a site of conflict
Required Reading:


and Illness 27 (7): 944-971.


Additional Reading Material:


Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 5 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 85 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
N/A