



Department of Philosophy

General information		
Name of the course	Philosophy of psychiatry	
Course instructor	Prof. Luca Malatesti	
Study programme	Undergraduate and graduate study of philosophy Note: This course is part of the Erasmus/YUFE module 'Interdisciplinary studies of the mind', which is jointly offered by the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Psychology for Erasmus/YUFE students (primarily Erasmus/YUFE students of philosophy, psychology, and related disciplines).	
Status of the course	Elective	
Year of study	2022-2023	
Language	English	
ECTS credits and manner of instruction	ECTS credits	6
	Number of class hours (Lectures + Exercises + Seminars)	30+0+0

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION
1.1. Course objectives
The aim of the course is to get to know and research some topics in the modern philosophy of psychiatry. We will first focus on philosophical discussions concerning the nature and credibility of the notion of mental disorder. We will then deal with some recent philosophical analyses of psychiatric explanations.
1.2. Course enrolment requirements and entry competences required for the course
Knowledge of English at least at the B2 level
1.3. Expected course learning outcomes
The course aims at promoting your knowledge of the following notions relative to the topics covered in the lectures (for more details, please see section 1.4. below): philosophers, views, concepts, arguments. Specifically, the course aims at promoting the following capacities: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Philosophers</i>: capacity to associate them to the specific views, arguments, concepts in philosophy of psychiatry that are considered in the course. Some (rough) idea of when and where they proposed these views or arguments.2. <i>Views</i>: ability to state in a concise, clear, and rigorous way the specific problem they aim to solve and their main theses.3. <i>Concepts</i>: ability to define or characterize them in a concise, clear, and rigorous ways and give appropriate examples.4. <i>Arguments</i> (for a solution of a philosophical problem, objections, and replies): Ability to present their structure, clarify their premises and their conclusion. Ability to assess their validity (whether they logically lead to their conclusion) and soundness (if they are valid, whether their premises are true).
1.4. Course content
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>Philosopher Authors</i>: Thomas Szasz, Jerome Wakefield, Michel Foucault, Christopher Boorse, William Fulford, Rachel Cooper, John Campbell.

2. *Views*: Thomas Szasz antipsychiatry, social constructivism, Michel Foucault on psychiatry, medical model of mental illness, biological model of mental illness, mental illness as a failure of ordinary action, naturalism normativism, hybrid theories.
3. *Concepts*: mental disorder, mental cause, symptoms, psychopathology, understanding, mental illness, function and dysfunction, reasons.
4. *Arguments*: for (or against): antipsychiatry, normativism, naturalism and hybrid theories, understanding and causal explanation in psychiatry.

1.5. Manner of instruction

- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Exercises
 - Fieldwork
- ✓ Individual assignments
 - Multimedia and network
 - Mentorship
- ✓ Other: consultations