

Module code: MOD004235	Version: 3 Date Amended: 29/Jun/2017
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1. Module Title
Mental Health and Distress: Approaches to Assessment and Diagnosis

2a. Module Leader
Debora Antoniotti de Vasconcelos e Sa

2b. School
School of Psychology, Sport and Sensory Sciences

2c. Faculty
Faculty of Science and Engineering

3a. Level
7

3b. Module Type
Standard (fine graded)

4a. Credits
30

4b. Study Hours
300

5. Restrictions			
Type	Module Code	Module Name	Condition
Pre-requisites:	None		
Co-requisites:	None		
Exclusions:	None		
Courses to which this module is restricted:	MSc Foundations in Clinical Psychology		

LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

6a. Module Description

The module provides an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of mental health problems and a critical awareness of the social context. It will be useful for students considering further professional training and careers in clinical work with adults, as well as more broadly in terms of understanding and engaging with the lived experience of mental health problems. This module aims to provide students with knowledge about the aetiology of mental health problems, as well as the process of assessment and diagnosis. Taking an applied clinical perspective, it will introduce students to current research into biological and in particular psychological and sociocultural risk factors for mental health problems. The module will explore the current debates and controversies around diagnosis, drawing on psychiatric, psychological and sociological theories, as well as the lived experience of service users. This module thus takes a critical biopsychosocial approach to understanding the aetiology and diagnosis of mental health problems. The module will also explore the process of assessment in clinical psychology, taking into consideration sociocultural factors such as language, media and culture. The module will be delivered through lectures that will involve both taught content and interactive discussion. We will organise regular guest speaker lectures with the aim of providing an insight into different experiences and perspectives, current debates and recent innovations in clinical psychology.

6b. Outline Content

- The role of assessment in diagnosing mental health problems - Contemporary debates in psychiatric classification and diagnosis of mental health problems
Contemporary debates in psychiatric classification and diagnosis of mental health problems - Psychological aetiological models of mental health problems - The role of socio-cultural factors in understanding mental health problems - Mental health service-user experiences

6c. Key Texts/Literature

The reading list to support this module is available at: <https://readinglists.aru.ac.uk/>

6d. Specialist Learning Resources

None

7. Learning Outcomes (threshold standards)		
No.	Type	On successful completion of this module the student will be expected to be able to:
1	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate systematic understanding of various theoretical approaches for understanding the aetiology of mental health problems.
2	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the strengths and limitations of clinical diagnosis.
3	Knowledge and Understanding	Demonstrate a critical awareness of sociocultural factors in understanding the development and lived experience of mental health problems.
4	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Apply theoretical knowledge to case studies
5	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Synthesise information in relation to identified issues, critically evaluate it, and draw appropriate conclusions
6	Intellectual, practical, affective and transferrable skills	Present their research in an appropriate academic style

8a. Module Occurrence to which this MDF Refers				
Year	Occurrence	Period	Location	Mode of Delivery
2026/7	ZZF	Template For Face To Face Learning Delivery		Face to Face

8b. Learning Activities for the above Module Occurrence			
Learning Activities	Hours	Learning Outcomes	Details of Duration, frequency and other comments
Lectures	24	1-6	12 x 2 hour lectures
Other teacher managed learning	0	None	None
Student managed learning	276	1-6	96 hours lecture/seminar reading and 180 hours reading and preparation for coursework
TOTAL:	300		

9. Assessment for the above Module Occurrence					
Assessment No.	Assessment Method	Learning Outcomes	Weighting (%)	Fine Grade or Pass/Fail	Qualifying Mark (%)
010	Coursework	1-6	100 (%)	Fine Grade	50 (%)
4000 word portfolio					

In order to pass this module, students are required to achieve an overall mark of 40% (for modules at levels 3, 4, 5 and 6) or 50% (for modules at level 7*).

In addition, students are required to:

(a) achieve the qualifying mark for each element of fine graded assessment as specified above

(b) pass any pass/fail elements

[* the pass mark of 50% applies for all module occurrences from the academic year 2024/25 – see Section 3a of this MDF to check the level of the module and Section 8a of this MDF to check the academic year]