Course Change Request

Indiana University

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit ☑️ Graduate credit ☐ Professional credit ☐

1. School/Division: College of Arts & Sciences

2. Academic Subject Code: ANTH

3. Current Course Number: E175

4. Current Credit Hours: 3.0

5. Current Title: Mental illness in cross-cultural perspective

6. Effective Semester/Year for changes listed below: Spring 2009

7. Instructor: H. L. Odden

Type of Change Requested (Check appropriate boxes and indicate changes)

☐ 8. Change course number to: ___________________________ (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services)

☑️ 9. Current course title: Mental illness in cross-cultural perspective

Change to: Cultural Psychiatry

Recommended abbreviation (optional) Cultural Psychiatry

☐ 10. Current credit hours fixed at: ________________________ or variable from: _______________________ to

Change to credit hours fixed at: ________________________ or variable from: _______________________ to

☐ 11. Current lecture contact hours fixed at: ________________________ or variable from: _______________________ to

Change to lecture contact hours fixed at: ________________________ or variable from: _______________________ to

☐ 12. Current non-lecture contact hours fixed at: ________________________ or variable from: _______________________ to

Change to non-lecture contact hours fixed at: ________________________ or variable from: _______________________ to

☐ 13. Is this course currently graded with S-F (only) grades? Yes □ □ No □

Change to S-F (only) grading? Yes □ □ No □

☐ 14. Does this course presently have variable title approval? Yes □ □ No □

Is variable title approval being requested? Yes □ □ No □

☐ 15. Is this course being discontinued? For all campuses □ □ or for this campus only □

☐ 16. Current course description: A comparative approach to the different institutional and cultural frameworks in terms of which persons labeled as 'mentally ill' are treated. Cases will be drawn from a range of societies.

Change course description to (not to exceed 50 words) This course surveys contemporary theory and research on the complex interaction of culture and mental health. We will examine a range of mental disorders in various societies, forms of psychiatric treatment and healing, and key concepts and methods used in the study of mental health and culture.

17. Justification for change: See attached sheet

(Use additional paper if necessary)

18. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes □ □ No □

19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of this course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curricular Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: ____________________________ Date: 9/27/08

Department Chairman/Division Director

Date ____________________________

Dean of Graduate School (when required)

Approved by: ____________________________ Date: 7/27/08

Dean

Chancellor/Vice-President

Date ____________________________

University Enrollment Services

Date ____________________________

University Enrollment Services Final-White; Chancellor/Vice-President-Blue; School/Division-Yellow; Department/Division-Pink; University Enrollment Services Advance-White
Original course title and description:

*Mental Illness in Cross-Cultural Perspective*

A comparative approach to the different institutional and cultural frameworks in terms of which persons labeled as “mentally ill” are treated. Cases will be drawn from a range of societies.

Proposed course title and description:

*Cultural Psychiatry*

This course surveys contemporary theory and research on the complex interaction of culture and mental health. We will examine a range of mental disorders in various societies, forms of psychiatric treatment and healing across cultures, and key concepts and methods used in the study of mental health and culture.

Justification for proposed changes in title and description

I propose a shift in course title and course description for three reasons. First, the proposed title and course description more accurately describes current work and research in this subfield than does the original. Written in 1978, the original course title and description reflected a narrower conception of the field of study as focused principally on the study of cultural variations in the definition of “normal” and “abnormal” behaviors, thoughts, and feelings, and how those definitions lead to differences in treatment of persons labeled “mentally ill”. Research over the last thirty years has argued for a more substantial role for social and cultural processes in influencing the prevalence, trajectory, symptoms, outcomes and experience of different forms of mental distress across cultures. The proposed course description also notes the inclusion of study of psychiatric treatment and healing across cultures. This will include not only discussion of the role different forms of symbolic and ritual healing may play in managing psychiatric distress across cultures, but also the important debates on the cultural construction of mental illness and psychiatric practice in the West (i.e., debates on the medicalization of ordinary distress as “depression”, the rise of biological psychiatry).

Second, the proposed course title uses a more commonly known term of reference for the particular field of study. While there are certainly other possible course titles, including “psychiatric anthropology”, “culture and mental health”, “cross-cultural psychiatry” and “transcultural psychiatry”, this term would bring IPFW more in line with the term used by other institutions (e.g., McGill University, UCLA, UC Davis, Washington University — St. Louis, University College London, Brunel University) to describe similar courses. It is also a term that appears with increasing regularity in important textbooks in psychiatry, clinical psychology, and anthropology (e.g., *Textbook of Cultural Psychiatry* by Bhugra & Bhui (2007), *Clinical Manual of Cultural Psychiatry* by Lim (2006), *Cultural Psychiatry and Medical Anthropology: An Introduction* by Littlewood & Dein (2000), and *Handbook of Cultural Psychiatry* by Tseng (2001)).

Third and finally, a more concise course title will also greatly increase comprehension of the course on Oasis and students’ transcripts. Currently the shortened form of the existing course title is the extraordinarily unwieldy “Mtl Ilns In Crs Crl Pr”. In its place, “Cultural Psychiatry” (19 characters with spaces) could be listed without the need for abbreviation.