

WGST 3812
Mad Studies: Theories and Politics
Dr. Fady Shanouda
Winter 2022

Course Description

This course invites students to challenge dominant discourses around mental health in Canada and globally. Students will learn about mad people's history through the writings and stories of mad-identified people and scholars. They will also explore the rise of asylums, different forms of psychiatric intervention, and the benefits and consequences of deinstitutionalization. The intersections between sanism and other systems of oppression, including colonialism, racism, misogyny, queer and transphobia and fatphobia, will also be explored. We will also consider madness and its intersections with education, media, economic systems and what it means to be mad in our times. Finally, the course will culminate with a look at mad pride, a social justice movement with a long Canadian history and one that continues to be active in constructing mad counter-narratives.

Assignments and Participation

Students will be asked to demonstrate their learning through traditional written assignments and non-traditional arts-based and creative projects. In addition, students will be expected to co-facilitate the course and be asked to determine one or two of the learning objectives for the course. Participation is defined broadly and will take multiple forms, including in-class and online discussions and drawing, doodling, and other creative forms of expression.

Events

For one of the assignments, students will be asked to attend one of three events scheduled throughout the term and write a critical reflection. These events will either be in-person and within the Ottawa area or online. All events will aim to be accessible.