

SS5836: EVIDENCE-BASED ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF MENTAL DISORDERS

Effective Term

Semester A 2025/26

Part I Course Overview

Course Title

Evidence-based Assessment and Management of Mental Disorders

Subject Code

SS - Social and Behavioural Sciences

Course Number

5836

Academic Unit

Social and Behavioural Sciences (SS)

College/School

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CH)

Course Duration

One Semester

Credit Units

3

Level

P5, P6 - Postgraduate Degree

Medium of Instruction

Other Languages

Other Languages for Medium of Instruction

English, supplemented by Cantonese/Putonghua in live demonstration, skills rehearsal, and role-play exercises as situation requires

Medium of Assessment

English

Prerequisites

Nil

Precursors

Nil

Equivalent Courses

Nil

Exclusive Courses

Nil

Part II Course Details

Abstract

This course aims to provide students with a theoretical understanding and assessment skills from a medical perspective for working with people with common mental disorders. This course provides students with knowledge of medical treatment, including: efficacy, side effects, benefits and limitations of conventional and atypical psychiatric medications; classifications and underlying mechanisms of common psychiatric medications; and assessments and monitoring of side effects. In addition, the theoretical framework, guidelines and skills for assessing the mental state of people with mental health problems are introduced.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (CILOs)

CILOs		Weighting (if app.)	DEC-A1	DEC-A2	DEC-A3
1	Explain the diagnostic criteria and clinical features, aetiology, treatment, and management of common mental disorders in adults	40	x	x	
2	Apply selected theoretical models in assessing the needs of people with common mental health problems	30	x	x	
3	Demonstrate assessment skills in assessing the mental state of people experiencing mental health problems	30	x	x	

A1: Attitude

Develop an attitude of discovery/innovation/creativity, as demonstrated by students possessing a strong sense of curiosity, asking questions actively, challenging assumptions or engaging in inquiry together with teachers.

A2: Ability

Develop the ability/skill needed to discover/innovate/create, as demonstrated by students possessing critical thinking skills to assess ideas, acquiring research skills, synthesizing knowledge across disciplines or applying academic knowledge to real-life problems.

A3: Accomplishments

Demonstrate accomplishment of discovery/innovation/creativity through producing /constructing creative works/new artefacts, effective solutions to real-life problems or new processes.

Learning and Teaching Activities (LTAs)

LTAs		Brief Description	CILO No.	Hours/week (if applicable)
1	Lectures	Introduction to the diagnostic criteria, clinical features, aetiology, prognosis, medical treatment, and management of common mental disorders.	1, 2	

2	Case Studies	Clinical cases of common mental disorders are discussed in class to enhance students' understanding of diagnostic criteria and clinical features as well as assessment skills and management strategies.	2, 3	
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Assessment Tasks / Activities (ATs)

	ATs	CILO No.	Weighting (%)	Remarks ("-" for nil entry)	Allow Use of GenAI?
1	Quiz	1, 2	20	-	No
2	Group presentation	1, 3	30	In the group presentation, students are allowed using AI to: (1) conduct proof editing; (2) conduct preliminary analyses or literature review; (3) do graphic design of PowerPoint slides, including picture, animation, etc.	Yes
3	Case Report	1, 2, 3	50	-	No

Continuous Assessment (%)

100

Additional Information for ATs**Assessment Details****AM1: Quiz (20%)**

Students are required to take a quiz for consolidating their knowledge of mental disorders, such as diagnostic criteria, clinical features, and management strategies.

AM2: Group Presentation (30%)

Students are grouped into small groups (subject to the final class size) to make a case presentation on a common mental disorder.

AM3: Case Report (50%)

Each student is required to write a case report of approximately 2,500 words on a person with a mental disorder, and discuss the symptoms and clinical features of the mental disorder according to the DSM - 5-TR and management strategies.

Assessment Rubrics (AR)**Assessment Task**

1. Quiz (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Application of key concepts and knowledge in relation the common mental disorders

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent understanding of the common mental disorders

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good understanding of the common mental disorders

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate understanding of the common mental disorders

Marginal

(D) Marginal understanding of the common mental disorders

Failure

(F) Poor understanding of the common mental disorders

Assessment Task

2. Group presentation (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Application of key concepts in understanding the clinical features of a case study

Application of assessment skills in assessing the mental state for a case study

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent understanding of the chosen mental disorder of the case study
& Excellent assessment skills

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good understanding of the chosen mental disorder of the case study & Good assessment skills

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate understanding of the chosen mental disorder of the case study
& Adequate assessment skills

Marginal

(D) Marginal understanding of the chosen mental disorder of the case study & Marginal assessment skills

Failure

(F) Poor understanding of the chosen mental disorder of the case study & Poor assessment skills

Assessment Task

3. Case Report (Applicable to students admitted before Semester A 2022/23 and in Semester A 2024/25 & thereafter)

Criterion

Analyse the characteristics of a mental disorder with current classification system (DSM-5-TR)

Ability to organize, synthesize & analyse

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent organisation and quality of material & Excellent analysis

Good

(B+, B, B-) Good organisation and quality of material & Good analysis

Fair

(C+, C, C-) Adequate organisation and quality of material & Adequate analysis

Marginal

(D) Marginal organisation and quality of material & Marginal analysis

Failure

(F) Poor organisation and quality of material & Poor analysis

Assessment Task

1.Quiz (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Application of key concepts and knowledge in relation the common mental disorders

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent understanding of the common mental disorders

Good

(B+, B) Good understanding of the common mental disorders

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Adequate understanding of the common mental disorders

Failure

(F) Poor understanding of the common mental disorders

Assessment Task

2. Group presentation (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Application of key concepts in understanding the clinical features of a case study

Application of assessment skills in assessing the mental state for a case study

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent understanding of the chosen mental disorder of the case study & Excellent assessment skills

Good

(B+, B) Good understanding of the chosen mental disorder of the case study & Good assessment skills

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Adequate understanding of the chosen mental disorder of the case study & Adequate assessment skills

Failure

(F) Poor understanding of the chosen mental disorder of the case study & Poor assessment skills

Assessment Task

3. Case Report (Applicable to students admitted from Semester A 2022/23 to Summer Term 2024)

Criterion

Analyse the characteristics of a mental disorder with current classification system (DSM-5-TR)

Ability to organize, synthesize & analyse

Excellent

(A+, A, A-) Excellent organisation and quality of material & Excellent analysis

Good

(B+, B) Good organisation and quality of material & Good analysis

Marginal

(B-, C+, C) Adequate organisation and quality of material & Adequate analysis

Failure

(F) Poor organisation and quality of material & Poor analysis

Part III Other Information

Keyword Syllabus**1.1** Theoretical framework

An overview of genetic, biological and other factors contributing to the development of mental disorders

1.2 Diagnosis

Classification criteria and clinical features of common mental disorders in adults according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fifth edition, text revision (DSM-5-TR)

1.3 Assessment skills

Practice guidelines and skills in Mental State Examination

1.4 Management strategies

Medical treatment, Psychoeducation and other psychosocial interventions

Reading List**Compulsory Readings**

Title	
1	Taylor, E. H. (2015). Assessing, diagnosing, and treating serious mental disorders: A bioecological approach. Oxford University Press.

Additional Readings

Title	
1	American Psychiatric Association (2022). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders, Text Revision, DSM-5-TR. American Psychiatric Association
2	Butcher, J. N., Hooley, J. M., & Hooley, J. M. (2018). APA Handbook of psychopathology: Psychopathology: Understanding, assessing, and treating adult mental disorders. American Psychological Association
3	Hooley, J., Nock, M., and Butcher, J. (2021). Abnormal Psychology (18th ed.). Pearson Education.