

Course Type	Course Code	Name of the Course	L	T	P	Credits
DE	NHSD553	Philosophy of Psychiatry	3	0	0	3

Course Objective
To enable students to understand psychiatry and other mental health disciplines. It examines the conceptual, theoretical, and ethical frameworks that underpin our understanding of mental health and illness. During the course, the students will critically engage with questions about the nature of psychiatric knowledge, the classification of mental disorders, and the ethical challenges in mental healthcare practices.
Learning Outcomes
After successful completion of the course, the students should be able to:
1. Recognise and analyse the social, moral, and scientific aspects of psychiatric practices.
2. Evaluate the controversies on the nature of mental disorders and psychiatric practices
3. Use philosophical analysis to evaluate psychiatric sciences.

Unit No.	Topics to be Covered	Lecture Hours	Learning Outcome
1	<i>Introduction</i> The scientific status of psychiatry, Social construction of disease, Anti-psychiatry movements.	9	Understand the psychiatry's scientific status as a hybrid field which blending natural with social sciences and the myth around mental illness.
2	<i>DSM and its Critics</i> The origin and history of DSM, Classification in psychiatry, DSM and the scientific status of psychiatry, The limitations of DSM classification.	6	Discuss how the DSM faces criticism for over-medicalizing normal life and illustrate the lacking of clear biological grounding and blurring of categories.
3	<i>The Definition of Mental Disorder</i> The biological and normative aspects of mental disorder, Naturalistic, normative, and hybrid account of mental disorder.	9	Understand the determination of mental health and the boundary between biological facts and social values on defining the concept of mental disorder.
4	<i>Metaphysics of Mental Disorder</i> What are psychiatric kinds? Constructivism and naturalism, Biological kinds, interactive kinds, practical kinds, The relation between the mental and the physical, The autonomy of mental disorder.	9	Discuss the nature of psychiatric disorder and examine how personality disorder is just maladaptive traits and constructing the social from the biological in medicine
5	<i>Causation, Social and Moral issues</i> Different accounts of causation and explanation in psychiatry, Mechanistic causation and its limitations, Mental causation, levels of explanation, Consent and patient's autonomy, Epistemic and hermeneutic injustice, and psychiatric diagnosis, Race and Gender and psychiatric diagnosis	9	Understand causal mechanisms in psychiatry and how to overcome hermeneutical and epistemic injustice in mental health.
Total Lecture Hours		42	

Text Books:

1. Radden, Jennifer (2004). *The Philosophy of Psychiatry: A Companion* (ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.
2. Wilkinson, Sam (2023). *Philosophy of Psychiatry: A Contemporary Introduction*. Routledge.

References:

1. Cooper, Rachel (2007). *Psychiatry and Philosophy of Science*. Routledge.
2. American Psychiatric Association (2013). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders [DSM-5]*, 5th edn. Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Association
3. Kenneth S. Kendler and Josef Parnas (2008). *Philosophical Issues In Psychiatry Explanation, Phenomenology, and Nosology* (Eds.). Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.