# COURSE DETAIL

| MINDS AND MADNESS |
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| **Country**<br>Australia |
| **Host Institution**<br>University of Melbourne |
| **Program(s)**<br>University of Melbourne |
| **UCEAP Course Level**<br>Upper Division |
| **UCEAP Subject Area(s)**<br>Psychology Philosophy History |
| **UCEAP Course Number**<br>129 |
| **UCEAP Course Suffix** |
| **UCEAP Official Title**<br>MINDS AND MADNESS |
| **UCEAP Transcript Title**<br>MINDS AND MADNESS |
| **UCEAP Quarter Units**<br>6.00 |
| **UCEAP Semester Units**<br>4.00 |

**Course Description**
What is the mind? What does it mean for the mind to malfunction? And how should it be treated when this occurs? “Minds and Madness” provides an historical over-view of responses to these questions by patients, medical practitioners, and society as a whole. Once considered the seat of the soul, the human mind has been captured by science, reduced to a brain, “a hard-wired” neural network. Metaphysical explanations of madness (theological and magical) have been superseded by scientific theories (neurological and material), thus reshaping our understanding and experience of madness. Therapies have transformed accordingly. In exploring these important issues, the course visits the spaces and places of “Minds and Madness,” including: the ship of fools, Bedlam, the asylum, the psychiatrist's couch and GPs rooms, the battlefield, the operating theatre, and the padded cell. It introduces students to a cast of thousands, including: the fool (from King Lear and elsewhere), Burton, Descartes, Locke, Pinel, Kraepelin, Cotton, Freud, Laing, Engel and Spitzer. It analyzes and critiques changing conceptions of mental diagnoses. It delves into the new world of our contemporary neurosciences. Finally, it explores how historians have made sense of this story.

**Language(s) of Instruction**
English

**Host Institution Course Number**
HPSC30019

**Host Institution Course Title**
MINDS AND MADNESS

**Host Institution Course Details**
https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/view/2015/hpsc30019

**Host Institution Campus**
Melbourne

**Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**
History & Philosophy of Science

**Course Last Reviewed**
2023-2024

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