Course Description: Anthropology and psychiatry have a long and complicated history of mutual engagement and each has informed research and practice in the other. After exploring classic formulations of this relationship, we will turn to ethnographic studies of those labeled mentally ill, the institutions designed to serve them, and historic and contemporary cultural critiques of psychiatry. A focal point of the class is a series of case studies of several major psychiatric disorders, an assessment of how psychopharmaceuticals and the move toward neuroscience are transforming understandings of psychiatric disorders, and how these forces intersect with suffering and social inequality both locally and globally. Discussions throughout the course will focus not only on the experience of distress, but also on the ways in which distress can be transformed.