
SYLLABUS

Course Description: A biblical and theological reflection on, and examination of common issues and concerns normally associated with the need for psychological treatment. Etiology, diagnosis, and treatment/care will be addressed. Foci of study may include depression, anxiety, loneliness, addictions, gender issues and human sexuality.

Course Goals

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the theoretical and scientific foundations of, and the current thinking about psychopathology
2. Demonstrate a working knowledge of the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of both the appropriate uses and the limitations of the current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders
4. Demonstrate an ability to construct a multi-axial diagnosis from data supplied in a case study.
5. Demonstrate an awareness and rudimentary understanding of the field of psychopharmacology in the treatment of cases with identified psychopathology.
6. Demonstrate understanding of the general principles and methods of case conceptualization and diagnosis of mental and emotional status employing both sound theological foundations and responsible clinical acumen.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the biological, sociological, psychological and spiritual aspects of psychopathology.

Required Texts

Woo, S., Keatinge, C. (2008) *Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Disorders across the lifespan*. New Jersey: Wiley.

Green McCreight, K. (2006). *Darkness is my only Companion: A Christian response to mental illness*. MI: Brazos Press.

Recommended Text

American Psychiatric Association. (2000). *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (4th ed.)*. (Text Revision). Washington, DC: Author.

Course Requirements

1. Class Attendance / Participation

Each student must attend all class sessions. Students must pre-read and study the applicable chapters for each week and actively participate in class discussions.

2. Reading Schedule (Due: Apr. 5th/2011)

Total Value for this requirement: 5%

You must read the required text in its entirety. Submit a **summary** of your reading schedule. Additional texts and articles read for the course must also be listed in the reading schedule.

3. Critical Book Review (Due: Jan 18th/2011)

Total Value for this requirement: 25%

You must read the book, "Darkness is my only Companion: A Christian response to Mental Illness" by Kathryn Greene-McCreight. In **4-6 pages**, comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the discussion brought within the text surrounding mental illness.

4. Write an integrative theological/psychological paper on one of the major disorders (2500 words) (Due: Feb. 8th/2011)

Total value for this requirement = 35%

From an integrated psychological/theological perspective, consider the additional *questions in writing the paper:*

What is Mental Illness and what is "normal" and "abnormal"?

- Who decides who is mentally ill and how do we decide?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of having a "diagnostic criteria" for "mental illness?"
- How do we make sense of "mental illness" theologically?
- How should Christian counselors and the Christian community relate to those who are "mentally ill"?

5. Prepare A Psycho-educational Community Seminar (Due: March 22nd/2011)

Total value for this requirement = 35%.

The student will prepare a seminar or workshop for delivery in a church or community setting pertaining to one of the disorders discussed in this course. The student will submit the presentation notes for grading (you are **not required** to deliver the seminar/workshop).

- This presentation should reflect specialized knowledge of the disorder, drawing from class notes, but augmenting class material with your own substantial research.
- Give careful consideration to the intended audience. This presentation should be prepared such that it can be grasped by an interested lay-audience, and increase their knowledge on the topic.

- For grading purposes, the project should be submitted either in videotape format or in a thorough (i.e. not talking points) written form so that it is a self-contained, complete presentation.
- Presentation should reflect a holistic, bio-psycho-spiritual understanding of people and mental illness.
- Include two bibliographies - an annotated bibliography for your seminar participants and a list of works used in the preparation of the material.

Class #	Date	Topic	Pre-class Reading
1.	Jan 11	Introduction-Syllabus	
2.	Jan 18	Diagnosis and Prognosis	Ch. 3 (W&K)
3.	Jan 25	Day of Prayer	
4.	Feb 1	Anxiety- Group Work	Ch. 11 (W&K)
5.	Feb 8	Mood Disorders	Ch. 10 (W&K)
6.	Feb 15	PTSD- Group Work	
7.	Feb 22	Somatoform Disorders	Ch. 12 (W&K)
8.	Mar 1	Personality Disorders-Group Work	Ch. 14 (W&K)
9.	Mar 8	Intersession-No Class	
10.	Mar 15	Manitoba Schizophrenia Society- Winnipeg: "Hearing Voices" Workshop	Ch. 9 (W&K)
11.	Mar 22	Sexual Identity Disorders	Ch. 13 (W&K)
12.	Mar 29	Eating Disorders	Ch. 13 (W&K)
13.	Apr 5	Clinical Case Studies-Group Work	

