

Providence Theological Seminary
CP 5202L Psychopathology
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O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams—St. Augustine

Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to psychopathology and the mental disorders delineated by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders – 4th Edition Text Revised (DSM-IV-TR, 2000). An overview of the etiology (cause), presenting symptoms, diagnostic criteria, usual course, and treatments of mental disorders will be presented. Particular attention will be paid to the most common mental disorders encountered in clinical and counseling practices. Abnormal psychology from a Christian perspective, including relevant spiritual issues, will be explored and emphasized in class discussion.

It is the instructor's hope that students will develop a deeper appreciation of psychological and spiritual suffering, and the diversity and complexity of human psychology. It is also hoped that by engaging in the course, students will be better equipped to distinguish and address mental disorders as Christians, lay helpers, and/or mental health professionals.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Familiarity with the history and theory of psychopathology, and criticisms of diagnostic systems.
2. Ability to identify the main symptoms, etiology, typical course, diagnostic criteria, and treatments of various mental disorders.
3. Ability to provide provisional diagnoses using the DSM-IV-TR.
4. Ability to identify relevant Christian and spiritual issues related to the diagnosis and treatment of various mental disorders.

REQUIRED TEXTS

American Psychiatric Association. (2000). Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders (4th ed., Text rev.). Washington, DC: Author.

Maxmen, Jerrold & Ward, Nicholas (1995). Essential psychopathology and its treatments. W.W. Norton: NY.

Yarhouse, M., Butman, R. & McRay, B. (2006). Modern psychopathologies: A comprehensive Christian appraisal. Westmont, IL: Intervarsity Press.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Read assigned sections of the texts.

B. Students are required to participate in an **“on-line forum discussion”** on salient issues surrounding mental illness. Every other week, starting on Monday, September 19, a question will be posted, and everyone is given the entire week to offer his/her response to the question and to interact with the posts of others. Each student must comment on at least two other posts. These comments must be at least 2 paragraphs long and include references.

C. Students are required to complete a weekly assignment culled from critical analysis and reflection of assigned readings. Every Monday a **“question of the week or case vignette”** needing a thoughtful response and/or diagnosis will be posted, which then must be submitted every Friday of that same week.

D. First Essay: Mental Illness, A Theological Problem- **DUE DATE: December 5, 2011**
Through research and critical analysis of the movie “One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest,” or “Girl Interrupted,” or “A Beautiful Mind,” write a 7–10 exploratory essay on the subject “Mental Illness: A Theological Problem.” Consider the following questions in writing this essay:

- What is Mental Illness?
- Who decides who is mentally ill?
- How do we decide who is mentally ill?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of having a “diagnostic criterion” for “mental illness?”
- How do we make sense of “mental illness” theologically?
- How should we then relate to those who are “mentally ill” as a Christian Counselor and fellow human being?

E. Second Essay: Psychopathology, An Exploration - **DUE DATE: December 12, 2011**
Design a 5-session workshop (20–25 pages) on a particular mental disorder that is introduced in class and/or covered in readings that can be used as a resource material for your church and community. This workshop should include the following components:

- o Objectives
- o Rationale
- o Description of the target audience
- o Full Manuscript of all 5 Sessions. This means putting in writing everything that you will say when conducting the workshop. Also, include all handouts, transparencies, titles of the videos, and other materials you plan to use. Make sure that the workshop is creative enough that it will sustain audience’s attention, simple enough that it will be easily understood and practical enough that it can be translated into concrete action.
- o Be sure to cover the following topics in your workshop and remember to cite resources properly.

A. Definition and Stages:

- Definition of the disorder and symptoms

- Typical stages of the disorder
- B. Demographics
 - Who are the victims?
 - How many are there?
 - Who is most at risk?
- C. Etiological Theories: What are the causes of the disorder
 - Biological factors
 - Social factors
 - Psychological factors
 - Spiritual factors
- D. Needs and Issues Raised by the Disorder: What are the key needs of clients and their families
 - Physical
 - Emotional
 - Social
 - Spiritual
- E. Intervention or Treatment Strategies
 - What are the goals of intervention/treatment?
 - What intervention strategies has research indicated are most helpful?

GRADING

On-Line Forum Participation • 25%

Weekly Assignments • 25%

First Essay: Mental Illness, a Theological Problem • 25%

Second Essay: Psychopathology, An Exploration • 25%

READING SCHEDULE

Session One

- Introduction to the Course
- Soul, An Exploration
- Soul in Distress as Mental Illness: Issues and Problems
 1. Maxmen pp. 1-42
 2. DSM IV pp.1-26
 3. Yarhouse pp.15-57

Session Two

Assessment, Diagnosis and Treatment

- Etiology
 1. Maxmen pp.43-99
 2. DSM IV pp.27-38
 3. Yarhouse pp. 58-108

Session Three

Schizophrenia and Related Disorders

1. Maxmen pp. 173-205

2. DSM-IV pp. 297-344
3. Yarhouse pp.249-280

Session Four

Mood Disorders

1. Maxmen pp. 206–243
2. DSM-IV pp. 345-428
3. Yarhouse pp. 147-180

Session Five

Anxiety Disorder

1. Maxmen pp. 244–285
2. DSM-IV pp. 429-484
3. Yarhouse pp 109-146

Session Six

Personality Disorders

1. Maxmen pp. 389–418
2. DSM-IV pp. 685-730
3. Yarhouse pp. 281-309

Session Seven

Dissociative Disorders

1. Maxmen pp.310–319
2. DSM-IV pp.519-534

Session Eight

Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders

1. Maxmen pp. 320–331
2. DSM-IV pp. 535-584
3. Yarhouse pp. 310-340

Session Nine

Eating Disorders

1. Maxmen pp. 332–348
2. DSM-IV pp. 583-596

Session Ten

Substance Related Disorders

1. Maxmen pp. 132–176
2. DSM-IV pp. 191-296
3. Yarhouse pp. 419ff