

DM-C607: PASTORAL ASSESSMENT, DIAGNOSIS AND PSYCHOPATHOLOGY  
January 11-15, 2016  
Douglas M. Thorpe, Ph.D.

### **BROAD PURPOSE OF COURSE**

To develop skill in assessing spiritual and mental health and pathology to guide pastoral care and counseling.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Utilize multiple systems of spiritual and psychological assessment;
2. Describe the social, political and historical factors in the development of contemporary models of psychopathology and assess them in theological perspective;
3. Identify and describe the causal factors, symptomatology and theological implications of the major psychiatric disorders described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition, of the American Psychiatric Association (the DSM-5);
4. Integrate social, systemic and theological theories into the assessment and treatment of spiritual and psychological illness.

### **TEACHING METHODS**

Lecture, discussion, and audio-visual material.

### **GRADING POLICY**

1. Completion of the reading and reflective writing assignments prior to class - 15%
2. Participation in class discussion - 15%
3. Research paper (due to the D.Min. Office February 26, 2016) - 70%  
Maximum 20 pages / 7000 words

There are two main options for the paper: a) investigate an issue or topic in spiritual or psychological health or illness, including the theological dynamics of the issue or topic; or b) assess one or more characters in a novel, describing the presence and degree of spir-

itual or psychological health or illness and evaluating that character from more than one model of pathology, including the theological dynamics of those models.

Papers are due to the Doctor of Ministry office by February 26, 2016. You may request one 60-day extension beyond your due date. Submit the extension form to the D.Min. Office. The form is available on the website at:

<https://www.wesleyseminary.edu/en-us/doctorofministry/currentstudents/forms.aspx>

You may submit your paper electronically by email or in print by U. S. Mail. Electronic versions must be in MS Word or Nota Bene.

### **TEXTS**

Albers, Robert H., Meller, William H. and Thurber, Steven D., eds. *Ministry with Persons with Mental Illness and Their Families*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012. ISBN 978-0-8006-9874-4

American Psychiatric Association. *Desk Reference to the Diagnostic Criteria from DSM-5*. Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Association, 2013. ISBN 978-0-89042-556-5

### **Or the Full DSM-5:**

American Psychiatric Association. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition*. Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Association, 2013. ISBN 978-0-89042-555-8

Capps, Donald. *The Depleted Self: Sin in a Narcissistic Age*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993. ISBN 0-8006-2587-0

Denton, Donald. *Naming the Pain and Guiding the Care: The Central Tasks of Diagnosis*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2008. ISBN 978-0-7618-4182-1

### **Reading and reflective writing assignments: due January 11, 2016**

Class members should read in their entirety the books by Albers et. al., Capps, and Denton before class begins. They should familiarize themselves with the DSM-5 but not attempt to read all the way through it. A brief (1-2 page) reflection paper on each book is due at the first class. These papers should cover the following topics:

Albers, et. al.: Choose one of the nine types of mental disorders discussed in the book, perhaps the one with which you are least acquainted or the one which intimidates you most. What does the theological writer in that chapter add to the discussion by the psychiatrist? What are the theological resources in your tradition for care for persons with these disorders?

Diagnostic Criteria from DSM-5 or DSM-5: How does the DSM-5 define a mental disorder?  
How is diagnosis related to treatment?

Capps: Compare understandings of sin in a guilt-based system with understandings of sin in a shame-based system. How might worship and pastoral care differ if shame were emphasized more than guilt?

Denton: At the very end of Part IV, on page 182, Denton writes: “What I have hoped to show in these preceding vignettes is the way diagnosis remains reflective of the larger conversation that takes place between a suffering heart and a salving intention of two human beings. . . . [T]here ultimately comes a time when words must somehow be spoken, the pain at the core of our existence must be named however tentatively and the trek toward health engaged.” Select one of the five clinical vignettes in the book and illustrate how Denton’s understanding of diagnosis would facilitate this type of conversation with the client described in the vignette.