

**Psychopathology: Diagnosis in Parish and Counseling Settings**  
**Reverend Trina A. Armstrong, Ph.D.**  
**Semester: Fall 2017**

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**Course Code:** 32-832

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**Office Hours:** By Appointment

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### **Course Description**

This course is an overview of psychopathology or the study and treatment of mental disorders as we encounter suffering persons and their families in counseling, ministry and other settings. We will study the major categories, symptoms and behaviors of common mental disorders.

Throughout the course, various treatment approaches will be examined and the following questions will be raised about how psychopathology affects individual sufferers and their families: What does it mean to have a diagnosis? How does mental suffering affect a person's relationships, or their ability to work? Is a mental disorder a brain disease? Students will be encouraged to think critically about these and other issues, and to compare historical and contemporary approaches to conceptualizing, diagnosing, and treating psychopathology. When we come face-to-face with the limitations of our knowledge, we will be reminded that how we define and treat mental illness has real-life implications for the person who is suffering.

### **After successfully completing the course, students should be able to:**

- Understand the history of DSM mental disorder classification system and critically evaluate the risks and benefits of using diagnostic labels in counseling and ministry settings.
- Identify and describe the major forms, theories, classification, causes, and treatment of psychological disorders.
- Demonstrate an understanding of case conceptualization, assessment, diagnoses, and treatment of mental illness in counseling and ministry settings.
- Integrate biological, social, psychological, and spiritual factors in the assessment and diagnosis, and development of effective treatment plans with diverse populations.
- Utilize community and national resources to refer individuals (and their families) with mental disorders.
- Develop a deeper appreciation of psychological and spiritual suffering, and the diversity and complexity of human psychology.

## Required Texts

**The prices are from Amazon but books can be purchased new or used or rented from any book store of your choice.**

Albers, Robert H. *Ministry with Persons with Mental Illness and Their Families*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.

**ISBN-13:** 978-0800698744 Amazon: Paperback: \$21.03 Kindle: 15.66

Comer, Ronald J. *Abnormal Psychology*. **9<sup>th</sup> ed.** New York NY: Worth Publ., 2015.

**ISBN: 978-1464171703** Amazon: Hardcover: \$109.00

Greider, Kathleen J. *Much Madness Is Divinest Sense: Wisdom in Memoirs of Soul Suffering*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2007.

**ISBN-13:** 978-0829815702 Amazon: Hardcover \$16.74

McWilliams, Nancy. *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis: Understanding Personality Structure in the Clinical Process*. 2nd ed. New York: Guilford Press, 2011.

**ISBN-13:** 978-1609184940 Amazon: Hardcover: \$51.66

McWilliams, Nancy. *Psychoanalytic Case Formulation*. New York: Guilford Press, 1999.

**ISBN-13:** 978-1572304628 Amazon: Hardcover \$49.26 Kindle: \$42.66

Morrison, James R. *Dsm-5 Made Easy: The Clinician's Guide to Diagnosis*. 2014.

**ISBN-13:** 978-1462514427 Amazon: Hardcover: new and used varies Kindle \$49.35

## Supplemental Readings

American Psychiatric Association. *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders: DSM-V*. **5<sup>th</sup> ed.** Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Association, 2013.

**ISBN-13:** 978-0890425558 Amazon: Paperback \$65.00 Online: Free\*

\*It is available on line. If you are in the Masters or Doctoral clinical programs, at some point you may need to buy this. If you are not in the clinical programs, there will be a copy in the library on reserve.