PCC 860: Psychopathology
Asynchronous and In-Person
3 Weekends in September, October, and November

Instructor:

Dr. Rolf Nolasco (rolf.nolasco@garrett.edu) Pronouns: he | him | *siya*

Teaching Assistant:

SYLLABUS

Course Description

This course provides graduate students in ministry and counseling with rigorous, integrative training in psychopathology. Students will achieve dual competency: fluency in mainstream clinical and diagnostic discourse as required for licensure as Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) in Illinois, and a critical, decolonial, and theologically-grounded consciousness about the social, political, economic, and spiritual forces that produce and maintain psychological suffering.

The course proceeds from a foundational conviction: that DSM categories are not neutral scientific facts but historically situated, politically shaped constructs embedded in systems of power. Students will learn to read the DSM with skill and to read it critically at the same time. The course takes seriously the insights of liberation psychology, decolonial theory, womanist theology, and political economy as indispensable tools for clinical formation.

Course Texts

[1] DSM-5-TR	American Psychiatric Association (2022). Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Text Revision. APA Press. [Styberg Library access provided — students do not need to purchase.]
[2] Barlow & Durand	Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach (most recent edition). Cengage.
[3] Whitaker	Whitaker, R. (2010). Anatomy of an Epidemic: Magic Bullets, Psychiatric Drugs, and the Astonishing Rise of Mental Illness in America. Crown Publishers.
[4] Coleman	Coleman, M. A. (2016). Bipolar Faith: A Black Woman's Journey with Depression and Faith. Fortress Press.