

ERSKINE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Christian Commitment and Excellence in Learning

CO 720 PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

Professor Doug White

Fall 2008

Thursdays: 6:00 – 9:00 P.M., Due West

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I. Course Description: This course examines the major categories of psychopathology and dysfunction normally encountered in the practice of counseling. The focus is upon understanding pathology as commonly defined in the counseling field in order to treat counselees correctly and to make appropriate placement to various treatment modalities including inpatient, outpatient, group, or individual therapy. The course also focuses upon the counselor's and church's roles in the treatment and healing process. Elective: *Three hours*.

II. Course Objectives: The mission of Erskine Theological Seminary is to prepare persons for Christian ministry. By the end of the course, the student should:

1. Understand the categories used to define various disorders.
2. Develop the ability to think critically in order to evaluate and to diagnose clients.
3. Demonstrate effectiveness in assessment and application of appropriate treatment modalities.
4. Exercise us of appropriate counseling skills such as assessment and healing verbal interventions.
5. Be able to conceptualize and apply the appropriate scriptures in various treatment situations.

III. Required Textbooks:

NOTE: Required textbooks may be obtained through the Erskine Theological Seminary Virtual Bookstore at <http://www.ecampus.com/erskine>.

First, Michael (Editor). Diagnostic Criteria for D.S.M.-IV-TR, Washington: American Psychology Association, 2000.

Lemma, Alessandra. Introduction to Psychopathology, London: SAGE Publications, 1996

IV. Suggested Reading:

Durand, Mark. Essentials of Abnormal Psychology, 3rd ed., Pacific Grove: Wadsworth Publishing, 2003

V. Course Requirements:

1. Class attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will substantially lower one's final grade. The student is responsible for work missed.
2. The student is expected to be prepared for each class meeting by reading the required materials. Read to understand and incorporate the major concepts of the readings.

3. There will be **ten quizzes** during the course. These quizzes will be over the material covered in the class and the readings of the previous week.

4. One needs to write a **research paper** on a disorder or dysfunction that one wishes to study in depth. All papers must be typed/processed (twelve point type, double spaced, one-inch margins) and fully documented, following the standards in the “Style and Form Standards for All Masters Level Programs” (Erskine Seminary). In this course, footnotes and a bibliography are required in each paper. The paper’s cover page and bibliography are not counted towards page requirements.

5. All work should be submitted on time. The professor reserves the right not to accept work that is excessively late or of poor quality. The student is responsible for communicating with the professor about any late work or absences. Professor’s office hours are 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Wednesday and Thursday and by appointment.

Language about God and Humanity: Although God transcends the distinction between male and female, the Bible and the Church’s historic creeds and confessions use masculine language in reference to God. Thus, the Seminary encourages all students to retain this masculine usage when speaking and writing about God. Furthermore, the Seminary recognizes that all human beings, male and female, are created equally in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27), and believers of both sexes are fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Pet. 3:7). Accordingly, whenever students are speaking and writing about males and females, they should use language that clearly includes both men and women (for example, by saying/writing "humanity" rather than "man" or "people" rather than "men").

Conduct in Theological Discussions: Erskine Seminary is committed to the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, and it expects its students to show respect for all who identify with that one Church. In all written work, oral presentations, and discussions both inside and outside the classroom, the Seminary expects students to conduct discussions of controversial issues in a context of respect for those with whom one disagrees. Please see the Community Life Statement in the Catalog for more information. The seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is inclusive rather than needlessly exclusive. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The Seminary Catalog stands as an example of recommended usage.

Drop/Add/Withdrawal Policy: Once a student has completed, signed, and submitted his/her registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a **binding contract** and billing will be based on this registration. If the student decides not to take this class, he/she must complete a “drop/add” form and secure the appropriate signatures prior to the drop/add deadline during the second week of the semester or term. If one wishes to withdraw from the course after the drop/add deadline, one must complete a withdrawal form, and tuition will be refunded on a pro rated basis. Failure to withdraw from the class properly will result in the student receiving a grade of “F” for the course and full tuition charges will apply. **No exceptions will be made to this policy.**

Incompletes: The grade of “I” or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of “I” is normally given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing the remainder of the course requirements. A student who wishes to request an incomplete should normally complete an incomplete form prior to the end of the semester and ask the professor to grant the request. (Under unusual circumstances, the student may communicate with the professor by phone or email rather than in person, and the professor may then agree to fill out the form at the student's request. Under exceptional circumstances, the professor may initiate the process by filling out the form on the student's behalf.) If the professor grants the request, he/she will sign the incomplete form and turn it in with his/her final grade report. An “I” in any course must be removed by March 1 for the Fall Term, April 1 for the January Term, August 1 for the Spring Term, and November 1 for the Summer Term. Only the Dean may grant extensions of incompletes beyond the established completion date. Otherwise, these grades automatically become “F.”

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the use in writing of wording or ideas produced by others without crediting the author and/or source from which the material was taken. As the following statement indicates, plagiarism is a serious offense that undermines both the witness and integrity of the Christian community. In cases of

documented plagiarism or documented theft of another student's work, the offending student will automatically receive the following penalties:

Failure of the course(s) in which plagiarized or stolen work is submitted
Dismissal from the Seminary for a minimum of one semester
Forfeiture of the right to tuition refunds during the semester(s) affected

Course Grading: Presence, preparation, and participation are assumed for a passing grade. The seminary grading scale will be used. The final grade will be computed on the scale as follows:

Class Participation: 10%

Ten Quizzes: 60%

Final Paper: 30%

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Numerical Grade
A	95-100
A-	93-94
B+	91-92
B	88-90
<u>B-</u>	<u>86-87</u>
C+	84-85
C	80-83
C-	78- 79
<u>D+</u>	<u>76-77</u>
D	72-75
D-	70-71
F	0-69

Course Outline

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
September 4	What is Psychopathology? Neurological Concerns	Lemma, Chapter 1
September 11	Psychotic Disorders	Lemma, Chapters 4 & 9
September 18	Mood Disorders	Lemma, Chapters 5 & 6
September 25	Anxiety Disorders	Lemma, Chapter 7
October 2	Personality Disorders	Lemma, Chapter 10
October 9	Personality Disorders	Lemma, Chapter 10
October 16	Personality Disorders	Lemma, Chapter 10
October 23	Dissociative Disorders and Eating Disorders	Lemma, Chapter 8

October 30	Sexual, Gender and Paraphillias	Handbook
November 6	Impulses/Adjustment Disorders	Handbook
DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
November 13	Diagnosis and Treatment	Handbook
November 20	Treatment Planning	Handbook
December 4	Review and Treatment Planning	