

Course: **CO613 M LS NM Diagnosis & Treatment of Abnormal Psychology**
Credit: 3 credit hours
Semester: Summer 2026, Session 1
Date: May 11th– June 26th
Room: Online ZOOM (Link to be provided)
Time: May 14-15th (Thursday 8am-9pm, Friday 8am-9pm)
Instructor: Doug Geiger DMIN, LPC, NCC

I. DESCRIPTION

A course designed to study the symptoms and underlying personal and interpersonal dynamics of the major categories of dysfunction as found in the DSM manual. Special attention is given to providing an understanding of these disorders according to a Christian worldview.

This course uses a blended model of delivery, meaning that both campus and online students take this class together. Campus students attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. All interaction and assignments for campus and online students are done in Canvas. Students wishing to pursue state licensing in the State of Missouri must take the class in person.

II. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved.

1. The student will develop a broad understanding of psychopathology. (PLO 2, 3, 5)
2. The student will develop a deeper understanding of the origins and treatment of psychopathology in light of a Christian Worldview and Scripture. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 5)
3. The student will be exposed to different modalities and treatment options. (PLO 2, 3, 5)
4. The student will be able to dialogue with other professionals and third-party payers. (PLO 2, 3, 5)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved.

1. The student will develop a deeper understanding of how to practice self-care for personal wellness. (PLO 1, 4)
2. The student will become proficient with the diagnostic system of the DSM-5. (PLO, 2, 3, 5)

III. REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS

Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th Edition: DSM-5

by American Psychiatric Association | May 27, 2013 (American Psychiatric Publishing, 2013. 947 pages. ISBN: 9780890425541 \$178.50)

Diagnosis Made Easier, Second Edition: Principles and Techniques for Mental Health Clinicians

by James Morrison | Dec 5, 2016 (The Guilford Press, Second Edition, 2016. 322 pages. ISBN 1462529844 \$31.35)

McRay, Barret W., Mark A. Yarhouse, & Richard E. Butman. *Modern Psychopathologies: A Comprehensive Christian Appraisal (Christian Association for Psychological Studies books)*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic. 2016. 486 pages. ISBN: 0830828508 (\$34.09).

IV. REQUIREMENTS

A. Class Participation (10%)

Students are expected to engage in discussion or presented topics. Personal involvement during class time is an essential element of active learning and students will be graded accordingly. (GC 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; SC 1, 2)

B. Reading Assignments (10%)

1. *Diagnosis Made Easier, Second Edition* is due by May 17th. Students will report completion of reading in writing on Canvass. Due ##### (GC 1, 3, 4; SC 2)
2. *Modern Psychopathologies: A Comprehensive Christian Appraisal* is due by June 2nd. Students will report completion of reading in writing on Canvass. Due ##### (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 2, 3)

C. Written Assignments (50%)

Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

All papers must follow APA style according to the revised 7th addition unless otherwise stated in the syllabus. For questions please consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, (6th ed., 2nd printing) or <http://owl.purdue.edu>.

1. Write a 6-page summary (three pages per chapter) on chapters 1 and 2 (Classification in Historic Pastoral Care and Classification in Contemporary Mental Health) from *Modern Psychopathologies* (10%). **Due #####** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 2)
2. A case study will be provided in class. The student must write a 4-page paper that determines the key issues presented, provides diagnostic impressions based upon the DSM-5, and includes treatment recommendations that support a collaborative effort and include a bio/psycho/social/spiritual approach. The case study must include at least 4 scholarly sources in addition to referencing the course textbooks and the Bible. **Due ##### (10%)**. (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 2)
3. Write a 10-page research paper according to the guidelines below. **Due ##### (20%)** (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 2)
 - a. Select a diagnosis from the DSM-5 (ask professor for approval before you start working on your paper).
 - b. Use at least 6 scholarly, preferably peer reviewed, sources (books and/or journal articles) besides the textbooks and the Bible.
 - c. Include the following areas:
 - i. A succinct overview of the chosen disorder in the DSM-5 category (do not copy and paste from the DSM-5 – this information must be evaluated and reworded into your own words):
 - ii. Potential causes of the disorder (genetics, heredity, social, cultural environment, behavior, etc.).
 - iii. Discuss how this disorder is viewed through a Christian worldview.
 - iv. Possible treatment interventions to help someone struggling with this disorder.
4. Write a 5-page reflection paper answering the following questions. **Due #####(10%)**. (GC, 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2). This paper does not require APA format.
 - a. In what ways have you been personally impacted by one or more diagnosis from the DSM-5?
 - b. In what ways has your family been impacted by one or more diagnosis from the DSM-5?

- c. How is mental illness a family problem?
- d. How have you experienced the church being either helpful or unhelpful when you have struggled? (Do not overthink defining the church.)
- e. Do any of the treatment options discussed in this class help you maintain personal wellness?

D. Interview (30%)

The student will conduct an interview with a Christian LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor) and write a summary of the interview: (GC 1, 2, 3, 4; SC 1, 2) **Due #####**

The student will ask the following questions:

1. How does a Christian worldview affect your treatment of mental illness?
2. In your opinion, how are sin and psychopathology related?
3. Have you found any diagnosis in the DSM-5 challenging to interact with? If so explain.
4. How have you seen the church interact with issues of mental health (both in a positive and unhelpful way)?

The summary will include: (1) a short biography on the professional, (2) a history of his or her specific professional context (probably place of employment), (3) The three questions and responses. These summaries do not require APA format.

IV. METHODS

- A. Structured class lectures and discussion
- B. Grading scale according to catalog
- C. Weighting of Course Requirements for Grading
 1. Participation (10%)
 2. Reading Assignments (10%)
 3. Written Assignments (50%)
 4. Interview (30%)
- D. Late Assignments

Papers turned in one week late will result in a reduction of one letter grade. Papers turned in two weeks late will result in a reduction of two letter grades. No later papers will be accepted.

V. **Additional Information**

Bible

The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

Writing Style

All class papers *must* follow the APA according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 7th edition.

Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.

Learning Center

The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.