

The Rutgers DSW Program

Module Title: Introduction to Phenomenology

Instructor:

Residency: September 2018

Time:

Module Description:

This module introduces students to key concepts from the branch of philosophy called phenomenology and explores the disciplined study of lived experience from the first-person perspective. We address the following questions: 1) What is phenomenology and why should it matter to clinical social workers? 2) What does it mean to investigate the structures of subjectivity? 3) How do we achieve a phenomenological attitude in order to study lived experience?

Module Objectives:

1. Students will learn to identify what phenomenology is and how phenomenological inquiry differs from other modes of investigation.
2. Students will learn key phenomenological concepts and recognize how those concepts relate to the study of lived experience.
3. Students will learn how to recognize and practice basic methods of phenomenological research.

Required Reading:

1. Gallagher, S., & Zahavi, D. (2015), Phenomenological Approaches to Self-Consciousness. *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (Spring 2015 Edition), Edward N. Zalta (ed.), <http://plato.stanford.edu/archives/spr2015/entries/self-consciousness-phenomenological/>.
2. Gallagher, S., & Zahavi, D. (2012). Methodologies. In *The phenomenological mind*. New York: Routledge. (Read pages 21-31)

Recommended Reading:

3. Lavery, S. M. (2003). Hermeneutic phenomenology and phenomenology: A comparison of historical and methodological considerations. *International journal of qualitative methods*, 2(3), 21-35.