

Rutgers DSW Program Syllabus

Module Title: Caring for Bereaved Military and Veteran Families

Instructor:

Residency: March 2019

Date:

Module Description:

This module introduces students to the unique factors associated with military and veteran family bereavement and caring for bereaved families with a special focus on suicide loss prevention. Students will explore modern grief theories with contributions from William Worden, Stroebe & Schut, Ken Doka and other theorists to ground students in contemporary bereavement theory and practice. Students will also explore unique circumstantial factors such as military/veteran culture, occupational hazards, age of descendants/survivors and circumstances of death, that may affect military-veteran family bereavement and heighten risk for complicated grief and suicide. Furthermore, there will be special attention paid to military/veteran suicide loss survivors and prevention care. Resiliency in families will also be explored and how this affects post-traumatic growth and adaptation to loss.

Module Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of modern grief theory and be able to differentiate integrated and complicated grief.
2. Students will identify unique issues influencing bereaved military and veteran families and 3-4 themes in bereavement after suicide loss.
3. Students will utilize intervention strategies and skills in practice.

Required Readings:

1. Harrington-LaMorie, J. (2016). Military family bereavement: Non-verbal conflict. In K. Doka and A.Tucci, (Eds.), *Managing conflict, finding meaning: Supporting families at life's end*. Washington, DC: Hospice Foundation of America.
2. Ruocco, K. (2016). The Impact of Military Culture on Suicide Prevention & Postvention: A Family Perspective. In K. Doka and A.Tucci, (Eds.), *Managing conflict, finding meaning: Supporting families at life's end*. Washington, DC: Hospice Foundation of America.

Recommended Readings:

1. Harrington-LaMorie, J., Cozza, S.J. & Cohen, J. (2014). Bereavement in military families. In S. Cozza, M.N. Goldenberg & R.J. Ursano (Eds.) *Care of military service members, veterans, and their families*. Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing.
2. Harrington-LaMorie, J. (2013). Grief, loss and bereavement in military families. In A. Rubin, E.L. Weiss, & J.E. Coll (Eds.), *Handbook of military social work*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publications.
3. Harrington-LaMorie, J. (2011). Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom: exploring wartime death & bereavement. *Social Work in Health Care*, (50) 543-563.