

The Rutgers DSW Program

Module Title: Loss III: The Experiences of Death and Dying

Instructor:

Residency: April 2019

Time:

Module Description:

Palliative care and hospice care are much more widely accepted as appropriate interventions when medical goals for cure become unlikely. Likewise, the salience of “hope” as a construct must be re-worked from hope of a cure to hope for resolution of problematic relationships and/or hope for a dignified and suffering-free death. Hope must be interrogated as a term that gets applied and considered through the lens of whether it’s a noun or a verb.

Topics such as differentiating depression from grief; assessing suicidality vs. decisions about physician hastened death; considering the role of the clinician’s and the client’s beliefs and fears about death as the context for approaching death, will all be addressed within this more broadly considered module.

Module Objectives:

1. Consider the varied forms of hope as they apply to the dying process and define the implications of the various meanings of hope.
2. Define the distinctions among forms of hastened death from “Assisted Suicide,” to Physician Assisted Death, to hospice approaches to death and dying.
3. Define the point where depression becomes a major concern in folks who are dying and in their survivors.

Required Readings:

1. Bustamante, Juan Jose.(2001).Understanding hope. Persons in the process of dying. *International Forum of Psychoanalysis*, 10 (1), 49-55.
2. Elliott, J. A. & Olver, I. N. (2007). Hope and hoping in the talk of dying cancer patients. *Social Science & Medicine*, 64, 138-149.
3. Neimeyer, R.A., Harris, D. L. , Winokuer, H. R., Thornton, G. F. (2011). *Grief and bereavement in contemporary society: Bridging research and practice*. New York: Routledge. Ch 30- Gamino & Moore- Grief dimensions associated with hastened death

Recommended Readings:

1. Gailliot, M. T., Schmeichel, B. J., Baumeister, R. F. (2006). Self-Regulatory processes defend against the threat of death: Effects of self control depletion and trait self-control on thoughts and fears of dying. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 91 (1), 49-62.
2. Neimeyer, R.A., Harris, D. L. , Winokuer, H. R., Thornton, G. F. (2011). *Grief and bereavement in contemporary society: Bridging research and practice*. New York: Routledge. Ch 30- Gamino & Moore- Grief dimensions associated with hastened death
3. Kendler, K. S., Myers, M. D., & Zisook, M. S.(2008). Does bereavement related depression differ from major depression associated with other stressful life events? *American Journal of Psychiatry*, 165, 1449-1455.
4. Wakefield, J. C., Schmitz, M. F., & Baer, J. C. (2011). Relation between duration and severity in bereavement- related depression. *Acta Pscyhiatrica Scandinavica*, 1-8. Doi: 10.1111/j.1600-0447.2011.01768.x

5. Neimeyer, R.A., Harris, D. L. , Winokuer, H. R., Thornton, G. F. (2011). *Grief and bereavement in contemporary society: Bridging research and practice*. New York: Routledge.

Chapters:

- 2- Neimeyer & Sands-Meaning reconstruction in bereavement
- 3- Zech & Arnold- Attachment and coping with bereavement
- 6- Worden & Winokuer- A Task-based approach for counseling the bereaved
- 7- Martin & Doka- The influence of gender and socialization on grieving styles
- 12- Shear, Boelen & Neimeyer- Treating complicated grief
- 13- Boss, Roos, & Harris- Grief in the midst of ambiguity and uncertainty
- 17- Jordan & McIntosh- Is suicide bereavement different?

Module Reflection Questions: These are designed to help you think about the readings- you do not need to write anything, nor even be prepared to answer them, they are merely here to help you think about some of the issues in the readings.

1. What are your experiences with death up-close? How do they affect the way you may help grievers or dying people?
2. What does your value and belief system tell you about the validity of hastening death? Do you adhere to that teaching? How might that affect your work with dying people?
3. Do you have a Will? an Advanced Directive (Living Will)? Physician Orders about Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST)? A Durable Power of Attorney? Why or why not?