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:

Recommended Readings:

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?