

Theological Perspectives: Mental Health (TMM3691)

Module Level: 6

Module Credit Value: 20

Pre-requisites: None

Co-requisites: None

Excluded Combination of Modules: None

Aims:

To enable students to explore the interface between the fields of mental health and Christian theology, and to reflect on possible implications for clinical and pastoral practice with people of all faiths and none.

To offer space for dialogue between mental healthcare professionals (practitioners and researchers) and theologians.

To provide a framework for pursuing postgraduate study in this interdisciplinary field.

Content:

The methodology of theological reflection in relation to mental health and psychosocial wellbeing.

Different understandings of psychological distress and anomalous behaviour (in both individuals and groups) across cultures, including the cultures of the Hebrew Bible and Christian New Testament.

Theological perspectives on key issues:

- how faith and religion ameliorate or exacerbate mental health conditions
- tensions between spiritual, psychological, social, and medical accounts of personal distress and anomalous behaviour
- ethical issues, particularly those relating to capacity
- the relationship between symptoms of mental ill health and 'positive' altered states of consciousness (e.g. mysticism) or periods of distress (e.g. 'dark night of the soul').

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this module students will be able to:

Subject Knowledge [BA SSK 3, 4] [Graduate Cert / Dip SSK 1, 2]

Describe and critically evaluate theological responses to the experience of psychological distress and disorder for the affected individual and those who care for him/her.

Give an informed, critical, and sensitive account of the culturally located nature of this experience, including its religious aspects.

Articulate and critically evaluate some key ethical, conceptual, and practical issues in the relationship between religion and mental health.

Subject Skills [Graduate Cert / Dip SSS 1, 2] [BA SSS 2, 3]

Communicate the complex and often ambiguous findings of relating theology and mental health with clarity and creativity to a range of audiences.

Reflect critically on, and apply knowledge and understanding of theology and mental health to their own professional practice.

Key Skills [BA KS 1, 2, 4] [Graduate Cert KS 1, 2, 3] [Graduate Dip KS 1, 2, 4]

Identify, gather, analyse and critically evaluate textual source materials, including material from primary sources and scholarly research, and communicate their findings with clarity and fairness to a range of audiences.

Critically evaluate data, methods of analysis, ideas, arguments and assumptions, using them to construct and communicate coherent and well-reasoned arguments, showing critical awareness of their own and others' beliefs, commitments and prejudices, to specialist audiences.

Relate the issues raised in the module to their own personal and professional development.

Modes of Teaching and Learning: Teaching methods to be specified by each TEI, using the 'Guidelines for Modes of Teaching and Learning'.

Learning Hours: Learning hours to be specified by each TEI using the 'Guidelines for Learning Hours'.

Formative Assessment: Formative assessment to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on formative assessment.

Summative
Assessment:

Summative assessment to be specified by each TEI using the published guidance on assessment patterns for undergraduate modules.

Indicative Reading:

Indicative reading to be specified by each TEI in line with the published guidelines on creating bibliographies for undergraduate modules.