

DMin869 Healing Trauma

Instructor	Dr. John Hayes
Schedule	Thur. Sept. 19, 6:00-8:30 PM/Fri. Sept. 20, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Thur. Oct. 17, 6:00-8:30 PM/Fri. Oct. 18, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Thur. Nov. 14, 6:00-8:30 PM/Fri. Nov. 15, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM Thur. Dec. 12, 6:00-8:30 PM/Fri Dec. 13 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
Description	<p>No one gets through this life without experience of trauma. Trauma overwhelms our capacity to cope and implodes our sense of reality, our imagined narratives of what life is and should be. Trauma thrusts us into that far country of pain, confusion, and despair where sometimes only grace can reach us.</p> <p>Trauma takes many forms. There are natural catastrophes, the experiences of war and torture, of rape and assault, and the more insidious and complex relational traumas that occur in families and intimate relationships. Also there is the trauma induced by toxic religious communities and teachings. All of these will be considered. Additionally there are collective traumas such as the American legacy of genocide, slavery, and racial violence. The intergenerational transmission of trauma will also be covered.</p> <p>Healing demands that we overcome fear and come to terms with the reality of the trauma and embrace unavoidable pain and grief. Then we can ultimately reconnect with life in a new and vital way. Meaning destroyed has to be reconstructed rather than restored, before we can love again without fear, and trust again in life's inherent goodness. The healing of trauma is never a solo journey, but requires the unflinching, empathic witness of a caring other. Very often the pastor or chaplain is that first source of care.</p> <p>All the great religions have narratives, images, metaphors, and rituals in which to re-discover meaning and renew our connection to self, others, and God. Trauma brings the theological issues of theodicy to the fore: why does God let bad things happen to good people? Christianity uniquely has trauma as its central symbol in the narrative of the passion and death of Jesus. We are invited to find ourselves in the great drama of the gospels and to reimagine the potential of trauma to deepen our understanding of ourselves and of God's purposes in our lives.</p> <p>This intensive course provides an immersion in understanding the spectrum and nature of trauma and its profound assault on the brain, the psyche, and the spirit. This course begins with the psychology of trauma and then opens to theological reflection on the mystery of trauma and the human condition and the sources of healing in faith. This course intends to equip the pastoral helper to be a non-anxious and empathically understanding witness to traumatic suffering, and to be a conduit to the sources of spiritual healing of the Christian way.</p>

Requirements	<p>Reading: Students should expect to read about 1,500 pages of required reading and should come prepared to discuss readings in class.</p> <p>Films: Students will be required to watch three full-length films in preparation for class discussion.</p> <p>Seminar Participation: At the last class meeting, students will prepare a ten-fifteen minute theological reflection and participate in active discussion on the relationship between the gospel account of Jesus' passion and death and a theology of trauma and its relevance for ministry. 20% of grade.</p>
	<p>Writing Required: There are three assigned essays, 8-10 pages, 12 font, double-spaced, that integrate class presentations and discussions, and the film and readings assigned, into a reflection on personal experiences of trauma and pastoral experiences of caring for traumatized people. Each essay is 20% of grade.</p>
	<p>Other Assignments</p> <p>Films: Students will be required to watch three full-length films in preparation for class discussion.</p> <p>Seminar Participation: At the last class meeting, students will prepare a ten-fifteen minute theological reflection and participate in active discussion on the relationship between the gospel account of Jesus' passion and death and a theology of trauma and its relevance for ministry. 20% of grade.</p>

Required Texts:

	Cost	Pages to be read
<i>A Spirit and Trauma: A Theology of Remaining</i> , Shelly Rambo and Catherine Keller, (ISBN 978-0-664-23503-1) 172 pages	\$24	172
<i>The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in Healing of Trauma</i> , Bessel van der Kolk, (2014) Penguin. (ISBN 978-0-14-312774-1)	\$11.00	365
<i>Trauma and Memory: Brain and Body in a Search for the Living Past</i> Peter Levine (2015) North Atlantic Books (ISBN 978-1-58394-994-8)	\$21.95	170
<i>Wandering in Darkness: Narrative and the Problem of Suffering</i> , Eleonore Stump, (2010) Oxford University Press ISBN 978-0-19-965930-2	\$45	481
<i>Treating Traumatized Children: Risk, Resilience, and Recovery</i> , Danny Brom, Ruth Pat-Horenczyk, and Julian Ford (editors) Routledge (ISBN 978-0-415-47150)	\$49	276
<i>Bearing the Unbearable: Trauma, Gospel, and Pastoral Care</i> , Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger (ISBN 978-0-8028-7103-9)	\$18	148
<i>Trauma and Grace: Theology in a Ruptured World</i> , Serene Jones, Second Edition (ISBN 9780664264772)	\$20	189