Objectives: To increase participants' ability to:

- Chart pathways through grief that lead to both resilience and complication
- Summarize five general propositions of the meaning reconstruction model
- Describe the role of self narratives in promoting adaptation to life transitions
- Use the outline of a meaning reconstruction interview for facilitating adaptation to loss
- Identify signs of traumatic disruption in the meaning system of a client
- Identify therapeutic strategies compatible with a meaning-making framework
- Select appropriate narrative strategies for facilitating adaptation to grief
- Make use of metaphoric listening in grasping the personal meanings of loss

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Loss, Grief, and the Disruption of Meaning
1 - Trajectories through Bereavement
- Chronic Grief and Depression
- Recovery and Resilience
2 - Self Narratives and their Disruptions
- Human Beings as Meaning-Makers
- Narrative Disruption and the Chapters of our Lives
3 - The Biology of Bereavement
- Symptoms of Separation
- Neurophysiology and the Lessons of Loss
4 - Traumatic Loss: Conceptualization and Diagnosis
- Complicated Bereavement and the Assault on Meaning
- Diagnosing Complicated Grief

Grief Therapy as Meaning Reconstruction
5 - Loss and the Reconstruction of Meaning
- Assumptive Worlds and Continuing Bonds
- Constructive Coping and Post-Traumatic Growth
6 - Re-Authoring Life Narratives: Therapeutic Strategies
- Loss Characterizations and the Life Imprint
- Analogical Listening and Personal Ritual
7 - Process Interventions in Grief Therapy
- Articulating, Symbolizing, and Renegotiating Meanings of Loss
- Discursive Strategies for Therapeutic Change
8 - The Meaning Reconstruction Interview
- Entry and Experiencing Questions
- Explanation and Elaboration Questions

Robert A. Neimeyer, Ph.D.

Dr. Robert A. Neimeyer is Professor and Director of Psychotherapy in the Dept. of Psychology, University of Memphis, where he also maintains an active clinical practice. Since completing his doctoral training at the Univ. of Nebraska in 1982, he has conducted extensive research on the topics of death, grief, loss, and suicide intervention.

Dr. Neimeyer has published 20 books, including Meaning Reconstruction and the Experience of Loss, and Lessons of Loss: A Guide to Coping. He also serves as Editor of the journal Death Studies.

The author of nearly 300 articles and book chapters, he is currently working to advance a more adequate theory of grieving as a meaning-making process, both in his published work and through his frequent professional workshops for national and international audiences.

Dr. Neimeyer served as a member of the American Psychological Association’s Task Force on End-of-Life Issues, and Chair of the International Work Group for Death, Dying, & Bereavement. In recognition of his scholarly contributions, he has been granted the Eminent Faculty Award by the University of Memphis, made a Fellow of the Clinical Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association, and given the Research Recognition Award by the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

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