Course Objectives:

1. This first in a sequence of psychoanalytical courses will integrate psychoanalytical theories of personality and psychopathology with the study of the technique of psychoanalytically-informed psychotherapy. Attention will be given to actual case material and the role of the psychotherapist in psychoanalytically-oriented treatment. The psychoanalytical perspective on the psychotherapeutic process itself will be explored from a variety of viewpoints including the Freudian, the ego psychological, interpersonal, object-relational, Lacanian, and self-psychological. Students will be introduced to basic psychoanalytic concepts of personality and psychopathology and their implications for psychotherapeutic technique.

2. It is imperative that whatever our theoretical orientation, it is necessary for the ethical and professional practice of psychotherapy that we become sensitized to the necessity for careful and thoughtful review of clinical material in order to appreciate the complexity of psychological processes and psychopathology. This will of course necessitate attention to intra-psychic as well as cultural, societal, political, economical, and other environmental factors. Attunement to the vicissitudes of interfacing with patients from diverse cultures, racial origins, sexual orientations, class backgrounds, and other life structures will also be encouraged.

3. It should also go without stating that students enrolled in this course will be encouraged to observe and to reflect upon their own intra-psychic state for the purpose of establishing and maintaining empathic contact with others. This necessitates being attuned to metaphorical, symbolical, and derivative aspects of communications, along with the application of course perspectives to students’ own experiences. Subjectively, students are encouraged to develop an appreciation for such modes of analysing narrative structures within their own professional practice, as well as the material to be discussed within the course itself.

4. Special attention will be placed on the development of the capacity to formulate clinical hypotheses about psychopathology in a psychotherapeutic interaction from a variety of psychoanalytical perspectives. This implies a dialectical process, and more specifically, a form of praxis.

Course Expectations:

1. It is anticipated that all reading be completed prior to class to permit a seminar-style dialogue.

2. In addition to the readings, on a weekly basis, transcripts of an on-going psychoanalytical psychotherapy will be analysed from the perspective of that week’s readings. The particular session should be summarized utilising the framework being discussed, i.e. classical drive theory, self-psychology, etc., with appropriate citations given for the authors. These weekly assignments should be no longer than six to eight pages, Garamond or Times New Roman font, in ten- or eleven-point type-face size.
3. Students will be evaluated by their performance on the above as follows: (a) In-class participation and attendance: 20%; (b) case formulation assignments: 80%.

The format for these assignments will be discussed in class.

4. It is the responsibility of students with special needs to bring these to the attention of the Instructor at the beginning of the Term.

5. The Instructor is in the University office Monday through Thursday, but, in these hellish, electronic, virtual reality times, can be contacted via other means and at other locations outside of these parameters. Questions and consultations about the Course are invited.

Class 1

Course introduction. Psychoanalysis in an historical-political context. Have you driven a Freud lately?: Classical psychoanalytical theory I: Early applications and constructs of psychoanalysis. Psychoanalytical theory & technique within the relational matrix as encounters with the Unconscious: Important concepts and applications I: Initial contacts and the establishment of the psychotherapeutic frame.

16 January


Class 2

Psychoanalytical theory & technique within the relational matrix as encounters with the Unconscious: Classical Psychoanalytical Theory II and Important concepts and applications II: Initial contacts and the establishment of the psychotherapeutic frame, continued.

23 January

Continuation of readings from Class One.

Class 3

Classical Psychoanalytical Theory III: Early applications and constructs of psychoanalytical theory. Important concepts and applications III:

30 January


_____ (1914): “Further recommendations on the technique of psycho-analysis: Recollection, repetition, and working through”. Ibid, pp 51-64.

_____ (1912): “Recommendations for physicians on the psycho-analytic method of treatment”. Ibid,
153-164.

__________ (1917). “Mourning and Melancholia”. In General Psychological Theory, pp 164-180.

Class 4

Psychoanalytical theory & technique within the relational matrix as encounters with the Unconscious: Important concepts and applications IV: Analysing patient narratives; manifest and latent elements of communication; unconscious communication.

6 February


Class 5

Psychoanalytical theory & technique within the relational matrix as encounters with the Unconscious: Important concepts and applications V: Transference and counter-transference.

13 February


Class 6

Psychoanalytical theory & technique within the relational matrix as encounters with the Unconscious: Important concepts and applications VI: Transference and counter-transference, continued.

20 February


Class 7

Ego Psychology: The application of evolving psychoanalytical theory and technique.

27 February


Class 8

New trends and special topics in psychoanalytical theory and psychotherapy I: The British School of Object-Relations I.

6 March


Class 9
20 March


Class 10
27 March

New trends and special topics in psychoanalytical theory and psychotherapy III: The British School of Object Relations II.


_______ (1954): “Meta-psychological and clinical aspects of regression within the psychoanalytical set-up”. Ibid.


Class 11
3 April

New trends and special topics in psychoanalytical theory and psychotherapy IV: American Object-Relations Perspectives


Class 12
10 April

New trends and special topics in psychoanalytical theory & psychotherapy V: Psychoanalytical Self-Psychology.


Class 13
24 April

Psychoanalytical theory & technique within the relational matrix as encounters with the Unconscious. Important concepts and applications VII: Dreams and dream interpretation.


Class 14
1 May


Termination.


“Lorque tout est fini, j’entre l’invisible dans l’arche.” – André Breton

(“When all is finished, I enter invisible into the arch”)

Required Texts:


Selected books and required readings are available through the University of Indianapolis Book Store. All journal articles and papers not available in the Bookstore will be available on-line, through the University of Indianapolis Intranet ACE.

**Recommended Readings:**


Please note: At the conclusion of the course, or upon withdrawing from this course, each student will be required to return transcripts and poetry to Dr Downing. Due to the sensitive clinical nature of this material, making copies for personal or professional use or discussion/dissemination with anyone not enrolled in the class is strictly prohibited as outlined in the APA ethical standards.

Efforts to discover the identity of any patient used for purposes of education in this course through any means what-so-ever is similarly prohibited.

However, if these [psychoanalytic consulting rooms] offer a special form of jouissance for their participants, both analysand and psychoanalyst know the price they must pay for this secret bliss. They suffer the persecutory anxiety of being seen to participate in some form of soon-to-be banished, forbidden activity. And in spite of all the efforts to sanitize the appearances of psychoanalysis through verbal dry-cleanings – ‘evidence-based practice’ or ‘competencies’ – the psychoanalyst is still regarded as someone dripping of the unseemly. He is still the Freudian, hanging out with sexuality and aggression; still the figure who encourages discussion of that which culture insists should be forbidden.

Christopher Bollas, ‘The Wisdom of the Dream’

.... “Hark ye yet again, -- the little lower layer. All visible objects, man, are but as pasteboard masks. But in each event -- in the living act, the undoubted deed there, some unknown but still reasoning thing puts forth the mouldings of its features from behind the unreasoning mask. If man will strike, strike through the mask! How can the prisoner reach outside except by thrusting through the wall? To me, the white whale is that wall, shoved near to me. Sometimes I think there's naught beyond. But 'tis enough. He tasks me; he heaps me; I see in him outrageous strength, with an inscrutable malice sinewing it. That inscrutable thing is chiefly what I hate; and be the white whale agent, or be the white whale principal, I will wreak that hate upon him. Talk not to me of blasphemy, man; I'd strike the sun if it insulted me. For could the sun do that, then could I do the other; since there is ever a sort of fair play therein, jealousy presiding over all creations. But not my master, man, is even that fair play. Who's over me? Truth hath no confines.” ....
Ahab, in Chapter 36, “The Quarter-Deck”
from *Moby-Dick or, The Whale*
by Herman Melville