



The New Jersey Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis

#F401 - Narcissism and Narcissistic Disorders

Via Zoom

Instructor: JANICE VICTOR, MSSW, LCSW, PSYA

FALL, 2023

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Material will be provided for the student to review information pertaining to the normal narcissistic stage of development, and so-called healthy narcissism, as described by Edith Jacobson. Primary and secondary narcissism will be defined and potential consequences of narcissistic injury, such as grandiosity, narcissistic rage, and other forms that it may take will be reviewed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To examine and appraise narcissistic character structure, and its implications.
2. To analyze narcissism in the light of relationships, and how others are affected.
3. To determine how narcissism presents during treatment and how it affects analysis.
4. To examine the differences between narcissistic character and pathologic narcissism.
5. To consider how to treat narcissistic patients without judgement.

COURSE STRUCTURE: The instructor will review the reading material and point out the salient points. Students will be required to present case material to the class, pointing out the narcissistic issues present in the case, and how they handled it. They will write a final paper using case material, demonstrating their understanding of the course material.

COURSE ETIQUETTE AND CONFIDENTIALITY: Please be considerate of time and space. Because confidential material may be discussed, please participate in class in a private place, and refrain from discussing confidential or sensitive material outside of class.

Class and Readings:

Week 1: Introduction. Introductory discussion of the concept of narcissism, and the developmental issues that are thought to be related to its occurrence.

Required Reading:

Freud, S. (1914). On narcissism: An introduction. *Standard Edition*, 14, 73-102.

Lachman, F. (1982). Narcissism and female gender identity: A reformulation. *The Psychoanalytic Review*, 69, 43-61.

Mahler, M. (1968). On the concepts of symbiosis and separation-individuation. In *On human symbiosis and the vicissitudes of individuation*, (pp 7-31). International

University Press.

Suggested Reading:

Bailly, L. (2022). The maternal covenant role and the function of the mother in the social field. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 103, 26-45.

Anzieu-Premmereu. C. (2017). Using psychoanalytic concepts to inform interpretations and direct interventions with a baby in working with infants and parents. *International Forum of Psychoanalysis*, 26, 54-58.

Week 2: The role of the mother. The role of the narcissistic mother in the development of the child, and typical narcissistic character traits, common to us all.

Required Reading:

Brightman, B. (1984). Narcissistic issues in the training experience of the psychotherapist. *International Journal of Psychotherapy*, 10, 293-317.

Miller, A. (1979). Depression and grandiosity as related forms of narcissistic disturbance. *International Review of Psychoanalysis*, 6, 61-76.

Suggested Reading:

Bollas, C. (2021). Three characters, narcissist, borderline, manic depressive, (pp 1-120). Phoenix Publishing House.

Week 3: British object relations. The contributions that the study of British object relations made to the understanding of narcissism.

Required Reading:

Balint, M. (1958). The three areas of the mind-theoretical considerations. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 39, 328-340.

Winnicott, D, (1960). Ego distortions in terms of true and false self. In: *The Maturation Process and the Facilitating Environment*, (pp 140-151). Hogarth Press.

Suggested Reading:

Shapira-Berman, O. (2021). Somatic symptoms as one's object: Applying Fairbairn's theory of internal object relations and Winnicott's conceptualization of psyche-and-soma. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 108, 337-366.

Week 4: Kernberg's contributions. Students will be able to identify Kernberg's contributions to the study of narcissism.

Required Reading:

Kernberg, O. (1970). Factors on the treatment of narcissistic personalities. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 18, 51-85.

Suggested Reading:

Kernberg, O. (2021). Challenges for the future of psychoanalysis. *American Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 81, 281-300.

Kernberg, O. (2020). Malignant narcissism and large group regression. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 89, 1-24.

Class 5: Treatment considerations. Students will explore some of the knowledge and skills required to treat narcissistic patients.

Required Reading:

Drisko, J. (2020). Narcissistic personality disorder in children: Applying a controversial diagnosis to guide treatment. *Psychoanalytic Social Work*, 27, 139-163.

Kohut, H. & Wolf, E. (1978). The disorders of the self and their treatment: An outline. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 59, 53-78.

Suggested Reading:

Kontos, J.S. (2020). Problems of psychoanalytic technique in very serious narcissistic disorders. *Greek Annual Psychoanalytic Review*, 1, 251-272.

Class 6: Narcissistic rage. Students will develop understanding of the rage that can be part of the narcissistic character structure.

Required Reading:

Kohut, H. (1972). Thoughts on narcissism and narcissistic rage. *The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 27, 360-400.

Suggested Reading:

Shaw, D. (2018). Working with disassociated aggression in traumatized patients. *Attachment: New Directions in Relational Psychoanalysis and Psychotherapy*, 12, 16-24.

Class 7: The role of sadomasochism. The students will become aware of the frequent sadomasochistic

exchanges between narcissists and their significant others.

Required Reading:

Menaker, E. (1953). Masochism-A defense reaction of the ego. *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 22, 205-220.

Shaw, D. (2010). Enter ghosts: The loss of intersubjectivity in clinical work with adult children of pathological narcissists. *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis*, 20, 45-59.

Suggested Reading:

Kacel, E., Ennis, N., & Pereira, D. (2017). Narcissistic personality disorder in clinical health psychology practice: Case studies of comorbid psychological distress and life-limiting illness. *Behavioral Medicine*, 43, 1, 56-164.

Shaw, D. (2019). Unhealing wounds: Discussion of “Airless Worlds”: The traumatic sequelae of identification with parental negation. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 29, 460-469.

Class 8: Countertransference. The students will become aware of how their countertransference can be influenced by the narcissistic traits of their patients, and how to deal with these feelings of theirs.

Required Reading:

Gunther, M. (1979). The endangered self: A contribution to the understanding of narcissistic determinants of countertransference. *The Annual of Psychoanalysis*, 4, 201-224.

Carsky, M. (2021). Managing countertransference in the treatment of personality disorders. *Psychodynamic Psychiatry*, 49, 339-360.

Suggested Reading:

Abel, M. (2021). The sleepy analyst struggles to awaken. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 57, 54-84.