

The New Jersey Institute for Training in Psychoanalysis

#S205 - Psychopathology II

Spring 2024

Via Zoom

Instructor: Janice Victor, MSSW, LCSW, PSYA

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Built on the foundation constructed earlier in Psychopathology 1, this course will combine a developmental and an analytic model with our understanding of the origin and evolution of psychopathology.

**COURSE PURPOSE:**

In this course we will explore psychoanalytic theoretical approaches to psychopathology, with a focus on clinical manifestations and applications of theory to practice. This will include the nature versus nurture' dichotomy, exploring components of Drive Theory, Object Relations, and Relational approaches and the developmental understanding of pre-oedipal constellations.

With presentations of case vignettes we will see the manifestations come alive in therapy. Pathologies associated with trauma, dissociation, and sado/masochistic dynamics will also be studied.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- Explore different psychoanalytical approaches to psychopathology.
- Show the clinical manifestations and applications of theory to practice.
- Analyze the nature versus nurture dichotomy in psychopathology.
- Examine pathologies associated with trauma, dissociation and sadomasochistic dynamics.
- Understand the concepts of pre-oedipal, ego syntonic/dystonic and their manifestations in practice.

## CLASSES AND READINGS:

**Class 1:** The drive theory base and subsequent shaping concepts: ego psychology, object relations, self psychology, developmental theory, relational theory. We will evaluate articles by Anna Freud that are significantly relevant to understanding the drive aspect of the tasks of attachment/separation/individuation. The articles by Bach and Bollas look at the aspects of the child's attachment to the caregiver and the impact. Disruptions in the attachment and separation processes are intricately involved in the development of pathology.

Freud, A. (1949). "Aggression in relation to emotional development; Normal and pathological", *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 3, 37-42.

Freud, A. (1935). "Psychoanalysis and the training of the young child," *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 4, 15-24.

Bach, S. (2018). "Some thoughts on trust and betrayal", *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 28 (5), 557-568.

Bollas, Christopher, (2021), *Three Characters, Narcissist, Borderline, Manic Depressive*, Chapter 1, Phoenix Publishing House.

**Class 2:** We will discuss the developmental and analytic perspectives on psychopathology in further depth and identify their manifestations in clinical practice. We will explore the concepts of ego-alien and ego syntonic patient presentations.

McWilliams, N. (2011). *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis, second edition - Understanding personality structure in the clinical process*. Chapters 3 & 4. The Guilford Press.

Bollas, Christopher,(2021), *Three Characters, Narcissist, Borderline, Manic Depressive*, Chapter 2, Phoenix Publishing House.

**Class 3:** We will compare the theoretical approaches of Masterson and Kohut to borderline manifestations and narcissism. We will look closely at the differences in their clinical approaches.

Masterson, J. F. & Rinsley, D.B. (1975). The borderline syndrome: the role of the mother in the genesis and psychic structure of the borderline personality. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 56, 163-177.

Kohut, H. (1968). The psychoanalytic treatment of narcissistic personality disorders, outline of a systemic approach. *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 23, 86 -113.

**Class 4:** This class will be a beginning study of trauma. The concepts of dissociation, and manifestations of sado-masochism will be explored as defensive processes.

Howell, E.(1996). Dissociation in masochism and psychopathic sadism. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 32, 427-453.

Howell, E. (2016). *The dissociative mind in psychoanalysis understanding and working with trauma*. Chapter 3. Routledge.

**Class 5:** Perspectives on Trauma: a continuation of the study of trauma from an analytic perspective.

Akhtar, S. (2020). Repression: a critical assessment and update of Freud's 1915 paper. *The American Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 80, 241–258.

Fred, A.C. (2018). Trauma and psychoanalysis: Freud, Bion, and Mitchell. *Psychoanalysis Culture and Society*, 23, 43–53.

**Class 6:** Clinical Applications: Psychopathology and Countertransference: A closer look at Countertransference and the Manifestations in the Analytic Dialogue. The writings of Spontitz and Bollas will be discussed as more recent formulations of pre-oedipal features in clinical practice.

Spontitz, Hyman, MD Med. Sc.D.(1997), "The Goals of Modern Psychoanalysis: The Therapeutic Resolution of Verbal and Preverbal Resistances for Patient and Analyst", *Mod. Psychoanal.*, (22)(1):31-40.

Bollas, Christopher,(2021), *Three Characters, Narcissist, Borderline, Manic Depressive*, Chapter 3, Phoenix Publishing House.

**Class 7:** Clinical applications, Looking at the 'Pre-Oedipal' or 'Pre-verbal' via the countertransference, and the concept of resistance as a feature of pathology.

Gabbard, G. (2000). Hatred and its rewards: A discussion. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*,20(3),409-420.

Slochower, Joyce (2020). "Resist this", *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 30:64-72.

Ogden, T. & Gabbard, G. (2010). The lure of the symptom in psychoanalytic treatment. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 58(3), 533-544.

**Class 8:** Clinical applications, defenses and the gamut of ‘pathology’.

Levy-Warren, M.H. (2022). “Whose resistance is it anyway?: “Resistance” – and the evolution of self: A discussion of “The forward edge of resistance”, “Resist this”, and “From resistance to analytic truth”. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 30, 84–89.

Gabbard, G.O. (2021). “The ‘dragons of primeval days’: Termination and the persistence of the infantile”. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 102 (3), 595-602.

Abramovich, Henry (2021). “When is it time to stop? When good enough becomes bad enough”, *Journal of Analytical Psychology*, 66,4,907-925.