

PT 184 Primitive Mental States
J. Mattair Spring 2010

Mon. 5:30-7:20
30 Clock Hours

Course Description

This course imparts a psychodynamic understanding of symptoms, core conflicts, and characteristic defenses in psychotic, narcissistic and neurotic disorders.

Objectives

The student will be able to:

- demonstrate a psychodynamic understanding of the symptoms, core conflicts, and characteristic defenses inherent in primitive mental states; and
- distinguish between psychoanalytic and psychiatric diagnoses of symptoms, and recognize onset, course, and prognosis of the major mental disorders.

Teaching Method

There will be discussion of the assigned literature and guided class discussion of relevant case material. Emotional learning will occur by connecting the student's emotional experience with the course's theoretical content.

Method of Evaluation

Evidence of progressive understanding of clinical psychopathology, as demonstrated by class participation, logs and a student presentation. Students visit three psychiatric institutions and select a site for the field work externship.

Syllabus

Class 1: Mental Dynamics

Meadow, P.W. (1991), Resonating with the psychotic patient. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 16: 87-103.

Semel, V. (2004), Understanding the fieldwork experience: how do we know when students "Get it" about narcissism? *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 29: 193-213.

Class 2: Schizophrenia

Spotnitz, H. (1985), Conceptualization of the illness. *Modern Psychoanalysis of the Schizophrenic Patient*. Second Edition. New York: Human Sciences Press. pp. 40-69.

Spotnitz, H. (1981), Aggression in the therapy of schizophrenia. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 6:131-140.

Class 3: Primitive Defenses

Laub, L. (1990), From symbolic communication to narcissistic transference. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 15: 237-253.

Meadow, P.W. (2003), The language of emotion. *The New Psychoanalysis*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. pp. 47-66.

Class 4

Grotstein, J. S. (1997), The psychoanalytic fascination with the concept of the "primitive." *Primitive Mental States, Vol. 1: Across the Lifespan*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson. pp. 1-21.

Class 5:

Film, to be shown in class.

Class 6:

Gibeault, A. (1997), Violence and psychic life: deadlocks and working through. *Primitive Mental States, Vol. 1: Across the Lifespan*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson. pp. 123-139.

Further classes TBA.