



NYGSP COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PTNY 139 Psychoanalysis, Culture, and Society (Required)

Psychoanalysis can help to illuminate the unconscious structures of culture and the ways in which language and culture frame human experience. This course examines the interface between psychic and social reality and the latent processes of culture as expressed in gender, politics, race, and class. In addition, it focuses on the ways in which culture and society impact psychoanalytic theory and practice, using a sociocultural lens to scrutinize historical and contemporary conceptualizations of the etiology and treatment of psychotic mental disorders.

PTNY 140 Sociocultural Influences on Maturation and Psychopathology (Elective)

This course explores the effects of the social world on the individual, including how sociocultural experiences and affiliations shape personality. The effects that family, ethnicity, gender, culture, and race have on identity development and psychopathology are examined. The course includes a weekly lab component in a setting chosen by the student.

PTNY 141 Human Development: How the Mind Unfolds, Part 1 (Required)

This course explores the constitutional and environmental factors that contribute to maturation in the preoedipal period, including early conflict states, symbiosis, omnipotence, envy, oral and anal eroticism, with emphasis on the roles of the constructive and destructive drives. Aspects of character structure rooted in this period are examined in order to study normal and pathological development.

PTNY 142 Human Development: How the Mind Unfolds, Part 2 (Required)

The emotional dynamics of the child in the oedipal stage are explored. Children in this age group struggle with beginning transformations of the destructive drive and its influence on character, including oppositional syndromes and defenses that develop to deal with aggressive impulses. The course examines early somatization struggles as well as the role of fantasy and screen memories in maturation. It looks at specific forms of the Oedipus complex within the family romance.

PTNY 143 Latency (Elective)

This course explores the external and internal transformations in the latency-age child, especially regarding management of the libidinal and aggressive drives, the altered role of fantasy, and a widening range of defenses.

PTNY 144 Adolescence (Elective)

This course explores the psychic turmoil of adolescence, including conflicts concerning the libidinal and aggressive drives, transformations in object relations, and the reemergence of early issues within the framework of greater biological and cognitive maturity.



PTNY 147 Adulthood (Elective)

This course identifies the central developmental tasks and conflicts typical of the stages of adulthood. Young adults struggle with pregenital and genital aims, the repetition of incestuous longings, and the fear of intimacy. Middle-aged and older adults face new realities: limitations of possibility, physical and sexual changes, the departure of children, marital readjustments, and the approach of death. Also examined are early conflicts that reemerge in adulthood, and transference, countertransference, and resistance issues in the treatment of aging patients.

PTNY 150 Concepts of Group Psychoanalysis (Elective)

This course considers the phenomenology of the setting, the handling of resistances, and the role of management of impulses in group interactions as they pertain to the modern psychoanalytic treatment of groups, families, and couples.

PTNY 151a Basic Psychoanalytic Theory, Part 1 (Required)

Core psychoanalytic concepts are defined, as are the central issues on which psychoanalysts have found a common base. Changes in structure from the preverbal to the verbal period of life are studied; the expression of drives, their role in character formation, and the implications of the pleasure principle and the repetition compulsion for behavior are considered.

PTNY 151b Basic Psychoanalytic Theory, Part 2 (Elective)

This course continues the study of major theoretical concepts in psychoanalysis, focusing on human motivation, the nature of mind, and the important forces in character formation. Emphasis is on the interplay of the drives in specific character types and its implications for the psychoanalytic process and the nature of cure.

PTNY 152 Character Studies in Literature (Elective)

Using characters from literature, the student gains an understanding of severe character pathology.

PTNY 154a Comparative Psychoanalysis, Part 1, and PTNY 154b Comparative Psychoanalysis, Part 2 (Required)

Major trends in psychoanalytic thought, including ego psychology, object relations, self psychology, relational and modern psychoanalysis, and Lacanian theory are studied. These two courses explore the similarities and differences in their concepts of drive, object, self, transference, countertransference, and resistance.

PTNY 155 Dream, Fantasy, and Symbolic Communication (Required)

This course acquaints students with the wish-fulfillment theory of dreams and with the language of the unconscious. Myths, fairy tales, creative works, dreams, and symptoms are studied to discover how primary-process thinking is expressed through symbolism, displacement, condensation, association, and visual imagery.

PTNY 156 Modern Psychoanalytic Theory of Technique (Elective)

The course examines the modern psychoanalyst's approach to treatment. It focuses on recognizing and resolving resistances and discovering what leads to cure. Students learn how verbal and nonverbal interventions can be derived from the analysis of induced countertransference reactions and used to foster, develop, and work through narcissistic and object transferences.



**PTNY 157 Transference and
PTNY 158 Countertransference (Electives)**

These courses provide an in-depth study of the concepts of transference and countertransference. The history, development, and use of the terms are studied from their beginnings to the present. Clinical and theoretical literature is read to elucidate the concepts and to give examples of how they are used. Case material contributed by class members will further illustrate theory and its application.

PTNY 159 Unconscious Fantasy (Elective)

Unconscious fantasy is studied as it is manifested in literature, myth, scientific research, clinical material, and seemingly rational thought. Readings explore the theoretical controversies surrounding this concept.

PTNY 160 Narcissism and Aggression (Elective)

The relationship between narcissism and aggression is studied in depth, with particular attention to those disorders in which self-hate predominates over self-love. The function of the narcissistic defense is clarified, and treatment techniques for working with narcissistic disorders are discussed.

PTNY 161 History of Libido Theory in Freud (Required)

Freud's papers on human sexuality and libido theory, from the seduction theory to infantile sexuality, the perversions, transference love, and the concept of Eros as a binding force, are studied, with emphasis on Freud's understanding of the role of libido in sexuality, civilization, and the binding of destructive forces.

PTNY 162 History of Drive Theory in Freud (Required)

Freud's later papers are studied: the dual-drive theory and the repetition compulsion; the division of the psyche into ego, id, and superego; the sources of anxiety; the effects of innate destructiveness on the prospects for civilization; analysis terminable and interminable; and Freud's summing-up of the state of psychoanalysis in 1939. The continuing influence of these papers on contemporary thought is examined in relation to current treatment approaches and contemporary understandings of the role of destructive aggression.

PTNY 171 Systematic Investigations and Ethics in the Human Sciences (Required)

This course provides students with theoretical and practical knowledge of research methodology. Students examine what is basic to scientific inquiry and study how the human sciences investigate psychodynamic issues. Ethical issues that arise in conducting psychoanalytic research are discussed.

PTNY 172 Clinical Investigations and Ethics in Psychoanalysis (Required)

Prerequisite: PTNY 171

This course introduces students to a variety of research methodologies that have been used to study psychoanalytic questions. Contemporary methodological concepts are introduced and the problems inherent in psychoanalytic investigations involving clinical material are explored. Students learn how psychoanalytic methods used to infer hidden meanings behind irrational behaviors, beliefs, perceptions, and emotions are utilized in conducting research. Ethical issues that arise in conducting psychoanalytic research are discussed.

PTNY 181 Somatic Factors: The Biology of Mind and Behavior (Required)

Students learn the significance of chemical, organic, and physiological factors and their interaction in psychic functioning. The course reviews brain anatomy and development, genetics and evolution of behavior, developments in neuroscience, the mind/body connection, and the effects of chemical intervention in various populations.



PTNY 184 Primitive Mental States (Required)

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

PTNY 186 Beyond Psychosis: Conflict and Defense in the Neuroses and Character Disorders (Elective)

This course deals with a range of pathologies likely to be encountered in patients at the Consultation and Referral Service and in private practice. It is taken after at least one year of fieldwork placement.

PTNY 187a and PTNY 187b Critical Observation and Psychoanalytic Listening, Parts 1 and 2 (Required)

Through fiction and documentary film, guest lectures, and readings spanning clinical theory, case material, and film analysis, this course will develop skills critical to understanding patients—including critical observation and psychoanalytic listening. It will supplement discussion of readings with a laboratory component consisting of visual and audio media focusing on primitive mental functioning.