

**ADVANCED PRACTICUM—TREATMENT OF PATIENTS WITH PERSONALITY
DISORDERS AND HIGHER LEVEL CHARACTER DISORDERS**

Psychology 80103

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Office Hours: Tuesday 4:00-6:00 or by appointment

Course Description

This practicum on the treatment of “the difficult patient,” will be centered around ongoing continuous case presentations by the participants, and discussion of selected readings. The major focus of the course will be on the modifications of standard psychoanalytic technique that have been developed to address the clinical needs of patients with both higher level character pathology and more severe personality disorders. Particular attention will be given to the quality of thought and the difficulties with affect regulation that take center stage in the treatment of such patients, and to the modifications of technique that are designed to help the patient to develop a greater capacity for symbolic management of affectively charged mental contents, as well as the capacity to permit integration of defensively fragmented affect states and object relations. We will focus on the interpretive process with patients with personality disorders, on the role of transference interpretation, and on the transference-countertransference configurations that develop with such patients. Students will be required to present their work in continuous case format and to prepare and distribute process notes to the class.

The major theorists represented are from the neo-Kleinian school who have a long history of treating more difficult patients analytically, and who have spearheaded among the most interesting and fruitful modifications of psychoanalytic technique. We will also read papers by the dialectical constructivists (e.g. Irwin Hoffman and Donnell Stern) and will cover several papers on transference and countertransference by Ogden and Renik. Although the major focus of the practicum is on interpretative psychodynamic psychotherapy, we will also explore some of the modifications of technique that have been developed by Fonagy’s Mentalization Based Treatment (MBT), and Applebaum’s supportive non-interpretive psychodynamic psychotherapy (STP). We will discuss one paper or book chapter each week, but the major focus of the course will be on the case presentations of the participants.

Readings:

The books can be ordered on Amazon, and the articles will be posted on the internet.

Anderson, R. (Ed.). (1992). *Clinical Lectures on Klein and Bion*. London and New York : Routledge.

Appelbaum, A. H. (2005). Supportive psychotherapy. In J. Oldham, A.

Skodol, & D. Bender (Eds.), *The American Psychiatric Publishing textbook of personality disorders* (pp. 311-326). Washington, DC:

American Psychiatric Publishing.

Bion, W. (1984). *Second Thoughts*. London: Marsfield Library.

Caligor, E., Kernberg, O.F, & Clarkin, J.F. (2007). *Handbook of dynamic psychotherapy for higher level personality pathology*. American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.

Caligor, E., Yeomans, F., Diamond, D. & Kernberg, O.F. (2009). The Interpretive Process in the Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy of Borderline Personality Pathology. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 57, .

Ferro, A. *Seeds of Illness, Seeds of Recovery: The Genesis of Suffering and the Role of Psychoanalysis*. New Library of Psychoanalysis, 2002. Chapters 1, 5, 8, and 10

Ferro, A. *Psychoanalysis as Therapy and Storytelling*, New Library of Psychoanalysis, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8. .

Ferro, A. *The Impasse Within a Theory of the Analytic Field*, IJP, 74:917-929.

Hoffman, I. *Ritual and Spontaneity in the Psychoanalytic Process*. Hillsdale, NJ: The Analytic Press. Chapters 1, 3, 8 and 9.

Joseph, B. Transference, the total situation. *Int. J. Psychoanal.* 66, 447-54.

Joseph, B. Addiction to near death. In M.Feldman, E.B. Spillius (eds.). *Psychic Equilibrium and psychic change: Selected papers of Betty Joseph*. London and New York: Routledge.

Kernberg, O.F., Diamond, D., Yeomans, F., Clarkin, J. & Levy, K. (in press). Mentalization and Attachment in Borderline Patients in Transference Focused Psychotherapy. In E. Jurist and A. Slade, (Eds). *Mind to Mind: Infant Research, Neuroscience, and Psychoanalysis*. New York: Other Press.

Kernberg, O. (2007). The Almost Untreatable Narcissistic Patient. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 55:2, 503-538.

Ogden, T. (1995). Analyzing Forms of aliveness and deadness in the transference-countertransference. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 76, 695-709.

Renik, O. (1993). Countertransference enactments and the psychoanalytic process. In *Psychic Structure and psychic Change*: ed. M. Horowitz, O. Kernberg & E. Weinschel. New York: International Universities Press., pp. 135-158.

Spillius, E.B. (Ed.). (2005) *Melanie Klein Today: Developments in Theory and Practice. Volume 2: Mainly Practice.* London: Taylor and Francis Group.

Stern, D. (2003). The Fusion of Horizons: dissociation, enactment and understanding. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 13, 743-773.

Stern, D. The Eye Sees Itself. *Dissociation, Enactment and the Achievement of Conflict.*

Steiner, J. (1993). Psychic Retreats. London and New York: Routledge.