Course Description
This course explores psychoanalytic perspectives on couples therapy and sexuality. We will consider how the analyst utilizes the exploration of unconscious conflicts to facilitate better functioning in couples, while also working with the “here and now” developing communication skills. We will study how psychoanalytic couples therapy addresses sexual conflicts and whether there is a role for behavioral techniques in analytic couples work. We will explore the changing socio-cultural landscape of sex and relationships, culling case studies from diverse media presentations (TV, movies, novels, and news media).

Objectives
The student will be able to:

- better understand the challenges and techniques of analytic couples therapy;
- identify how socio-cultural phenomena impact the maturation and psychopathology of the couple;
- develop psychoanalytic critical thinking through writing critical reviews of media events; and
- identify and discuss issues of couples and sexuality for themselves and their patients, which might impact their clinical training experience.

Lab Component
There is a weekly lab component in addition to class work. Students will be required to view and/or read a media (film, tv, video, novel, and/or article) presentation and submit a weekly review of their selection.

Method of Evaluation
1. Participation in class discussions.
2. Weekly submission of critical reviews.
3. Weekly logs.
4. Final paper. Final paper will be a 5-8 page paper, following the APA style, which focuses on a case study of a couple. References required.

Assigned Readings
Class 1
Class 2  

Class 3  

Class 4  

Class 5  

Class 6  

Class 7  

Class 8  

Class 9  

Class 10  
Class 11

Class 12