Course Description
This course deals with early psychic (mental/somatic/ emotional) development and functioning from conception through the first year of life from psychoanalytic and neurobiological perspectives viewed through the reciprocal interaction between constitution and experience. A goal is to understand how early perceptions and somatosensory experiences lead to the development of primitive defenses and the creation of memory; the primary role of emotions in infant-parent attachment in stages of symbiosis and the dawning of object relations; the role of the drives in early ego formation; the development of affect and thought.

Course Objectives
The student will be able to:
- describe the evolution of the psyche in its formative stages and its influence on later development;
- identify the spectrum of objectless, part-object and self-object states and ego development in adult individuals as manifested in varieties of narcissistic transference;
- identify primitive mental function as expressed in somatic states, memory traces, dreams, fantasies, enactments, unmentalized experiences, symbolic communication, projection and introjection, projective identification and related phenomena;
- identify primitive affective states such as annihilation anxiety, fear of being swallowed up, engulfed, devoured, falling apart, fragmenting, merging; oceanic feelings, terror, nameless dread, dissociation, depersonalization, and conflicts underlying them; and
- understand the role of the drives and infant/mother relations in the creation of psychic structure.

Methods of Evaluation
Students are evaluated on the basis of their progressive understanding of the subject matter as reflected in their participation in the class process and submission of weekly logs and a final term paper.

Logs: Each week students write logs describing their emotional and intellectual experience of the previous class session and readings. Please submit your logs electronically to: drbarbaradamato@gmail.com. Eleven weekly logs are required for the semester.

Paper: A final paper that researches a topic of particular interest to you in the area of early psychic functioning should be submitted in class #10 (April 19th). More details to follow.
**Texts**


---

**In advance of the first class please watch the following YouTube video:**


**Assigned Readings**

**Class 1**


**Class 2**


**Class 3**

Class 4

Class 5

Class 6

In advance of Class 7 please view the following YouTube video:

Class 7

Class 8

Class 9

Class 10
Class 11

Class 12

Additional Recommended Readings


