

**Syllabus**  
**PT 147 Adulthood**  
**J. Wade**                      **Spring 2018**

**Monday 5:30-7:30**  
**CMPS: 30 Clock Hours**  
**NYGSP: 2 Credits**

**Course Description**

This course identifies some conflicts of adulthood that are acutely present in current society. We will explore the unconscious motivations involved in narcissism, misogyny, racism, sexual exploitation, PTSD, and perversion, while considering the defensive operations that attempt to quell incestuous longings, fear of intimacy, fear of death, and sexual and maturational deficiencies. Through studying various psychoanalytic writings we'll attempt to make sense of Donald Trump, Harvey Weinstein, and a culture of racism, but also consider how these conflicts are dealt with throughout the phases of healthy adulthood.

**Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- recognize primitive elements of the libidinal and aggressive impulses of adult behavior as they are presented through case material;
- describe the importance of the capacity to integrate emotions and perceptions with reality testing;
- explain the difference between pathological action and perverse fantasy; and
- identify countertransference challenges for the analyst working with severe misogyny, malignant narcissism, and racism.

**Method of Evaluation**

Students are expected to:

- read the assigned readings before each class;
- participate in each class discussion;
- write a weekly log exploring the readings and class discussion;
- write two short papers incorporating the readings and discussion.

**Please note: for Class 6, you'll need to buy the book *Between the world and me* (T.-N. Coates) or borrow it from the public library.**

**Assigned Readings**

**Class 1**

- Freud, S. (1955). Group psychology and the analysis of the ego. In J. Strachey (Ed. and Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 18, pp. 117-128). London, England: Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1921) (PEP)
- Lifton, R. J. (2017). Foreword: Our witness to malignant normality. In B. X. Lee (Ed.), *The dangerous case of Donald Trump* (pp. xv-xix). New York, NY: St. Martin's Press.

## **Class 2**

Bollas, C. (1987). The liar. In *The shadow of the object* (pp. 173-188). New York, NY: Columbia University Press.

Bollas, C. (1992). The Fascist state of mind. In *Being a character: Psychoanalysis and self experience* (pp. 193-217). New York, NY: Hill and Wang.

Parental Alienation Syndrome Awareness. (2015, June 6). Decompensation of a narcissist [Video file]. A very quick video. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHoyQd8JhiE>

## **Class 3**

Paglia, C. (1991). Sex and violence, or nature and art. In *Sexual personae: Art and decadence from Nefertiti to Emily Dickinson* (pp. 1-39). New York, NY: Vintage Books.

## **Class 4**

Berke, J. H. (1989). Penis greed. *British Journal of Psychotherapy*, 5, 423-430. (PEP)

Harris, A. (2002). Mothers, monsters, mentors. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 3, 281-295. (PEP)

## **Class 5**

Eigen, M. (2007). Guilt in an age of psychopathy. *The Psychoanalytic Review*, 94, 727-49. (PEP)

Eigen, M. (2008). Hallucination and psychopathy. *International Forum of Psychoanalysis*, 17, 4-15. (PEP)

## **Class 6**

Coates, T.-N. (2015). *Between the world and me*. New York, NY: Spiegel & Grau. Selection to be announced. Please purchase the book.

Leary, K. (2007). Racial insult and repair. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 17, 539-549. (PEP)

## **Class 7**

Hammond, C. (2007, November 28). The Stanford prison experiment [Video file]. 28 minutes.

Retrieved from <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008crhv>

Piven, J. S. (2003). Death, repression, narcissism, misogyny. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 90, 225-260. (PEP)

## **Class 8**

Broyles, W., Jr. (1984, November). Why men love war. *Esquire Magazine*, 55-65. Retrieved from <http://www.esquire.com/news-politics/news/a28718/why-men-love-war/>

Shay, J. (1994). *Achilles in Vietnam; Combat trauma and the undoing of character*. New York, NY: Scribner. A selection of readings.

## **Class 9**

Jukes, A. (1993). Pornography, rape and masturbation. In *Why men hate women* (pp. 164-222). London, England: Free Association Books.

## **Class 10**

Sageman, S. (2003). The rape of boys and the impact of sexually predatory environments. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry*, 31, 563-580. (PEP)

## **Class 11**

Frommer, M. S. (2005). Thinking relationally about forgiveness: Commentary on paper by Stephen Wangh. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 15, 33-45. (PEP)

## **Class 12**

Dimen, M. (2001). Perversion is us?: Eight notes. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 11, 825-860. (PEP)