

**Syllabus**  
**PT 150 Concepts of Group Psychoanalysis**  
**D. Rosenthal Spring 2018**

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**Tue. 7:30-9:00**  
**CMPS: 30 Clock Hours**  
**NYGSP: 2 Credits**

**Course Description:**

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

**Course Objectives:**

Students will be able to:

- Describe the phenomenology of group setting;
- Understand the methods of managing and resolving resistances; and
- Understand the group therapist's role in managing impulses in group interactions from a modern analytic perspective

**Requirements:**

Students will be responsible for weekly class logs that reflect an understanding of key concepts and of class process. There will be a final paper – Due Class 10.

**READINGS**

Readings for this course will be drawn from the writings of Hyman Spotnitz, Phyllis Meadow, Louis Ormont and Leslie Rosenthal.

**Required Textbook:**

Ormont, L. (1992). *The group therapy experience: From theory to practice*. New York, NY: St. Martin's.

**Class 1**

**Introduction to Course**

Ormont, L. (1995). A view of the rise of modern group analysis. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 20, 31-42.  
(PEP)

## **FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPTS**

### **Class 2**

#### **The Group as the Family**

Kadis, A. L. (1956). Re-experiencing the family constellation in group therapy. *American Journal of Individual Psychoanalysis*, 12, 63-68.

Rosenthal, L. (2006). The re-enactment of familial roles as a resistance in group psychotherapy. *Group*, 30(3), 185-203.

### **Class 3**

#### **The Value of Resistance in Groups**

Ormont, L. (1992). The geography of resistances; The resistances – their curious desirability. In *The group therapy experience: From theory to practice* (pp. 119-125; 126-136). New York, NY: St. Martin's.

Rosenthal, L. (1996). Phenomena of resistance in modern group analysis. *American Journal of Psychotherapy*, 50, 75-89.

## **TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GROUP THERAPIST**

### **Class 4**

#### **Selecting, Screening and Preparing Patients**

Ormont, L. (1957). The preparation of patients for group psychoanalysis. *American Journal of Psychotherapy*, 11, 841-848.

Rosenthal, L. (1987). Selection and screening of patients. In *Resolving resistance in group psychotherapy* (pp. 159-179). Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson.

### **Class 5**

#### **Developing Connections Between Group Members**

Ormont, L. (1992). How to do it wrong; Involving the players – the technique of bridging. In *The group therapy experience: From theory to practice* (pp. 7-14; 15-26). New York, NY: St. Martin's.

### **Class 6**

#### **Maintaining a Therapeutic Atmosphere**

Ormont, L. (1992). Orchestrating a group. In *The group therapy experience: From theory to practice* (pp. 83-98). New York, NY: St. Martin's.

Rosenthal, L. (2005). The thermostatic function of the group analyst: Regulating the degree of stimulation in the group. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 30, 64-71. (PEP)

### **Class 7**

#### **The Value of the Therapy Contract in Groups**

Ormont, L. (1962). Establishing the analytic contract in a newly formed therapeutic group. *British Journal of Medical Psychology*, 35, 333-337.

Ormont, L. (1969). Acting-in and the therapeutic contract in group analysis. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, 19, 420-431.

## **Class 8**

### **Understanding and Responding to Group Resistances**

- Love, S., & Mayer, H. (1959). Going along with defenses in resistive families. *Social Casework*, 40, 69-74.
- Ormont, L. (1968). Group resistance and the therapeutic contract. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, 18, 147-154.
- Rosenthal, L. (2005). A modern analytic approach to group resistance. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 30, 150-166. (PEP)

## **Class 9**

### **Managing Aggression in Groups**

- Ormont, L. (1984). The leader's role in dealing with aggression in groups. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, 34, 553-572.
- Rosenthal, L. (2005). The new member: "Infanticide" in group psychotherapy. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 30, 54-63. (PEP)
- Spotnitz, H. (1976). Dealing with aggression in groups. In *Psychotherapy of preoedipal conditions* (pp. 69-75). New York, NY: Jason Aronson.

## **Class 10**

### **Recognizing Subjective & Objective Countertransference in Groups**

- Ormont, L. (1970-71, Winter). The use of the objective countertransference to resolve group resistances. *Group Process*, 96-111.
- Ormont, L. (1992). What the therapist feels. In *The group therapy experience: From theory to practice* (pp. 51-82). New York, NY: St. Martin's.

## **Class 11**

### **Responding to Pre-Oedipal Resistances in Groups**

- Meadow, P. (1985). Breaking taboos in group analysis. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 10, 137-164. (PEP)
- Spotnitz, H., & Meadow, P. (1976). Special resistances in group analysis. In *Treatment of the narcissistic neuroses* (pp. 218-233). New York, NY: The Manhattan Center for Advanced Psychoanalytic Studies.

## **Class 12**

Final Questions/Review of Course

### **Additional Recommended Readings:**

- Ackerman, N. (1955). Group psychotherapy with a mixed group of adolescents. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, 5, 249-260.
- Boenheim, C. (1957). Group psychotherapy with adolescents. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, 7, 398-405.
- Deutsch, H. (1967). Selected problems of adolescence with special emphasis on group formation. In *Monograph Series #3, The Psychoanalytic Study of the Child* (pp. 69-92). Madison, CT: International Universities Press.
- Foulkes, S.H. (1957). Group-analytic dynamics with special reference to psychoanalytic concepts. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, 7, 40-52.
- Horner, A. (1975). A characterological contraindication for group psychotherapy. *American Academy of Psychoanalysis*, 3, 301-305.
- Kubie, L. (1958). Some theoretical concepts underlying the relationship between individual and group psychotherapies. Discussion by S.H. Foulkes, M. Grotjahn, Slavson, et al. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, 8, 3-43.
- Mann, J. (1955). Some theoretical concepts of the group process. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, 5, 235-241.
- Ormont, L. (1974). The treatment of pre-oedipal resistances in the group setting. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 58, 429-441.
- Rosenthal, L. (1963). A study of resistance in a member of a therapeutic group. *International Journal of Group Psychotherapy*, 13, 315-326.
- Rosenthal, L. (1971). Some dynamics of resistance and therapeutic management in adolescent group therapy. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 58, 354-366.
- Rosenthal, L. (1991). The therapeutic effect of the group as preoedipal mother. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 16, 141-149.
- Rosenthal, L. (1987). *Resolving Resistance in Group Psychotherapy*. Northvale, NJ: Aronson.
- Slavson, S. R. (1957). Are there group dynamics in therapy groups? In *Dynamics of group psychotherapy* (pp. 287-312). Northvale, NJ: Aronson.
- Slavson, S. R. (1969). Anatomy and clinical applications of group interaction. *Dynamics of group psychotherapy* (pp. 249-261). Northvale, N.J.: Aronson.
- Spotnitz, H. (1961). *The Couch and the Circle*. New York, NY: Knopf.
- Spotnitz, H. (1968). Psychoanalytic therapy of aggression in groups. *Current Psychiatric Therapies*, 13, 149-155.
- Spotnitz, H. (1977). Group cohesion and cerebral synchronization. In L. Wolberg and M. L. Aronson (Eds.), *Group therapy 1977: An overview* (pp. 94-102). New York, NY: Stratton Intercontinental Medical Books.
- Spotnitz, H. (1987). The application of group psychotherapy in the treatment of the psychoneurotic syndromes. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 12, 5-16.
- Spotnitz, H. (1987). Transference and countertransference in group psychotherapy. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 12, 25-34.
- Welber, D. (1991). Growth and training of a modern group analyst. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 16, 183-193.