Course Description
Using characters from literature, the student seeks psychoanalytic understanding of character structure, defenses, and severe pathologies, including: psychosis, neurosis, and character disorders. Material will be chosen from complete novels, excerpts of novels, plays, and film.

Objectives
The student will be able to:
- Identify the psychodynamics of defenses involved in neurotic and psychotic pathologies, severe character disorders and the defenses manifested in these pathologies in figures drawn from literature and/or film;
- Examine conflict theory as it has evolved from id, ego, and superego conflicts to conflicts between constructive and destructive drives;
- Describe how different literary characters demonstrate the function of dual drives, unconscious motivation, repetition compulsion and other psychoanalytic concepts; and
- Explain how symbolism leads to recognition of unconscious motivation.

Teaching method
Class discussion of weekly readings and class process.

Methods of evaluation
LOGS:
Weekly logs are submitted on one 5x8 index card, or electronically submitted to bdamato@cmps.edu of length equal to one 5x8 index card before the subsequent class meeting. If you would like to receive responses to your logs please submit them electronically by Wednesday of each week. All logs are numbered (1 -11) and include the date of the class to which they refer.

Logs include one or more observations of behaviors that indicate the presence of character structures and/or the defenses operating in their service. These can be taken from the reading material or class process. Logs may also include questions or comments related to the class process and readings. Logs should avoid summarizing class-readings.

FINAL PAPER:
The final paper is 6 -8 pages. The paper may be an in depth examination of a character from one of the assigned readings, describing the fictional individual’s character structure, methods of impulse discharge, and the defenses he or she employs in this process; or it may be a creative endeavor portraying a character, patient, or other individual with a distinct character structure and the behaviors and defenses that might accompany such a person.

REFERENCES:
A minimum of three references are cited in the course assignment. Final paper is due on, or before, December 17th (Class 12).
Complete novels and plays are not available in the CMPS library and should be purchased, or borrowed from the New York Public Library.

**Required Texts**

**Assigned Readings**

**Class 1: 9/17/2016  Structural Theory**

**Class 2: 9/24/16  Delusion and the Art of Analyzing Fictional Characters**

**Class 3: 10/1/16  Dual Drive Theory, Denial and Psychopathy**

**Class 4: 10/8/16  Madness, Psychotic Defense and the Transference Cure**

**Class 5: 10/22/16  (Continued)**

**Class 6: 10/29/16  (Continued)**

**Class 7: 11/5/16  (Continued)**

**Class 8: 11/12/16  Incest and Indecision**
Class 9: 11/19/16  Psychological Merger and Destruction

Class 10: 12/3/16  Madness and/or Suicide

Class 11: 12/10/16  (Continued)

Class 12: 12/17/16  Virginia Woolf on screen

Additional Readings