

**Syllabus**  
**PT 156 Modern Psychoanalytic Theory of Technique**  
**T. Laquercia      Spring 2017**

**Wed. 3:30-5:30**  
**CMPS: 30 Clock Hours**

**Course Description**

Modern psychoanalytic theory of technique and its underpinnings in Freudian meta-theory will be explored. The therapeutic action of modern psychoanalysis relies on Hyman Spotnitz's philosophy of treatment and theory of technique originally developed for the treatment of schizophrenia and borderline conditions and found applicable to the full range of psychopathologies. The major technical concepts developed by Spotnitz, his followers and other influential theorists will be examined.

This course will enable students to obtain a clear grasp of modern theory of treatment, from the point of first contact between analyst and patient, through to the development and varying stages of transference, countertransference and resistance. The emphasis will be on affective communication, the therapeutic use of feelings, psychodynamic diagnosis, the attitude of the analyst, and analysis of the countertransference and induced feelings.

**Objectives**

Students will be able to:

- describe the concepts underlying the modern psychoanalytic approach to beginning treatment;
- learn the pivotal role of the contact function in all phases of analysis: elaboration of the range of modern psychoanalytic techniques of ego insulation and reinforcement;
- identify, manage and resolve resistances;
- how to analyze silently; assessment of patient's patterns of frustration tolerance and impulse control as a guide to diagnosis;
- examine transference phenomenon and distinguish differences of levels
- distinguish differences in induction and countertransference
- familiarize an understanding between objective and subjective experience; along the continuum of narcissistic to object transferences; and
- consider how verbal and nonverbal interventions can be derived from analysis of induced countertransference reactions and utilized to establish and work through narcissistic and object transference.

**Method of Evaluation**

Class participation, attendance, weekly logs covering readings and class process, and a final paper/project. Logs sent by email to instructor: will offer an opportunity for the instructor to communicate reaction to students comments if sent before the weekend before the next class. They can be emailed to [tlaquercia@aol.com](mailto:tlaquercia@aol.com)

## **Texts**

- Green, A. (1999). *The work of the negative*. London, England: Free Association Books.
- Meadow, P. W. (2003). *The new psychoanalysis*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Spotnitz, H. (1976). *Psychotherapy of preoedipal conditions*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson.

## **Assigned Readings**

### **Class 1**

- Freud, S. (1958). On beginning the treatment. In J. Strachey (Ed. and Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 12, pp. 121-144). London, England: Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1913) (PEP)
- Meadow, P. W. (1990). Treatment beginnings. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 15, 3-10. (PEP)

### **Class 2**

- Laquercia, T. (2016). Starting treatment. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 40, 68-76.
- Liegner, E. (1977). The first interview. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 2, 55-66. (PEP)

### **Class 3**

- Margolis, B. D. (1983). The contact function of the ego: Its role in the therapy of the narcissistic patient. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 70, 69-81. (PEP)
- Margolis, B. D. (1983). The object-oriented question. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 8, 35-46. (PEP)
- Margolis, B. D. (1986). Joining, mirroring, psychological reflection: Terminology, definitions, theoretical considerations. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 11, 19-35. (PEP)

### **Class 4**

- Meadow, P. W. (1987). The myth of the impersonal analyst. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 12, 131-150. (PEP)
- Meadow, P. W. (2003). Messages from the it. In *The new psychoanalysis* (pp. 23-46). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

### **Class 5**

- Spotnitz, H. (1985). Amplification of the basic theory of technique. In *Modern psychoanalysis of the schizophrenic patient* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). (pp. 70-77). New York, NY: Human Sciences Press.
- Spotnitz, H. (1985). Management and mastery of resistance. In *Modern psychoanalysis of the schizophrenic patient* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). (pp. 163-185). New York, NY: Human Sciences Press

### **Class 6**

- Meadow, P. W. (2003). The language of emotion. In *The new psychoanalysis* (pp. 47-66). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Spotnitz, H. (1976). Emotional induction. In *Psychotherapy of preoedipal conditions* (pp. 25-30). Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson.

### **Class 7**

- Rosenthal, L. (1994). The sequential approach to resistance. In *Resolving resistance in group psychotherapy* (pp. 107-131). Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson
- Spotnitz, H. (1966). The maturational interpretation. *Psychoanalytic Review*, 53C, 166-169. (PEP)

**Class 8**

Meadow, P. W. (2003). Creating psychic change. In *The new psychoanalysis* (pp. 67-107). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

**Class 9**

Spotnitz, H. (1976). The need for insulation. In *Psychotherapy of the preoedipal conditions* (pp. 117-136). Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson.

**Class 10**

Ernsberger, C. (1979). The concept of countertransference as therapeutic instrument: Its early history. *Modern Psychoanalysis, 4*, 141-164. (PEP)

Spotnitz, H. (1989). Therapeutic countertransference: Interventions with the schizophrenic patient. *Modern Psychoanalysis, 14*, 3-20. (PEP)

**Class 11**

Laquercia, T. (2005). Listening with the intuitive ear. *Modern Psychoanalysis, 30*, 60-72. (PEP)

**Class 12**

Liegner, E. J. (1995). The anaclitic countertransference in resistance resolution. *Modern Psychoanalysis, 20*, 153-164. (PEP)

Meadow, P. W. (1991). Resonating with the psychotic patient. *Modern Psychoanalysis, 16*, 87-103. (PEP)