

**Syllabus**  
**PT 160 Narcissism and Aggression**  
**R. Sacks                      Fall 2017**

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

**Course Description**

This course studies the relationship between narcissism and aggression with particular attention to those disorders in which self-hate predominates over self-love. The meaning of the narcissistic defense is clarified and the treatment techniques that have been devised to work with narcissistic disorders are discussed with reference to clinical material.

**Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- define and identify the role narcissism and aggression play in behavior, especially as they relate to those disorders in which self-hate predominates over self-love;
- identify the narcissistic defense as it is expressed in treatment; and develop an understanding of the treatment techniques used to work with narcissistic disorders and an understanding as to how they are effective; and
- compare and contrast aggressive behaviors and treatment destructive behaviors along with possible interventions to resolve both.

**Bases for Evaluation**

Satisfactory achievement of the objectives assumes that the student has:

- come to class having read the required reading and ready to participate in class discussions;
- contributed regularly to the discussions, demonstrating a grasp of the material and a capacity to make use of the principal concepts in clinical and/or personal experience;
- Written weekly logs should be submitted to: [richardjsacks@hotmail.com](mailto:richardjsacks@hotmail.com); and
- submitted a final paper, the specific requirement for which will be discussed in class.

**Assigned Readings**

**Class 1**

Freud, S. (1961). Civilization and its discontents. In J. Strachey (Ed. and Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 21, pp. 117-122). London, England: Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1930) (PEP)

**Class 2**

Freud, S. (1957). On narcissism: An introduction. In J. Strachey (Ed. and Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud*, (Vol. 14, pp. 67-102). London, England: Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1914) (PEP)

### **Class 3**

- Spotnitz, H. (1976). The myths of Narcissus. In *Psychotherapy of preoedipal conditions* (pp. 93-100). New York, NY: Jason Aronson.
- Spotnitz, H. (1985). Narcissistic transference. In *Modern psychoanalysis of the schizophrenic patient* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.) (pp. 186-217). New York, NY: Human Sciences Press.

### **Class 4**

- Green, A. (2001). Narcissism and psychoanalysis: Past and present. In *Life narcissism, death narcissism* (pp. ix-xxv). (A. Weller, Trans.). New York, NY: Free Association Books.
- Margolis, B. D. (1994). The contact function of the ego: Its role in the therapy of the narcissistic patient. *Modern Psychoanalysis, 19*, 199-210. (PEP)

### **Class 5**

- Freud, S. (1955). Beyond the pleasure principle. In J. Strachey (Ed. and Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 18, pp. 24-43). London, England: Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1920) (PEP)
- Freud, S., & Einstein, A. (1964). Why war? In J. Strachey (Ed. and Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 22, pp. 195-215). London, England: Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1932) (PEP)

### **Class 6**

- Buie, D., et al. (1983). Aggression in the psychoanalytic situation. *International Review of Psychoanalysis, 10*, 159-170. (PEP)
- Lacan, J. (2006). Aggressiveness in psychoanalysis. In *Ecrits* (pp. 82-101). (B. Fink, Trans.). New York, NY: Norton. (Original work published 1966)

### **Class 7**

- Epstein, L. (1977). The therapeutic function of hate in the countertransference. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis, 13*, 442-460. (PEP)
- Epstein, L. (1987). The problem of the bad-analyst-feeling. *Modern Psychoanalysis, 12*, 35-45. (PEP)

### **Class 8**

- Kumar, M. (2005). Freud and narcissism: Developing links for the inclusion of the 'object'. *International Forum of Psychoanalysis, 14*, 86-93. (PEP)
- Margolis, B. (1984). Notes on narcissistic resistance. *Modern Psychoanalysis, 9*, 149-156. (PEP)
- Winnicott, D. W. (1975). Aggression in relation to emotional development. In *Through pediatrics to psychoanalysis* (pp. 204-218), New York, NY: Basic Books. (PEP)

### **Class 9**

- Fonagy, P., Moran, G. S., & Target, M. (1993). Aggression and the psychological self. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis, 74*, 471-485. (PEP)
- Gaddini, E. (1972). Aggression and the pleasure principle: Towards a psychoanalytic theory of aggression. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis, 53*, 191-197. (PEP)

### **Class 10**

- Green, A. (1972). Moral narcissism. In *On private madness* (pp. 115-141). London, England: Rebus Press.

**Class 11**

Meadow, P. W. (2003). Drives, aggression, destructivity. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 28, 199-205. (PEP)

Spotnitz, H., & Meadow, P. (1976). The narcissistic countertransference: A theory of emotional contagion and the toxoid response. In *Treatment of the narcissistic neuroses* (pp. 75-93). New York, NY: The Manhattan Center for Advanced Psychoanalytic Studies.

**Class 12**

Bersani, L. (2008). The power of evil and the power of love. In L. Bersani & A. Phillips, *Intimacies* (pp. 57-87). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Phillips, A. (2008). On a more impersonal note. In L. Bersani & A. Phillips, *Intimacies* (pp. 89-117). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

**Additional Readings and Resources**

A list of readings relevant to class discussions will be developed as the course unfolds.