

Syllabus
PT 184 Primitive Mental States
C. Melnik Spring 2019

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

Course Description

This course imparts a psychodynamic understanding of symptoms, core conflicts, and characteristic defenses in psychotic and narcissistic disorders.

Objectives

The student will be able to:

- demonstrate a psychodynamic understanding of the symptoms, core conflicts, and characteristic defenses inherent in primitive mental states; and
- distinguish between psychoanalytic and psychiatric diagnoses of symptoms, and recognize onset, course, and prognosis of the major mental disorders.

Teaching Method

There will be discussion of the assigned literature and videos, as well as guided class discussion of relevant case material. Emotional learning will occur by connecting the student's emotional experience with the course's theoretical content.

Method of Evaluation

Evidence of progressive understanding of clinical psychopathology, as demonstrated by class participation, logs and final paper. Students visit three psychiatric institutions during the semester, submitting written reports of those visits by the last class.

Texts

Alhanati, S., & Kostoulas, K. (Eds.). (1997). *Primitive mental states: Across the lifespan (Primitive mental states, vol. 1)*. Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson.

Boyer, L. B., & Giovacchini, P. L. (Eds.). (1990). *Master clinicians on treating the regressed patient*. Northvale, NJ: Aronson.

Eigen, M. (1986). *The psychotic core*. New York, NY: Aronson.

Fenichel, O. (1954). *The collected papers of Otto Fenichel: Second series*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton.

Meadow, P. W. (2003). *The new psychoanalysis*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Moore, B., & Fine, B. (1990). *Psychoanalytic terms and concepts*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

National Institute of Mental Health (2016, October). Inflammation in pregnant moms linked to child's brain development [Science update]. Retrieved from <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/news/science-news/2018/inflammation-in-pregnant-moms-linked-to-childs-brain-development.shtml>

National Institute of Mental Health (2018, July 24). Mental health medications [Health topics].

Retrieved from <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/mental-health-medications/index.shtml>

Nicholi, A. M., Jr. (Ed.). (1999). *New Harvard guide to psychiatry* (3rd ed.) Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

- Searles, H. (1965). *Collected papers on schizophrenia and related subjects*. New York, NY: International Universities Press.
- Searles, H. (1979). *Countertransference and related subjects: Selected papers*. New York, NY: International Universities Press.
- Spotnitz, H. (1985). *Modern psychoanalysis of the schizophrenic patient* (2nd ed.). New York, NY: Human Sciences Press.

To access full text documents from the PEP links, you'll need to first log into your PEP account.

Assigned Readings

Class 1

- Gibbs, P. L. (2007). The primacy of psychoanalytic intervention in recovery from the psychoses and schizophrenias. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis*, 35, 287-312.
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=jaa.035.0287a>
- Saks, E. (2012, June). Elyn Saks: A tale of mental illness--from the inside [Video file]. Retrieved from http://www.ted.com/talks/elyn_saks_seeing_mental_illness.html
- Tsuang, M., Faraone, S. V., & Green, A. (1999). Schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders. In *New Harvard guide to psychiatry* (3rd ed.). (pp. 243-252). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Class 2

- Longden, E. (2013, February). Eleanor Longden: The voices in my head [Video file]. Retrieved from http://www.ted.com/talks/eleanor_longden_the_voices_in_my_head.html
- Searles, H. (1979). The schizophrenic individual's experience of his world. In *Countertransference and related subjects* (pp. 5-27). New York, NY: International Universities Press.

Class 3

- Spotnitz, H. (1981). Aggression in the therapy of schizophrenia. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 6, 131-140.
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=mpsa.006.0131a>
- Spotnitz, H. (1985). Conceptualization of the illness. In *Modern psychoanalysis of the schizophrenic patient* (pp. 40-69). New York, NY: Human Sciences Press.

Film:

- Kimmel, S., Cameron, J., & Aubrey, S. (Producers) & Gillespie, C. (Director). (2008). *Lars and the real girl* [Motion picture]. USA: MGM Studios.

Class 4

- Fenichel, O. (1954). Early stages of ego development. In *The collected papers of Otto Fenichel: Second series* (pp. 25-48). New York, NY: W. W. Norton. (Original work published 1937)
- Insel, T. (2013, January). Thomas Insel: Toward a new understanding of mental illness [Video file]. Retrieved from http://www.ted.com/talks/thomas_insel_toward_a_new_understanding_of_mental_illness.html

Visit by Fieldwork Coordinator

Class 5

Fonagy, P., & Target, M. (1995). Understanding the violent patient: The use of the body and the role of the father. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 76, 487-501.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.076.0487a>

Freud, S. (1966). Draft H: Paranoia. In J. Strachey (Ed. and Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 1, pp. 206-212). London, England: Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1894)

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=se.001.0000a>

Freud, S. (1966). Draft K: Paranoia. In J. Strachey (Ed. and Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 1, pp. 226-228). London, England: Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1895)

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=se.001.0000a>

Documentary:

Teale, S. (Producer), & De Leo, M. (Director). (2001). *Bellevue: Inside out* [Video file]. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1Bab-bjsLQ>

Class 6

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

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=mpsa.016.0087a>

Meadow, P. W. (2003). The language of emotion. In *The new psychoanalysis* (pp. 47-66). Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Class 7

Eigen, M. (1993). Demonized aspects of the self. In *The electrified tightrope* (pp. 181-209). Northvale, NJ: Aronson.

Giovacchini, P. (1993). Schizophrenia, the pervasive psychosis: Paradoxes and empathy. *Journal of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry*, 21, 549-565.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=jaa.021.0549a>

Yu, J. (Writer, Director). (1998). *The living museum* [Video file]. Link to video will be provided.

Class 8

Mitrani, J. (1995). Toward an understanding of unmentalized experience. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 64, 68-112.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=paq.064.0068a>

Class 9

Meissner, W. W. (1998). Borderline diagnosis. In *Treatment of patients in the borderline spectrum* (pp. 3-61). Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson.

Searles, H. F. (1986). Non-differentiation of ego-functioning in the borderline individual, and its effect upon his sense of personal identity. In *My work with borderline patients* (pp. 57-78). Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson.

Class 10

Ogden, T. H. (1988). On the dialectical structure of experience—Some clinical and theoretical implications. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 24, 17-45.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=cps.024.0017a>

Class 11

Bollas, C. (1999). Occasional madness of the psychoanalyst. In *The mystery of things* (pp. 140-148). New York, NY: Routledge.

Eigen, M. (1993). Working with “unwanted” patients. In *The electrified tightrope* (pp. 25-41). Northvale, NJ: Aronson.

Presentation by advanced candidate student on a fieldwork case.

Class 12

Searles, H. F. (1990). Unconscious identification. In L. B. Boyer and P. L. Giovacchini (Eds.), *Master clinicians on treating the regressed patient* (pp. 211-226). Northvale, NJ: Aronson.

Winnicott, D. W. (1974). Fear of breakdown. *International Review of Psycho-Analysis*, 1, 103-107.
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=irp.001.0103a>