

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY
Psychology U666: Seminar in Clinical Psychology
Fall 2004

Meetings: Mondays & Thursdays 11:45am-1:25pm
107 Ryder Hall

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Office hours: Mondays & Thursdays 10:30-11:30am
and by appointment

Course Description: This course provides an advanced overview of clinical psychology through the lens of contemporary psychoanalytic theory and practice. Students will be introduced to controversies in the field regarding issues of diagnosis, theoretical orientation, treatment matching, outcome research, therapeutic factors, and cultural diversity through a look at one of the oldest, most vibrant, and prevalent clinical traditions. The goals of the course are to help students:

- understand the unique place of psychoanalysis in contemporary thinking and living
- develop and be able to articulate a psychoanalytic understanding of the DSM-IV-TR
- become aware of and be able to articulate the relative strengths and limitations of psychoanalytic approaches relative to those of other clinical modalities
- critically assess the existing clinical research literature

As the course is a seminar, students will be expected to participate fully in lectures and discussions. This is not only to help students get the most for their investment of time and money, but provides the instructor an opportunity to further his own learning and tailor the class to individual needs and interests.

Due to the subject matter of this course, emotional reactions of various intensities may arise in response to the readings, lecture, or class discussion. Students are asked to bring any concerns in this or any other regard to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible.

Please know that there are no inappropriate questions and that all feedback on the course will be taken seriously, regardless of its eventual implementation.

Grade: Two papers and a final examination are assigned. The final grade is calculated as follows:

25%	Attendance and Participation
25%	First Paper
25%	Second Paper
25%	Final Examination

Requirements: Regular attendance and participation, thorough reading of required material prior to class discussion, and timely completion of assignments. Students are responsible for all material covered and information disbursed in class regardless of attendance. Students are also responsible for contacting the instructor regarding any missed classes or assignments.

As a courtesy to the instructor and fellow students, please turn off or silence all cell phones, pagers, and electronic signaling devices prior to class, and refrain from conversing with one another during the lecture.

Text: McWilliams, Nancy. (1994). *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis*. 2nd Edition. Guilford Press.

Assignments

The Reading: Students are asked to do the assigned reading prior to lecture and to take appropriate reading notes.

Students frequently find they have questions about the reading, comments about it, or simply reactions to it. Any of these can be as valuable (if not more so) than anything students will read or hear from the instructor. Students are thus strongly encouraged to bring them to class and be prepared to share them.

1) First Paper: Pick a diagnostic entity or clinical condition and do one of the following:

- a) describe its *history* up to the present
- b) compare and contrast its psychoanalytic *understanding* to that of other clinical approaches
- c) compare and contrast its psychoanalytic *treatment* to that of other clinical approaches

2) Second Paper: Using the knowledge acquired in class, provide an in-depth understanding of either:

- a) an *individual* (from real life, current events, history, literature, or cinema)
- b) a *work of art* (e.g., a painting, sacred text, literary work, piece of music, film, or performance)
- c) a contemporary, historical, political, or social *process* or *event*

- Papers are to have a maximum body of 12 double-spaced typed pages.
- Papers are to be submitted electronically (i.e., by e-mail) no later than noon of the day due. *Papers submitted after the beginning of class on the due date shall have half a letter grade deducted per day late.* Although this is not required, hard copies may also be submitted at the beginning of class.
- Sample paper topics include:
 - Comparing the Psychoanalytic and Behavioral Understandings of Autism
 - Psychoanalysis and Cognitive Therapy for Depression
 - The Transitional Object World of Calvin and Hobbes
 - Towards a Psychoanalysis of September 11th and its aftermath
 - Mr. Hanky and the Creative Politics of Opposition and Defiance
 - Who's(e) *Pride* and Who's(e) *Prejudice*? A Self Psychological Look at Jane Austen

3) Final Examination: Students have the option of taking an hour-long in-class written final (date and time to be announced in class), or a twenty-minute oral examination.

The written examination consists of four questions taken from a list of eight handed to students on the last day of class. The oral examination consists of four different questions designed to test students' knowledge of the material as a whole. Students **may not** use books or notes for either exam.

Students who wish to take the oral final must let the instructor know in person by November 11. Otherwise, it will be assumed that all students will sit for the written final.

Studying for this course: Experience has shown that students get the most out of the class when studying is done in groups and takes place over the length of the course (as opposed to all at one sitting).

In addition to the social advantages, studying in groups has the benefit of permitting students access to a wide range of note-taking, thinking, and learning styles. It also provides a handy way to get the notes, information, or other material from a missed class.

Schedule of Classes

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
September 9	The History, Systems, and Culture of Clinical Psychology	
September 13	What is (and isn't) Psychoanalysis?	online
September 16	Research, the DSM-IV, and the Politics of Psychoanalysis in America	online
September 20	Why (not) Diagnose?	Chapter 1
September 23	Character	Chapter 2
September 27	Development	Chapter 3
September 30	The Borderline Concept & Conditions	online
October 4	The Defenses I: Archaic and Intermediate Adaptations	Chapter 5
October 7	The Defenses II: Higher-Order Adaptations	Chapter 6 1st Paper Due
October 11	<i>No Class: Columbus' Day</i>	
October 14	Psychosis	Chapter 10
October 18	Depression	Chapter 11
October 21	Anxiety	online
October 25	Psychopathy	Chapter 7
October 28	The Concept of Narcissism	Chapter 8
November 1	The Schizoid Self	Chapter 9
November 4	Obsession and Compulsion	Chapter 12
November 8	The Problem of Masochism	Chapter 13
November 11	<i>No Class: Veterans' Day</i>	
November 15	Hysteria	Chapter 14
November 18	Trauma & Dissociation	Chapter 15
November 22	Treatment I: Cognitive and Behavioral Approaches	online 2nd Paper Due
November 25	<i>No Class: Thanksgiving</i>	
November 29	Treatment II: Psychoanalysis & Psychoanalytic Therapies	Chapter 4
December 2	Treatment III: Systems, Humanistic, and Existential Approaches	online
December 6	Conclusion	

Readings marked **online** are available through the class website on Blackboard.

The **final examination** will be due **Tuesday, December 14** from **10:30am-12:30pm** (location TBA).

There will be **no class** on **October 11, November 11, or November 25**.