Theoretical Foundations of Intervention: Psychoanalytic

Nancy McWilliams, Instructor
Fall, 2009: Mondays, 1:15 to 4:00

Course Objectives

The course will cover the development of psychoanalytic theory, emphasizing its most clinically relevant models and concepts, and will explore how different psychoanalytic approaches conceptualize human events and may prevent and relieve human suffering.

Requirements

A. Brief paper (4-8 double-spaced pages, not including the narration of the dream itself and the associations to it), due October 19.

Report a dream that you or an acquaintance has had (can be a client, if you have complete dream material available, including a fair number of associations). Give the context in which it occurred (i.e., the day residue) and all available associations. Analyze it as fully as possible, drawing on the following models and concepts from Freudian theory:

1. Structural: What are the manifestations of id, ego, and superego processes? (What ego defenses can you discern? What conflicts are suggested?)
2. Dynamic: What is the meaning of the dream? (What predominant themes, and/or wishes does it seem to contain?)
3. Genetic: What threads from childhood and adolescence can you trace? What earlier material is the current intrapsychic material echoing?

B. Final exam, due November 16 (week after class ends) by 5:00 p.m.: 6-page take-home paper responding to a general question about the psychoanalytic orientation, in which course material, especially the readings, can be summarized and commented on.

Grading: Paper, 30%; class participation, 30%; final exam 40%.

Instructor availability: I am usually available before class in room A353.
Home/office phone: 908-782-9766 (gets me directly or takes messages).
Cell phone if urgent: 908-902-3455, e-mail: nancymcw@aol.com.

Texts

Freud, S. (1900). The interpretation of dreams. (any edition.)
(Optional:) Freud, Papers on Technique (any edition).

Schedule of topics and coordinated readings
Read before first meeting: Freud, S. (1900). The interpretation of dreams. Chapters 2-5 (and more if you wish).

Tuesday, September 8: Overview of course. Background on Freud and psychoanalysis.

Read for next week:

September 14: No class: To be rescheduled –topic chosen by class.

September 21: Drive-conflict theory: The topographic, economic & dynamic models of early Freudian theory; the structural, genetic, and adaptive models of later Freudian ideas.

Read for next week:
(2) McWilliams, preface, intro, and chs. 1-4.

September 28: Ego psychology

Read for next week:
(2) McWilliams, chs. 5, 6.

October 5: Personality organization and personality types

Read for next week:

October 12: Developmental and preventive perspectives: Object relations theory, self psychology, interpersonal theory, origins of the contemporary relational movement.
Read for next class:

October 19: Projective testing: Overview of the Rorschach and the TAT.

Read for next week:

October 26: Psychoanalytic perspectives on organizations and institutions.

Read for next week:

November 2: Early and classical psychoanalytic therapy.

Read for next week:
Luepnitz, all. (Case studies: a middle-class white couple; an eleven-year-old severely diabetic girl seen with her orthodox Jewish family; a commitment phobic middle-aged white man; an African American college teacher; a homeless single mother.)

November 9: Contemporary psychoanalytic therapies.

Possible readings for rescheduled class: