CFDL 601: Psychodynamic Psychology III: Object Relations I

Ph.D. Program - Distance Learning: Fall 2013-14 (adapted from J. Tolleson, Fall 2012-13)

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Course Objectives:

1. To familiarize students with the history of and core theoretical concepts within the British object relations tradition, emphasizing the contributions of Melanie Klein, W.R.D. Fairbairn, and D.W. Winnicott.

2. To promote understanding of the internal object (as distinct from the environmental object) as it both animates and informs the intrapsychic (phantasy) and relational (interpersonal) dimensions of emotional life.

3. To enhance integration of seminal object relations concepts-- the internal object, schizoid and depressive anxieties, object usage, projective identification, and transference/countertransference processes--into an understanding of clinical and sociocultural phenomena.

Required Texts


**Course Requirements**

All readings are required. Students must come to class prepared to reflect upon and integrate the readings into the classroom discussion.

One paper (12-15 pages in length) is assigned, which is due the last day of class. For the paper, students are expected to independently research one of the core concepts studied in class (through a British/Kleinian/Independent object relations lens), reading in this conceptual tradition beyond the class syllabus (Note: While secondary/integrationist texts are permitted to supplement understanding, students should immerse themselves in primary source theoretical material). Based on this in-depth study, the student should write a formal theoretical paper in which the chosen concept is applied to a “real world” (or socio-cultural) situation (an example will be provided). Ideally, students will use their chosen concept to illuminate their dissertation topic. The paper should emphasize how the concept elaborates the phenomenology of the case example (rather than theoretical recitations/reconstructions of infant development). The paper must contain appropriate citations (conforming to APA format), and will be evaluated on quality of writing, creativity of application, and complexity, depth, clarity, and integration of conceptual understanding. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.

Grading will be based on the following: Quality of class participation: 40%, Paper: 60%

The course is taught in a lecture/discussion format. Therefore, class attendance is required. For students who miss more than one class session (excepting a personal emergency), the overall course grade will be lowered one level. Students who miss more than two class sessions will automatically fail the course (in cases of personal emergency, the student will be asked to withdraw from the course and retake it the following year).

Except in cases of extreme personal emergency (requiring permission from the instructor before the last class day), there will be no “incompletes” given for the class. An assignment turned in late will not be accepted.

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**Reading List**

**CLASS 1: THE BRITISH PSYCHOANALYTIC TRADITION**


**CLASS 2: THE INTERNAL OBJECT**


CLASS 3: PRIMITIVE ANXIETIES, THE BAD OBJECT, AND THE SCHIZOID SITUATION IN MELANIE KLEIN


CLASS 4: PRIMITIVE ANXIETIES, THE BAD OBJECT, AND THE SCHIZOID SITUATION IN FAIRBAIRN AND WINNICOTT


CLASS 5: THE DEPRESSIVE POSITION


CLASS 6: OBJECT USAGE


CLASS 7: PROJECTIVE IDENTIFICATION


**CLASS 8: TRANSFERENCE AND COUNTERTRANSFERENCE**
