This course will introduce students to the origin and concepts of relational theory and acquaint them with the representative theorists, as well as examine the usefulness of relational theory in practice and its relationship to other psychoanalytic theories. The course will be conducted as a seminar, and students will be responsible for reflecting upon and integrating the readings into class discussions.

Goals:

1. Students will become familiar with the concepts of relational theory.
2. Place relational theory in the context of psychoanalytic theory.
3. Gain an understanding of the clinical implications of relational theory.

Evaluation:

Grades will be based 50% on class participation and 50% on written assignments.

Each student will be responsible for leading the class discussion in one article or book chapter.

Written Assignments:

Present a brief written case vignette for class discussion. The case should illustrate a theoretical concept identified in the course readings.

Write 5-7 page paper on the clinical vignette, discussing how the readings and class discussions have influenced your understanding and clinical work with the patient.

Due the final class session

Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required. No more than two absences will be allowed. Incompletes will be given at the instructor’s discretion and only in cases of extreme emergency.

Required Text:
Class 1: September 18 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m., ICSW): The Roots of Relational Theory


Class 2: September 27 (8-10 p.m., online): From Interpersonal to Relational


Class 3: October 11 (8-10 p.m., online): Models of the Mind


Class 4: October 25 (8-10 p.m., online): Is there a relational unconscious?


Class 5: November 6 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m., ICSW): One Person or Two Person? Mutuality, Self-Disclosure, and the Analyst’s Subjectivity


Class 6: November 29 (8-10 p.m., online): From Regression to Dissociation, a New Concept of Self


Class 7: December 13 (8-10 p.m., online): From Potential Space to Thirdness, The Intersubjective Turn


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