CF 501 Psychodynamic Psychology I
Sherwood Faigen

Overview of Major Psychodynamic Theories

This course overviews the major psychodynamic theories that inform current day theoretical developments and controversies. We will explore the essential elements of the theories, their historical contexts and progression. We will end the course with a discussion on the role of theory in clinical work, the nature of clinical theory and ongoing controversies in psychodynamic theory.

Objectives

1. Provide an introduction the major psychodynamic theories that inform the ICSW program
2. Familiarize students with the similarities and differences among theories
3. Provide a foundation for deeper exploration of psychodynamic theory

Evaluation of Learning

There will be three evaluation of student learning elements:

Midterm: Due after the fourth class. Write three questions that address the different theories discussed. Then write a one paragraph answer to each question.

Final Exam: Due one week after the last class. The final will be an open book exam consisting of ten questions that cover the course content. Each question is to be answered with a one paragraph answer using proper citations.

Class Participation: is an integral aspect of this course, this includes participating in class discussions and asking questions about the readings or concepts being discussed.

Grading:
Grades will be based on the following formula:
Midterm: 25%
Final: 50%
Class Participation 25%

Attendance is mandatory. Absences should be limited to emergencies and cleared in advance with the instructor.

Required Texts


**Course Readings:**

*Readings* found under each class heading are required for that class. *Additional Readings* are listed for students who wish to pursue theoretical ideas in greater depth.

**Class I: Sigmund Freud**

**Readings:**

Mitchell and Black Chapter 1: Sigmund Freud and the Classical Psychoanalytic Tradition


**Additional Readings:**


**Class II: Ego Psychology**

**Readings:**

Mitchell and Black Chapter 2: Ego Psychology

Freud, A. (1937). *The ego and mechanisms of defense. Chapters 3 and 4* scan


**Additional Readings:**


Class III: Melanie Klein and Contemporary Kleinian Theory

Readings:

Mitchell and Black Chapter 4: Melanie Klein and Contemporary Kleinian Theory


Additional Readings:


Class IV: Object Relations Theory

Mitchell and Black, Chapter 5: W.R.D. Fairbairn and D.W. Winnicott

Fairbairn, W.R.D. (1943) *Chapter III: The Repression and the Return of Bad Objects (with special reference to the ‘WarNeuroses’)*. scan


Additional Readings


Palombo, J., Bendicsen, H., and Koch. B. Chapter 8

Class V: Interpersonal Tradition
Mitchell and Black Chapter 3: Harry Stack Sullivan and Interpersonal Analysis

Sullivan, H.S. (1938) The data of psychiatry. Psychiatry, 1:121-134. scan

Additional Readings:

Palombo, J., Bendicsen, H., and Koch. B. Chapter 12


Class VI Identity and Self

Readings:

Mitchell and Black, Chapter VI: Psychologies of Identity and Self: Erik Erikson and Heinz Kohut


Additional Readings:


Class VII Contemporary Freudian

Readings:

Mitchell and Black, Chapter 7 Contemporary Freudian Revisionists: Otto Kernberg, Roy Schafer, Hans Loewald and Jaques Lacan


Additional Readings:


Chapter VIII What is a Theory and What is the Role of Theory in Clinical
Work?

**Readings:**

Mitchell and Black Chapter 8: Controversies in Theory and Chapter 9 Controversies in Technique

