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, unconscious phantasy, 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. Students will take a final, take-home exam as the major assignment for the course. The exam will consist of five essay questions, from which students select four to complete. Each question will involve exploration of one of the
major concepts from the course, and the answer to each question may not exceed three double-spaced pages, including citations. The completed final exam should not exceed a total of 12 pages. The completed final exam must contain appropriate citations (conforming to APA format, and from sources primarily from within course readings), and will be evaluated on quality of writing, clarity of description, and conceptual understanding. Students should not cite lecture notes in final exams. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. The completed exam must be submitted via email one week after the final class session. Students are responsible for ensuring that the instructor has received their submitted final exams.

Grading will be based on the following: Quality of class participation: 40%, Final Exam: 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.

Reading List:

**CLASS 1: THE BRITISH PSYCHOANALYTIC TRADITION**


**CLASS 2: THE INTERNAL OBJECT AND UNCONSCIOUS PHANTASY**


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


Klein, M. (1948). “A contribution to the theory of anxiety and
guilt.” International Journal of Psycho-Analysis, 29, pp. 114-123. PEP Archive

**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**


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