Course Objectives:

1. To introduce students to the British Object Relations school of thought, emphasizing the seminal works of Melanie Klein, Ronald Fairbairn, and Donald Winnicott.
2. To integrate these thinkers’ ideas into an explanatory framework encompassing intrapsychic, interpersonal, and sociocultural phenomena.
3. To explore contemporary object relations ideas and their potential for both intersection and conflict with cognitive neuroscience and attachment theory.

Required Texts:


[Note: The instructor will provide students with publisher-approved duplicates of required chapters from Hating in the First Person Plural: Psychoanalytic Essays on Racism, Homophobia, Misogyny, and Terror, edited by Donald Moss. The cost to each student will be $32 per set of copies.]

Course Requirements:

The course format includes both lecture and discussion. The overall course grade will be lowered for students who miss more than one class session (with
the exception of personal emergencies). 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 won’t be accepted; assignments that aren’t stapled won’t be accepted; mid-terms that are emailed without the explicit and prior permission of the instructor won’t be accepted.

All readings are required. Students must come to class prepared to reflect upon and integrate the readings into the classroom discussion. Students also should be prepared for each class session to talk informally about an example of that session’s selected concept, as they’ve experienced it in clinical work.

**Mid-term:** Students will take a take-home mid-term exam after the fourth class session, which will be due at the beginning of the fifth class session. The exam will consist of five essay questions drawn from classic object-relations concepts, from which students will select two essay questions 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 7 pages. The completed mid-term 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.

**Final paper:** The final paper (12-15 pages in length) is due the last day of class. For the paper, students should pick a former or current clinical case and discuss it using concepts drawn from each of the three broad categories of contemporary object-relations thinking. For example, students could use: ideas from one of the metapsychologists to discuss the dynamics perceived in the treatment itself; concepts from attachment and psychoanalysis to consider early development; and thinking from applied group psychology to explore the sociocultural backdrop of the case under discussion, and how sociocultural factors may interpenetrate with individual psychology. Students must email the instructor with proposed concepts for their papers and must receive the instructor’s approval prior to beginning writing. Papers must comply with stylistic requirements laid out in the ICSW Style Format. Papers will be evaluated on quality of writing, creativity of application and integration, and complexity, depth, and clarity of conceptual understanding.

Students should not cite lecture notes in any papers. Neither the Institute nor the instructor will tolerate any form of plagiarism. 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. The instructor will complete standard grade forms, and also send comments about final exams to students via email; however, the instructor will keep the final exams in case of questions about grades. After one year, the instructor will shred them.

Grading will be based on the following: Quality of class participation: 20%; mid-term exam: 30%; final exam: 50%

**Reading List:**

**CLASS 1: THE BRITISH PSYCHOANalytic TRADITION; THE INTERNAL OBJECT; AND UNCONSCIOUS PHANTASY**


**CLASS 2: PRIMITIVE ANXIETIES AND THE BAD OBJECT**


**CLASS 3: THE DEPRESSIVE POSITION AND OBJECT USAGE**


**CLASS 4: PROJECTIVE IDENTIFICATION; TRANSFERENCE & COUNTERTRANSFERENCE**


Psycho-Analysis, 31, pp. 81-84. PEP Archive


Class 5 – The Metapsychologists: one of two


Class 6 – The Metapsychologists: two of two


Class 7 – Attachment, Neuroscience, and Psychoanalysis


Class 8 – Group Psychology and Applied Psychoanalysis


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