CL 802- CASE CONFERENCE VI:
THE THERAPIST’S SUBJECTIVITY
Fall, 2016

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Course Description

The course will be organized around making more alive our understanding of what we mean by unconscious life and how it is expressed. We will explore this primarily in the psychotherapeutic context but will include how unconscious phenomena present in other realms, as in our personal and professional lives. Toward this end, we will work closely with clinical material as the foundation from which to integrate our discussion of various psychoanalytic approaches to method and conceptualization. These will include: the intrapsychic and interpersonal; conflict and deficit; transference and counter transference; dreams and free association; neutrality and engagement; repetition and enactment; resistance and defense; and history and context. While the major psychoanalytic theories all have something vitally important to say about the human condition, not one by itself or taken together is able to encompass all of how we develop and how we change. In this spirit we will be mindful of developing our own synthesis and point of view using psychoanalysis as a vehicle to do so.

Goals

1. To deepen our understanding of unconscious life and how it is expressed.
2. To enhance our capacity to use psychoanalytic approaches in clinical, personal and professional contexts.
3. To become more cognizant of the ways in which we work in the therapeutic context
4. To develop a more comprehensive sense as to how we think people change.

Requirements and Evaluation

As in the psychoanalytic way of engaging with clinical work, each member of the class will present their experience with a therapy case, or something personal or professional that felt especially meaningful. This will enable us to clarify where and how psychoanalytic methods and concepts enhance our understanding. In orienting
yourself to the presentation do muse over what unconscious meanings and motivations may be at play in moving you toward your choice of what to talk about.

Written work will involve two, three to four page (double spaced) papers. The first is due at the midpoint of the semester while the second at the end. One should be based on your class presentation – the other may be as well or on another subject. You might reflect on what you have come to understand about the clinical/change process in the broadest sense, including your studies in the program or in your lives. Or you could address a meaningful clinical or personal experience incorporating what you came to know via class discussions and readings and what questions this stimulates. The second paper may be an elaboration of the first in light of what you have currently been learning about. In both papers do keep in mind that the psychoanalytic approach involves critique so do include what may be troubling or confusing either clinically and theoretically. Above all, the presentation and papers should reflect something that matters in your work or life.

Grades will be based on class participation, your presentation and written work. We will clarify and elaborate on all of this when we meet.

Attendance is expected except in emergencies and/or prearranged with the instructor.

Outline and Schedule

Session 1. Orientation to the Course: 
Introducing Ourselves and the Others We Will Be Reading


Session 2. The Four Psychologies and Listening Perspectives (and continuing our Introductions)

Pine, F. (pp. 98-116)
Hedges, L.E. (pp. 1-25)

Session 3-7. Presentations and Elaborations

Readings will be offered in relation to the presentations and interests. These may include additional chapters from the texts as well as other material as relevant (such as on dreams, free association and neutrality).
Session 8. Where We Are with Our Own Synthesis and Point of View

Pine, F. (pp. 247-260)
Hedges, L.E. (pp. 303-308).

Additional Recommended Reading


