This course focuses on the changing conceptualizations of transference and counter-transference and the related concepts of alliance and repression. It builds on the topics explored in Clinical Process and Technique I and II. The readings will be discussed in depth from historical and theoretical perspectives. Written assignments involving the application of these ideas to a clinical endeavor will be an integral aspect of evaluation.

Goals

1. Deepen the understanding of the concepts of transference and counter-transference
2. Appreciation for how these concepts have changed over time and vary within theoretical frameworks
3. Greater ability to recognize, conceptualize and work with transference and countertransference phenomena in clinical work
4. Greater ability to convey clinical process in writing

Evaluation

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

Class participation includes: evidence of reading assigned readings, ability to raise questions about assigned readings, ability to relate clinical experience to concepts presented in assigned readings.

Written assignments: Two 8 page papers are an integral part of the learning and evaluative process.

Assignment I is due during the fourth class session. Discuss a case that you feel unsure of, stuck, confused or in
any other way unhappy. Give just enough history to help me grasp the dynamics of the case. Offer some initial ideas about the transference-countertransference configuration(s). Focus the discussion on what is happening or not happening that leaves you feeling unhappy. If one of the papers has helped you with the case, discuss what has been helpful.

Assignment II is due during the last class session. Revisit the same case again, and discuss any changes that have occurred since the first paper. By this time, you should be better able to elaborate the transference-countertransference configuration and any countertransference interference that has limited the deepening of the process. Discuss what paper, class discussion, etc., was most helpful to you in deepening your understanding of the case.

Written assignments will be assessed on the following: Ability to convey clinical process, ability to ask questions relevant to the clinical material, ability to convey change in the clinical process, self-reflection as a clinician involved in the psychotherapeutic endeavor. Papers must conform to the *ICSW Style Manual*.

Attendance is mandatory except in emergencies and/or pre-arranged with the instructor.

There is no grade consequence for late papers. The assignments are such that they are readily doable and are expected in on the assigned dates.

**Class 1, Broad Strokes, Basic Definitions**


**Class 2, Early Conceptualizations**


Class 3, Let’s Add “Objects” to the Equation


Class 4, Countertransference Comes Out of the Closet


Class 5, Further Elaboration from Argentina

First paper due


Class 6, Thoughts from England and Chicago


Class 7, Contemporary Views


Class 8, Alliance and Repression

Second paper due


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