This course focuses on the disorders of adulthood, the treatment of the disorders and the intrinsic relationship to the development of psychodynamic theory from classical, object relations and self psychology perspectives. It builds on the students previous courses in psychodynamic theory and clinical process and technique.

Goals

1. Establish a psychodynamic understanding of the etiology of neurotic, psychotic, and character disorders in adulthood.
2. Identify treatment techniques associated with specific disorders.
3. Augment understanding of the dynamic and shifting relationships among theory, diagnosis, and treatment and the contribution of the historical context.
4. Increase ability to convey diagnostic understanding in both written and oral communication.

Evaluation

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

Class participation includes: evidence of reading assigned readings and ability to raise questions about the readings and to relate clinical experience to concepts presented in readings. Class attendance is mandatory and emergency absences should be discussed in advance with instructor. For the students who miss more than one class, the overall grade for course will be lowered one level. Students who miss more than two classes will automatically fail the course (in the case of personal emergency, the student will be asked to withdraw from the course and retake it the following year).

Written Assignment: Using the 2 sister characters in the movie Hillary and Jackie, please write a 10-12 page paper. Assume that each of these characters has come to see you in therapy. Please make a complete diagnosis and explain, using material learned in this course about how the theory applies. In the psychoanalytic perspective of your choice, using examples from the movie, discuss the etiology and course of the illness. Remember this is a course which connects the theory and the clinical understanding, so be sure to maintain a good balance using the characters to illustrate your points.

Papers are due on or before the final day of class.

Your written assignment will be assessed as follows:

An “A” paper should reflect a high degree of understanding, and demonstrate creativity or critical thinking. It should also be well-organized,
clear, and edited for correct grammar and spelling.

A “B” paper is one which shows a high degree of accuracy in understanding and application of concepts, is well organized and edited for correct grammar and spelling.

A “C” paper is one that is written with insufficient depth and demonstrates only an adequate understanding of the material. It is also a grade that can be given because of poor organization of material, lack of clarity, or insufficient editing.

An “F” will be given to papers that reflect major conceptual misunderstandings.

Papers must conform to ICSW Style manual.

**Required Text:**


**Class 1: Neurosis and Neurotic Disorders**


**Class 2:**


**Class 3:**


Class 4: Character Disorders


Class 5


Class 6


Class 7: Psychoses


Class 8


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