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 covers the period from 1895 to 1980 and explores the synergistic and dynamic relationship among the development of psychoanalytic theories, theories of pathology, and clinical practice theories. We will be establishing a foundation for understanding and treating the neurotic, the character and the psychotic disorders within this time frame. The class builds on the student's previous courses in psychodynamic theory and clinical processes and technique.

Our study of neurotic disorders begins in 1895 with Breuer and Freud’s *Studies in Hysteria*. We will explore the ways in which Freud’s abandonment of the seduction theory in 1897 with the subsequent development in 1900 of the topographical model followed by the theories on infantile sexuality, the theories on the types of neurosis, the dynamics of the structural model, and the theories of anxiety in 1926 make it possible to formulate a comprehensive theory of neurosis. We focus on the phobic neurosis, the obsessive neurosis and the hysterical neurosis and consider the ways in which hysteria is used as paradigm for all neuroses. We will think about neurosis from the perspective of the drives, defenses, psychosexual development, anxiety, object relations and the experience of the self. We will also consider treatment approaches.

We will then shift to the character disorders. Melanie Klein’s concepts of the paranoid schizoid position and the depressive position enable us to formulate character disorders as a bridge between the neuroses and the psychoses. We will look at the borderline personality disorder, the narcissistic personality disorder and the schizoid personality disorder and will consider the work of Kernberg and Kohut and Winnicott. We will think about these disorders from the perspective of drives, defenses, psychosexual development, anxieties, object relations and the experience of the self. We will also consider approaches to treatment.

As we move on to the psychotic disorders we will consider Freud’s theories of psychosis. We will also return to Klein’s concept of the paranoid schizoid condition. We will add Bion’s concept of projective identification as well as Ogden’s four phase model of the resolution of the schizophrenic conflict. We will use Ogden’s four phases not only to help understand the dynamics of psychotic disorders but also to provide a model for treatment. Again, we will look at psychosis from the perspective of drive, defenses, psychosexual development, anxieties, object relations, and the experience of the self.

**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, 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 Assignments:
Using the character of Jackie in the movie Hillary and Jackie and the class readings and discussions review and work through the diagnoses addressed in class as they apply to Jackie. Choose the diagnostic category that you think best fits Jackie, explain why you think so and why you are ruling out other categories. Remember this is a course which connects theory and clinical understanding, so be sure to maintain a good balance using the character to illustrate your points. This paper is due on the last day of class and should be no more than 14 pages.

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.

**Text:**


**Class 1: NEUROSIS AND NEUROTIC DISORDERS**


McWilliams, N. Psychoanalytic character diagnosis, (pp.19-39) and Developmental levels of personality organization, (pp 40-66). In N. McWilliams, Psychoanalytic diagnosis. New York: Guilford.

Class 2:


Class 3:


Class 4: CHARACTER DISORDERS


Ogden, T. (1986). The paranoid schizoid position: self as object (pp. 41-65) and The depressive position and the birth of the historical self (pp. 67-99). In T. Ogden A Matrix of the Mind. Northvale: Jason Aronson.


Class 5


Class 6


**Class 7**


**Class 8: Psychoses**


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