This course is an advanced discussion of psychodynamic theory and treatment implications for survivors of relational trauma, especially acute, chronic childhood abuse and neglect. Discussions will include the impact upon the therapist of deeply engaging in therapeutic relationships which entail exposure to the intimate details of violation. The arc of traumatic experience and its impact throughout the lifespan is central to both our theoretical understandings and how we construct the therapeutic relationship. Understanding the interpersonal development and workings of a dissociative mind will be pivotal to our intellectual pursuit. The range of potentially toxic traumatic transferences and theorizing about how to navigate this treacherous ground will both be topics addressed.

**Course Objectives**

- Reflect upon the impact of vicarious trauma to one’s own clinical work.
- Use the arc of traumatic experience to differentiate clinical presentations.
- Understand the centrality of dyadic affect regulation in the treatment of trauma.
- Distinguish several types of traumatic transference: erotic, sadomasochistic, shame.
- Become fluent in multiple theoretical formulations of dissociation.
- Develop a flexible clinical mind holding a range of viable treatment options for treating survivors of extreme interpersonal violence.

**Recommended Texts:** This course has been purposely constructed so that you do not have to purchase any books. There are no required texts. However several books will be used repeatedly and are highly recommended for your personal library. I will be glad to make further recommendations to suit individual student needs.


**Evaluation**

This class is Pass/Fail.

**Requirements**
Materials for this class are complex and dense. Attendance and active participation in class discussions are a requirement for passing. If missing a class is a necessity, you will need to talk with the instructor about how to make up the work.

Each student will be expected to make a fifteen minute oral class presentation applying one reading assignment to their clinical work. Students will be able to sign up for presentations on the first day of class.

1. Vicarious Trauma

Required Reading:

*Suggested Supplementary Reading:*

2. The Arc of Traumatic Experience: Betrayal Trauma, Revictimization, and The Predisposition to Violence

Required Reading:
Herman, J. L. (1992). *Trauma and recovery* (pp.96-129). USA: Basic Books. Scan
York: Norton. Scan

Suggested Supplementary Reading:
Adverse Childhood Experiences Study at www.acestudy.org/

3. Treatment Frame, Therapeutic alliance and Dyadic Affect Regulation

Required Reading:

Suggested Supplementary Reading:

4. The Dissociative Mind: Traumatic Memory and the Dissociative Spectrum

Required Reading:

Suggested Supplementary Reading:
5. The Transferential Field: Chaos, Countertransference, Reenactments, Projective Identification and Dissociation

Required Reading:

Suggested Supplementary Reading:

6. Traumatic Transferences: Anger, Shame and Blame

Required Reading:
Maroda, K. J. (2010). Psychodynamic techniques, (pp. 179-203). New York: Guilford Press. Scan

Suggested Supplementary Reading:

7. Traumatic Transference: Erotic Transference and Sexual Abuse

Required Reading:
Maroda, K. J. (2010). Psychodynamic techniques (pp. 204-224). New York: Guilford Press. Scan
Suggested Supplementary Reading:

8. Dissociative Identity Disorder
Required Reading:

Suggested Supplementary Reading:

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