Termination Seminar: Fall, 2014
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In this class we will be grappling with the concept of termination in psychotherapy and psychoanalysis. What do we mean when we talk about termination? The articles that we read together only provide a taste of the numerous ideas and clinical applications that are attached to varied theoretical orientations regarding the concept. At the heart of it though we will struggle with a question that originates in Freud’s paper “Mourning and Melancholia”. In that paper, Freud distinguishes between the affective states and shifts in self-esteem that occur when an object is lost. How may we begin to relate Freud’s understanding regarding the pain of loss to the induction of loss in a therapeutic relationship where there is no death, where perhaps there is even ongoing positive regard and appreciation? We have no definitive answer to this question. Rather, we will look at several papers to explore this question and look to our clinical experiences to deepen our understanding of the process.

September 18, 2014

October 2

October 9

October 16
Week 4:

October 23
October 30

November 6
Week 7 Gabbard, G (2009). What is ‘Good enough’ Termination? *JAPA* 57: 575-594 [PEP Web Link]

November 13