

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.

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Freud's *Papers on Technique*

**“For when all is said and done, it is impossible to destroy anyone
in absentia or *in effigie*.” S. Freud**

Jan Seriff, Psy.D., Instructor

Welcome. In this seminar we will read closely Freud's series of six *Papers on Technique* (1911-1915). We'll explore fundamental concepts that guide all psychoanalytic treatment, including free association, transference, resistance, abstinence, neutrality, and working through. Though the class will focus mainly on Freud's thinking about psychoanalytic technique, we'll also have an opportunity to bring in our own clinical material to elucidate our understanding of Freud's ideas.

We'll begin with parts of three earlier papers by Freud which trace his developing ideas about transference and the evolution of psychoanalytic technique to treat hysteria and other neuroses. Starting with our second class, we will closely read the six *Papers*. In our last two classes, we will read two more seminal papers, written more than two decades later, which are often thought of as completing the small cadre of papers in which Freud focused on issues of technique.

We hope you will be as excited as I am to study these wonderful and timeless papers—relevant to our understanding of the fundamentals of psychoanalytic treatment and to clinical practice today.

To set the stage, here is Freud, in 1905:

“If the theory of analytic technique is gone into, it becomes evident that transference is an inevitable necessity.” [from: Postscript to *A Case of Hysteria*. SE VII:116i].

I look forward to working with you!

Jan

April 7, 2016 – Session One

(1893-1895) Psychotherapy of Hysteria. SE II: 301-305 (only). [PEP Web Link](#)

(1905) Postscript to *A Case of Hysteria*. SE VII: 112-122. [PEP Web Link](#)

(1905) On Psychotherapy. SE VII: 257-268. [PEP Web Link](#)

Based on the content of the seminar, the candidate will be able to describe what Freud means by transference, and especially in the context of the occurrence of his first written comments about the concept.

April 14, 2016 – Session Two

(1912) The Dynamics of Transference. SE XII: 99-108. [PEP Web Link](#)

Based on the content of the seminar, the candidate will be able to describe Freud's notions of resistance and how it operates in the 3 kinds of transference.

April 21, 2016 – Session Three

(1912) Recommendations to Physicians Practising Psycho-Analysis. SE XII: 111-120. [PEP Web Link](#)

(1913) On Beginning the Treatment. SE XII: 123-144. [PEP Web Link](#)

Based on the content of the seminar, the candidate will be able to describe the rationale for the fundamental rule of psychoanalysis - free association - as well as other recommendations regarding the handling of fees and time in the establishment of a psychoanalytic treatment.

April 28, 2016 – Session Four

(1911) The Handling of Dream-Interpretation in Psycho-Analysis. SE XII: 91-96. [PEP Web Link](#)

(1923) Remarks on the Theory and Practice of Dream Interpretation. SE XIX: 109-121. [PEP Web Link](#)

(1925) Some Additional Notes on Dream-Interpretation as a Whole. (A)The Limits to the Possibility of Interpretation. SE XIX: 127-130 (only). [PEP Web Link](#)

Based on the content of the seminar, the candidate will be able appreciate and describe Freud's notions of how to handle the interpretation of dreams within the clinical situation.

May 5, 2016 – Session Five

(1914) Remembering, Repeating and Working-Through. SE XII: 147-156. [PEP Web Link](#)

Based on the content of the seminar, the candidate will be able to describe Freud's theories about repetition, remembering, and working through within the psychoanalytic process.

May 12, 2016 – Session Six

(1915) Observations on Transference-Love. SE XII: 159-171. [PEP Web Link](#)

Based on the content of the seminar, the candidate will be able to describe Freud's ideas about transference love and his precepts of abstinence and neutrality and how they apply to the handling of transference love.

May 19, 2016 – Session Seven

(1937) Analysis Terminable and Interminable. SE XXIII: 216-253. [PEP Web Link](#)

Based on the content of the seminar, the candidate will be able to describe Freud's ideas about the long-lasting benefits and limitations of psychoanalysis and the necessity of periodic return to personal analysis by the psychoanalyst over the course of his/her career.

May 26, 2016 - Session Eight

(1937) Constructions in Analysis. SE XXIII: 257-269. [PEP Web Link](#)

Based on the content of the seminar, the candidate will be able to describe Freud's distinction between construction and interpretation.