Instructor: James Barron, PhD


Time: 5:30 – 7:00PM

This seminar will examine some of the major innovations to psychoanalytic thinking and practice contributed by Melanie Klein and the elaborations by several of her followers. Paradoxically her ideas are now widely accepted while continuing to stir up controversy between detractors and adherents. In our readings and discussions, we will strive to achieve optimal tension between empathic identification with and critical reflection upon her ideas. Although the focus will be on theory, we will invite all participants to contribute clinical examples that illustrate elate the theory to clinical practice whenever possible.

Session 1 (Feb. 11) Freudian Origins of Object Relations Theory
Learning Objective: Illuminate key aspects of the origins of object relations theory in Freud’s ‘Mourning and Melancholia’


Suggested:


Session 2 (Feb. 18) Depressive Position
Learning Objective: Describe the depressive position as the capacity to experience a whole object along with the emerging recognition that feelings of love, hate, guilt, and concern are directed toward that object.


Suggested:

Session 3 (February 25) Paranoid-Schizoid Position
Learning Objective: Examine the paranoid-schizoid position as a constellation of anxieties, defenses, and object relationships emerging in earliest infancy, oscillating with the depressive position, and continuing throughout life.


Session 4 (March 3) Unconscious Phantasy
Learning Objective: Describe unconscious phantasy as the psychic representative of instinct that is linked to internal objects and external reality.


Suggested:

Session 5 (March 10) The Child’s Primitive Object Relations and the Early Precursors of the Oedipus Complex
Learning Objective: Connect the child’s capacity to experience unconscious phantasy to the early development of Oedipal dynamics.


Session 6 (March 17) Projective Identification
Learning Objective: Compare the healthy and pathological uses of the mechanism of projective identification


Suggested:

**Session 7 (March 24) Projective Identification and Theory of Thinking**

Learning Objective: Describe the difference between symbol formation in the paranoid-schizoid position and symbol formation in the depressive position; explain the function of projective identification in the development (and destruction) of the capacity to think.


**Session 8 (March 31) Transference Viewed through a Kleinian Lens**

Learning Objective: Describe how primitive defenses of splitting and projective identification influence the meaning and use patients make of our interpretations.


Suggested:
