Gender and Sexuality Development, Psychoanalysis and Queer Theory
Winter Elective, 2015-16

Instructors:
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Course Description:
This course will explore, from a clinical and theoretical vantage point, the intersection of ideas about gender and sexuality development within classical and contemporary psychoanalytic theory and queer theory. The goal will be to elucidate areas of convergence and divergence between classical and contemporary psychoanalysis as well as between psychoanalytic and queer theory. We will use clinical material as well as psychoanalytic, academic and literary texts to highlight and clarify contemporary clinical and theoretical psychoanalytic thinking on gender and sexuality development.

Week 1: November 12, 2015

Introduction to issues and structures of the class
Learning Objective: Review the history of thinking in psychoanalytic theory and discourse on gender and sexuality development.


Selected case material

Week 2: November 19, 2015

What Freud Said…
Learning Objective: Discuss Freud’s origins of the Oedipal construction and contemporary theoretical considerations.


**Week 3: December 3, 2015**

**Queering psycho-sexual theory**
Learning Objective: Examine gender identity development through the lens of gender/queer theory and contemporary psychoanalytic perspectives.

Guest Discussant: Paul Lynch, MD


**Week 4: December 10, 2015**

**Perversions**
Learning Objective: Analyze a contemporary perspective on perversion using a literary text and clinical material.


Selections from Lolita, Vladimir Nabokov (2nd vintage international edition © 1997: pp. 3-25; Forward, Chapters 1-7) [Available in the Library].

**Week 5: December 17, 2015**

**Enigmatic Message**
Learning Objective: Recognize the utilization of Laplanche’s conceptualization of the “enigmatic message” in contemporary psychoanalytic psychosexual theory.


Week 6: January 21, 2015

Nonlinear Dynamic Systems Theory
Learning Objective: Apply the developmental concept of nonlinear systems theory to studying contemporary psychoanalytic theory on gender and sexuality development.


Week 7: January 28, 2015

Psycho-sexuality and excess of representability
Learning Objective: Articulate the use of the concept of “representability” in contemporary psychoanalytic theories on sexuality development.


Week 8: February 4, 2015

Finale
Learning Objective: Examine, through a discussion of one of Freud’s later writings, the evolution of his ideas on psychosexual development, and explore themes of psychosexuality in contemporary and classical poetry.


Suggested: Selected poems—Ellen Bass “A Small Country”; Whitman, others, to be determined. Link to Ellen Bass’s Poem in New Yorker