

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE, INC.

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

Instructors:

Ayelet Barkai, MD
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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.

Required: Fonagy, P. (2006) Psychosexuality and Psychoanalysis: an overview. In: Identity, Gender and Sexuality: 150 Years After Freud. **Pp. 18-36.** Karnac Books.
[Available in the [Library](#)]

Suggested: Freud, "Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality: The Sexual Aberrations," *SE* v. 7: pp. 135-172. [PEP Web Link](#)

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.

Required: Chodorow, N. J. (2006). Heterosexuality as a compromise formation. *Contemporary psychoanalysis in America: leading analysts present their work*, **15**, 77
[Available in the [Library](#)].

Suggested: N. Chodorow (2012) Homosexualities as Compromise Formations in Individualizing Gender and Sexuality: Theory and Practice. [Available in the [Library](#)].

Freud, "Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality: Infantile Sexuality," *SE* v. 7: pp. 173-206. [PEP Web Link](#)

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

Required: Butler, J. (1995). Melancholy gender—Refused identification. *Psychoanalytic Dialogues*, 5(2), 165-180. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested: Lemma, A. and Lynch, P.E. (2015) Introduction: let's talk about sex or...maybe not... In: *Sexualities: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives*. Pp. 1-16. Routledge [Available in the [Library](#)].

Week 4: December 10, 2015

Perversions

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

Required: Saketopoulou, A. (2014). To Suffer Pleasure: The Shattering of the Ego as the Psychic Labor of Perverse Sexuality. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 15(4), 254-268. [Link to Online Publication](#) [available and can be downloaded in the [library](#)]

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.

Required: Target, M. (2015) A developmental model of sexual excitement, desire and alienation. In: *Sexualities: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives*. Pp. 43-62. Routledge. [Available in the [Library](#)]

Suggested: Laplanche, J. (1997). The theory of seduction and the problem of the other. *The International journal of psycho-analysis*, 78, 653-666. [PEP Web Link](#)

Selected case material

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.

Required: Harris, A. (2000). Gender as Soft Assembly: Tomboys' Stories. *Studies in Gender and Sexuality*, 1(3), 223-250. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested: Kiersky, S. M. (2004). Perilous crossings: Tales of gender, identification, and exiled desires. *Journal of lesbian studies*, 8(1-2), 191-207. [Available in the [Library](#)]

Selected case material

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.

Required: Stein, R. (2008). The otherness of sexuality: Excess. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 56(1), 43-71. [PEP Web Link](#)

Suggested: Michel Foucault, “Limits of Representation,” *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences*, chapter 7. [Available in the [Library](#)]

Selected case material

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.

Required: Freud, “Civilization and Its Discontents,” *SE* v. 21, chapter 4, 5: pp. 99-116. [PEP Web Link](#)

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