Fall 2016 Theories of Suicide Elective

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I’m looking forward to meeting you and beginning this eight-week elective. I am attaching a chapter I wrote: Psychodynamic Approaches to Understanding Suicidal Behaviors. In Nock, MK ed. *The Oxford Handbook of Suicide and Self-Injury.* Oxford University Press, 2014, 255-264. We will use this as a broad introduction to various theories of Suicide. Each week we will consider suicide from a different theoretical perspective and use our clinical experience to compare, contrast and integrate.

**Week I: November 17, 2016 Overview of theories of Suicide**


**Week II: December 1, 2016 Freud’s Drive Theory**

Guest Presenter: Stephen Sternbach


Suggested Reading


**Week III: December 8, 2016 The Death Instinct.**

Guest Presenter: Cordelia Schmidt-Hellerau


Suggested Readings

Freud, S. (1923). The Ego and the Id, SE 19, Chapter 4. [PEP Web Link]

Week IV: December 15, 2016 Object Relation Theorists: Winnicott

Guest Presenter: Rita Teutsch


Suggested Reading:


Week V: December 22, 2016 Narcissism, aggression, and the death drive

Guest Presenter: Elsa Ronningstam


Suggested Reading:


Week VI: January 12, 2017 Ego Psychology

Guest Presenter: Mark Schechter


Week VII: January 26, 2017 Klein and Bion

Guest Presenter Larry Brown

Week VIII: February 2, 2017 Intersubjectivity

Guest Presenter: Mark Schechter

Learning Objectives:

1. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to list three different dynamics of the suicidal mind.

2. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to identify Freud’s two models for suicidal action.

3. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to identify a negative therapeutic reaction.

4. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to identify Winnicott’s concepts of self-attack.

5. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to discuss the narcissistic issues related to suicidal actions.

6. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able identify ego functions that deteriorate in a suicidal crisis.

7. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to identify Melanie Klein’s clinical approach to the self-destructive patient.

8. At the conclusion of this session candidates will be able to identify how the intersubjective field influences the suicidal patient.