

THE BOSTON PSYCHOANALYTIC SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE
141 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, Massachusetts 02459

ATP 2016/17

The Neuroses and The Neurotic Personality Disorders

Instructors: Robin Gomolin and Anna Ornstein

This course will review the classical conceptualization of the Psychoneuroses and will offer an overview of the most frequently encountered Neurotic Personality Disorders. The course will examine the clinical value of making a psychoanalytic diagnosis. Members of the class are encouraged to bring clinical vignettes for discussion where patients' behavior (i.e. hysterical, depressive and obsessive-compulsive.) may affect developing transference and countertransference attitudes. Considering that psychoanalytic education requires a great deal of reading we are assigning either one or two papers for each class, hoping that you will bring questions to the class based on the readings.

Session I, December 15 - The clinical value of diagnoses

Readings:

N. Mc Williams: Why Diagnose? In: Mc Williams *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis*, second edition, pp. 7-19. [Available in [Library](#)]

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to differentiate between a *descriptive* and a *psychoanalytic* diagnosis.

Session II. December 22, 2016 - The psychoneuroses and the tripartite model of the mind

Readings:

J.Gedo & A. Goldberg: Freud's Clinical Theory of 1923: The Tripartite Model, in: *Models of the Mind: A Psychoanalytic Theory*, The U. of Chicago Press, 1973, pp.32-45. [Available in [Library](#)]

Nagera, H. (1966). *Early Childhood Disturbances, the Infantile Neurosis, and the Adulthood Disturbances*. International Universities Press, Inc. New York. Pages 54-77. [Available in [Library](#)]

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to describe the centrality of the Oedipus Complex within the development of neuroses and its influence upon oedipal and pre-oedipal psychopathology.

Session III, January 12, 2017 - Psychoanalytic Diagnoses

Readings:

N. Mc Williams: The Relationship between Case Formulation and Psychotherapy, in: *Psychoanalytic Case Formulation*, 1999, Guilford Press, pp. 9-28. [Available in [Library](#)]

N. McWilliams: Psychoanalytic Character Diagnosis, in: *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis* Guilford Press, Second edition 2011, pp. 21-42. [Available in [Library](#)]

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to identify the major psychoanalytic theories that are the foundations of making a character diagnosis.

Session IV January 26, 2017 - Neurotic character styles, and the question of organicity

Readings:

Shapiro D.: Introduction in: *Neurotic Styles* Basic Books 1965, pp. 1-22. [Available in [Library](#)]

Shapiro, D. OCD or Obsessive Compulsive Character? *Psychoanalytic Inquiry* 2001, pp. 242-252. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to describe the psychological dynamics of obsessional symptoms and the role they play within a patient's defense structure.

Session V , February 2, 2017 - Anxiety, Phobia, Panic

Please bring your clinical examples to class.

Readings:

Lichtenberg, J: Fear, Phobia, and Panic In: Recent Development in the Concept and Treatment of Phobias and Panic States, *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 1991 3:395-415. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to discuss similarities and differences in three frequently observed clinical pictures; fear, phobia and panic.

Session VI, February 9, 2017 - Sadomasochistic Personality Disorders

Readings:

N. Mc Williams: Masochistic (Self-Defeating) Personalities, In: N. Mc Williams *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis*, pp.267-288. [Available in [Library](#)]

A. Ornstein; Self-abuse and Suicidality: Clinical Manifestations of Chronic Narcissistic Rage In: *Clinical Problems of Masochism* (eds.) D. Holtzman and N. Kulish, 2012, Jason Aronson. [Available in [Library](#)]

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to identify risk factors that lead to the development of narcissistic rage and its relationship to the various presentations of sadomasochism.

Session VII, February 16 - Depressive and Manic Character Patterns

Readings:

N. McWilliams: Depressive and Manic Personalities, in: *Psychoanalytic Diagnosis*, pp. 235-266. [Available in [Library](#)]

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to assess the clinical significance of the various degrees of depressive and manic character features in patients.

Session VIII, February 23 - Self-regulation of Symptomatology through Addiction

Readings:

Khantzian, E.: Self-regulation Vulnerabilities in Substance Abusers: Treatment Implications In *The Psychology and Treatment of Addictive Behavior*, Workshop Series of the American Psychoanalytic Association, 1995, IUP. pp. 17-41. [PEP Web Link](#)

Dodes, L: Psychic Helplessness and the Psychology of Addiction. Same issue as above, pp.133-145. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to describe how substances (as well as particular behaviors) are used to help regulate states of psychological vulnerability.

Session IX, March 2 - Dissociative Personalities

Readings:

Bromberg, Ph: Treating Patients with Symptoms---and Symptoms with Patience; Reflections on Shame, Dissociation and Eating Disorders In: Psychoanalytic Dialogues 2001, 11; 891-912. [PEP Web Link](#)

Learning Objectives: Participants will be able to describe the role of dissociation in adult psychopathology (such as eating disorders) and dysregulation that is often a feature of early trauma.

Session X, March 9 - Questions and Summary