Melanie Klein in Contemporary Psychoanalytic Practice

November 2018 - January 2019

Instructor: Rita Teusch, Ph.D.

In this eight-week course we will study how ideas and concepts first introduced by Melanie Klein inform psychoanalytic practice today. We will focus each week on a key Kleinian concept and examine its contemporary psychoanalytic significance. We will read some original Klein texts and the works of those who followed her, for example Betty Joseph, Elizabeth Bott Spillius, Judith Mitrani, Ruth Stein, Edna O'Shaughnessy, Priscilla Roth, Catalina Bronstein, Ruth Riesenber-Malcolm, Ronald Britton. We will finish up with a session on the work of Wilfred Bion. I have included several of the most recent works of these writers to show how much Melanie Klein's ideas continue to inspire clinicians today. A reference for each Kleinian concept by R.D. Hinshelwood (1991) is included for each session. An additional resource is: “The New Dictionary of Kleinian Thought” (2011) written by Elizabeth Bott-Spillius, Jane Milton, and Penelope Garvey. Cyril Couve, and Deborah Steiner, published by Routledge.

I look forward to a stimulating learning experience together with all of you.

Session 1 (November 29, 2018):
The Importance of Affects in Melanie Klein’s Theory

Learning Objective: At the completion of the session, participants will be able to identify two affects each characteristic of the paranoid-schizoid and depressive positions.

Readings:

Suggested Readings:


**Session 2. (December 6, 2018):**

**The Depressive Position**

Learning Objectives: At the completion of the session, participants will be able to describe a central unconscious phantasy in the infantile depressive position.

Reading:

Suggested Readings:


**Session 3 (December 13, 2018):**

**The Depressive Position continued**

Learning Objectives: At the completion of the session, participants will be able to describe the difference between a “tragic” and “moral” resolution of the depressive position.

Readings:


Suggested Readings:


**Session 4 (December 20, 2018):**

**The Paranoid-Schizoid Position**

Learning Objectives: At the completion of the session, participants will be able to describe two defenses characteristic of the paranoid-schizoid position.
Readings:


Suggested Readings:


Session 5 (January 3, 2019):

Splitting and Projective Identification

Learning Objectives: At the completion of the session, participants will be able to assess clinical manifestations of splitting and projective identification.

Readings:


Suggested Readings:

Joseph, B. Projective identification - some clinical aspects. In E. Bott-Spillius (Ed.) Melanie Klein Today, Vol. I. Mainly Theory (138-150). [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]


Session 6 (January 10, 2019):
The Concepts of Death Drive and Ego-Destructive Superego

Learning Objectives: At the completion of the session, participants will be able to describe two characteristics of an ego-destructive superego.

Readings:


Suggested Readings:


Segal, H. (1957). Notes on symbol formation. IJPA, 38, 391-397. PEP Web Link
Session 7 (January 17, 2019):

Early Stages of the Oedipus Complex

Learning Objectives: At the completion of this session, participants will be able to identify two early Oedipal phantasies.

Readings:


Suggested Readings:


Session 8 (January 24, 2019):

Wilfred R. Bion

Learning Objectives: At the completion of this session, participants will be able to identify three concepts introduced by Bion.

Readings:
Bergstein, A. (2015). Attacks on linking or the drive to communicate? tolerating the paradox. *The Psychoanalytic Quarterly, 84*(4), 921-942. [Available in the library: check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org.]

Suggested Readings:


Grotstein, J. S. (1981). Wilfred Bion: the man, the psychoanalyst, the mystic - a perspective on his life and work. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis, 17*, 501-536. PEP Web Link