Gender and Sexuality: Contemporary Psychoanalytic Perspectives  
Winter 2018

Instructors:  
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Course Description:  
This course will explore, from a clinical and theoretical vantage point, the intersection and evolution of ideas about gender and sexuality development and expression within classical and contemporary psychoanalytic theory. The goal will be to trace the progression of psychoanalytic ideas on gender and sexuality and their development from classical to contemporary psychoanalysis. 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.

Week 1: February 1, 2018  
Course Overview, and What Freud Said...

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to summarize Freud's understanding of the formation of gender identity.


Week 2: February 8, 2018  
(trans) Gender Identity Development and Mentalization

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to describe how the concept of mentalization can be applied to an understanding of gender identity development.


**Week 3: February 22, 2018**  
**Queering psycho-sexual theory**

Guest Discussant: Paul Lynch, M.D.

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to describe gender identity development as seen through the lens of gender/queer theory and contemporary psychoanalytic perspectives.


**Week 4: March 1, 2018**  
**Perversions**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to identify the complex factors of a contemporary perspective on perversion, using both a literary text and clinical material.


Required: Selections from *Lolita*, Vladimir Nabokov (2nd vintage international edition © 1997: pp. 3-25; Forward, Chapters 1-7). [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

**Week 5: March 8, 2018**  
**Enigmatic Message**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to explain the utilization of Laplanche’s conceptualization of the “enigmatic message” in contemporary psychoanalytic psychosexual theory.


Selected case material

**Week 6: March 15, 2018**

**Nonlinear Dynamic Systems Theory**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to describe the developmental concept of nonlinear systems theory and explain its impact on studying contemporary psychoanalytic theory on gender and sexuality development.


Required: Schiller, B. M. (2012). Representing female desire within a labial framework of sexuality. Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, 60 (6), 1161-1197. PEP Web Link


Selected case material

**Week 7: March 22, 2018**

**Psycho-sexuality and excess of representability**

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to apply the concept of “representability” to contemporary psychoanalytic theories on sexuality development.


Selected case material
Week 8: March 29, 2018  
Psychosexuality, Infancy, Intersubjectivity and Relational Theory

Learning Objective: At the conclusion of this session, students will be able to describe, through contemporary discussions of sex and longing in psychoanalysis, issues of psychosexual development and relational theory.


Required: Selected poems—Ellen Bass “A Small Country”; Whitman, others, to be determined.