Narcissistic and Borderline Psychopathology

Elsa Ronningstam, Ph.D.

Week 1: 3/22/2018

Identifying, differentiating and approaching severe personality pathology – An introduction

Objectives: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to describe one theory and its accompanying clinical approach to severe psychopathology.

Suggested reading


Optional reading
Week 2: 3/29/2018

Identity diffusion and interpersonal dysregulation in borderline personality disorder

Objectives: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to discuss the most central features of borderline personality disorder and their unfolding in psychotherapy.

Suggested reading

Optional reading

Week 3: 4/5/2018

Borderline personality disorder in females

Objectives: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify specific features, interpersonal patterns and defenses in women with borderline personality disorder.

Suggested readings

Optional readings

**Week 4: 4/12/2018**

Borderline personality disorder in males

Guest lecturer: Jason Jones, M.D.

Objectives: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify specific features, interpersonal patterns and defenses in men with borderline personality disorder.

**Suggested reading**
Ogden T. The Primitive Edge of Experience. Jason Aronson 1989 Chapters 5 and 6, pp 109 – 168. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

**Optional readings**


Winnicott DW. (1968). Delinquency as a sign of hope. Prison Service Journal 7. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

**Week 5: 4/19/2018**

Agency, self-sufficiency and control in narcissistic personality disorder.

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify strategies to engage patients’ sense of agency in psychotherapy and balance the need for control and self-sufficiency.

**Suggested readings**

**Optional reading**
Week 6: 4/26/2018

Perfectionism, attention seeking and avoidance in narcissistic personality disorder

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify the role of perfectionism in pathological narcissism and its relation to attention seeking and avoidance.

Suggested readings
Sorotzkin B. (1985). The quest for perfectionism. Avoiding guilt or avoiding shame. Psychotherapy. 22(3): 564 – 571. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]

Optional reading

Week 7: 5/3/2018

Self-criticism, insecurity and vulnerability in narcissistic personality disorder

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to discuss the role of self-criticism in narcissistic vulnerability.

Suggested reading

Optional reading
Week 8: 5/10/2018

Fear, shame and aggression

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify the most significant emotions in narcissistic pathology and their impact on treatment alliance.

Suggested reading
Ronningstam E, Baskin-Sommers (2013) A. Fear and Decision-making in Narcissistic Personality Disorder - A link between psychoanalysis and neuroscience. Dialogues in Clinical NeuroScience. 15(2):191-201. [Available in the library. Download from the web, check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]


Optional reading

Week 9: 5/17/2018

Trauma – implications for narcissistic pathology

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to identify narcissistic trauma and discuss its impact on treatment alliance and choice of treatment strategies.

Suggested reading

Optional reading

Week 10: 5/24/2018

Integrating identity diffusion, self-esteem and emotional fluctuations in alliance building

Objective: At the conclusion of the session, the student will be able to discuss the unfolding and influence of personality pathology in the therapeutic alliance and strategies to attend to and process it.

Suggested reading


Optional reading
Fonagy P, Allison E. The role of mentalizing and epistemic trust in the therapeutic relationship. Psychotherapy. 2014; 51(3): 372-380. [Available in the library. Check the reading folder or request from library@bpsi.org]