

PSYCHOANALYSIS AND CULTURE COURSES OFFERED AT THE BOSTON GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PSYCHOANALYSIS — FALL 2008

PC 622 Clinical Investigations in Psychoanalysis/Qualitative Research

Schedule: Friday 1-3 Faculty: Soldz

Meetings: 12 regular class weeks and discussion weeks

Prerequisite: PT 171, 173

This course introduces students to selected psychoanalytic research methods that have gained general acceptance in the field. It explores advantages, disadvantages, limitations, sources of error, and bias associated with various research methods. The course examines basic characteristics of psychoanalytic inquiry in the areas of study design; data collection and processing; and distinguishing among inferences, assumptions, and observed events. Students become familiar with designing methodology for single case studies and problems collecting and processing psychoanalytic data.

PC 651 Psychoanalytic Theory I (Basic Concepts)

Schedule: Friday 1:00-3:00, 3:00-5:00

Meetings: 12 regular class weeks and discussion weeks

Faculty: 1-3 Shepherd, 3-5 TBA

Discussion Faculty: 1-3 Balkh, 3-5 TBA

This course provides an introduction to basic concepts in psychoanalysis. Students explore concepts of unconscious motivation, dual drives and their expression, anxiety, defenses, repetition compulsion, resistance, transference, and countertransference, as conceptualized by Freud and his contemporaries and modified by more recent authors.

PC 655 Dream, Fantasy, and Symbolic Communication

Schedule: Friday 10:00-12:00

Meetings: 12 regular class weeks and discussion weeks

Faculty: Movahedi

Discussion Faculty: Cavallaro

This course is designed to acquaint students with the language of the unconscious and primary process as it appears in dreams, fantasy, delusions, myth, symptoms and creative works. The course examines the basic mechanisms of dream formation -- condensation, displacement, symbolization, secondary revision, etc. The course begins with the study of Freud's work on dream interpretation. Freud's views are then compared to the more recent theories about the nature and functions of dreams and fantasy formation. The use of dream in the conduct of psychoanalysis is then studied within the context of transference, resistance, and disguised communication. Presentations of personal dreams and fantasies as well as clinical case materials related to the topics of discussion are invited.

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PC 670 Cultural Analysis I: Introduction to Theory and Method

Schedule: Friday 1:00-3:00

Faculty: Lemert, Sam Han

Meetings: 12 regular class weeks and discussion weeks

This course is designed to explore the ways in which the concept of culture has emerged as a focal point for interdisciplinary scholarship in both the humanities and the social sciences. It will cover the core literatures, selected for application to the following subjects: the semiotics of meaning formations, history of cultural analysis, culture as an exclusionary practice, culture and violence (real and symbolic), comparative culture systems, unconscious structures of cultures, global cultures, and methods of cultural analysis. Culture will be examined as a complex web of signifying systems and practices, analyzing the meanings of images, bodies, objects, spaces, sounds and the practices that underpin them. We will focus on theorists and critical bases of contemporary work in cultural analysis and in how they relate to psychoanalysis.

PC 678 Psychoanalysis, Cinema and Professional Practice: In Treatment as Imaginary Signifier

Schedule: Friday 6:00-8:00 PM

Meetings: 12 regular class weeks and discussion weeks

Faculty: Movahedi

This course will revolve primarily around the interface of psychoanalysis and media. We compare the cinematic representation of psychoanalysis with prevalent practice. We will begin the course with the psychoanalysis of film scripts, textual systems, and perceiving subjects. We have borrowed the expression Imaginary Signifier from Christian Metz's book (Psychoanalysis and Cinema: The Imaginary Signifier) in order to examine the unconscious psychic fantasies that spectators bring to their perception of film images. We will study controversies surrounding issues of therapeutic boundaries, analytic parameters, and practices of self disclosure by the analyst. This will prepare us for watching segments of the HBO TV series InTREATMENT and trying to offer theoretical and technical interpretations of selected sequences of the show. Visits from some prominent Boston psychoanalysts will be part of the course.

PC 684 Primitive Mental States

Schedule: Friday 10:00-12:00

Meetings: 12 regular class weeks and discussion weeks

Faculty: Panetta

Discussion Faculty: Cancado

This course imparts a psychodynamic understanding of the symptoms, core conflicts, and characteristic defenses inherent in primitive mental states. Students become familiar with the differences between psychoanalytic and psychiatric diagnoses by studying the typical symptoms, onset, course, and prognosis of the major mental disorders and the core conflicts and primitive defenses inherent in them.

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PT 685b Clinical Experience in Institutional Settings: Forming a Connection

Schedule: Friday 3:00-5:00

Faculty: Twyman, Snyder

Meetings: 12 regular class weeks and discussion weeks

Discussion: Kelley, Henneberry

This three-semester course integrates understanding of basic psychoanalytic psychopathology, including the vicissitudes of primitive conflicts and defenses, with problems that arise when working with severe pathologies in the clinical setting. Students discuss their Externship, examining all aspects of hospital life, including understanding the meaning of apparently irrational behavior.

Research Advisement

PC 525 Directed Research (2 credits)

The student works on his/her final project under the direction of a reader approved by the Research Committee. Two credits of Directed Research entitles the student to 6 hours of reading time and 6 hours of meeting time or a total of 12 hours.

Field Placement

PC 615 Field Research Placement (4 credits)

Schedule: Once a month lunch time meeting.

Guided by their research and application interests, students arrange for a Field Placement in an applied setting (e.g. probation office, juvenile lockup, protective service office) under the direction of the Fieldwork Coordinator. Students study the application of theory to problems of violence in the field. Most students will develop the doctoral dissertation out of their fieldwork, with the guidance of the Research Advisor. In the first semester, students are expected to use the placement to formulate research questions and develop a research proposal about an area of interest in the field. In the second semester, students may use the placement to conduct the proposed research in the field.