

**Syllabus**  
**PT 184 Primitive Mental States: The History of Psychosis**  
**W. Hurst      Fall 2020**

**Thu. 3:30-5:30**  
**NYGSP: 2 Credits**

**Course Description**

This course will explore the experience, the concept, and the treatment of psychosis. On the assumption that the unconscious follows a logic in which there is neither time nor negation, it will take a non-linear historical look at psychosis, and attempt to retrieve in depth some of the most fundamental psychoanalytic ideas about psychosis and its treatment. Views of such thinkers as Bleuler, Freud, Binswanger, Minkowski, Federn, Klein, Winnicott, Bion, Benedetti, Sullivan, Fromm-Reichmann, Lacan, Green, Davoine, Gaudillière, and Spotnitz will be considered.

**Some Concepts to be considered**

Psychosis has been conceived of:

- as the lived consequence of a radically diminished “elan vital,” manifested by a progressive dementia and autistic self-involvement; (Bergson, Minkowski)
- as the radical alienation of the ego from external reality, along with the attempt to live fully within the world of fantasy, the results of a massive lack of libidinal investment in the external world and of a turning of libido inward; (Freud)
- as an experience of the world left always in pieces because of a fragmented body image, which cannot be brought into contact with, or unified by imaginary or symbolic formations; (Pankow)
- as an ongoing encounter with what cannot be symbolized, creating a pervasive lack of meaning issuing from a kind of hole in the symbolic, resulting in fantasied, hallucinated, or neologistic attempts to traverse the gap in which no signifier responds to a call for it; (Lacan)
- as being stuck in a catastrophic or death zone in which time has stopped and in which cause and effect cease to have any meaning; in which the logic of the unconscious prevails; (Benedetti, Davoine, Gaudillière)
- as a continuous threat of a catastrophic annihilation anxiety; frequently covered by some psychoneurotic organization but remaining as the psychotic core, as in borderline psychotic patients;(Winnicott)
- as complete reliance on massive splitting and evacuative projective identification in the attempt to save the ego from its own internal destructiveness; (Bion, Klein)
- a situation in which a major narcissistic defense aimed at protecting the object has unleashed the destructive drives within the mind and resulted in the ongoing destruction of the object field of the mind. (Spotnitz)
- as involving two personalities, an adult’s and a young child’s, one negotiating the world of objects, the other subject to paralyzing fear of objects, flowing from its own powerfully hostile feelings toward them. (Federn, Fromm-Reichmann)

## Objectives

The student will be able to:

- situate historically three or four different concepts of psychosis, identifying the relationships assumed in each between the mind and the body and between the self and the other;
- distinguish the alienation of neurosis from that of psychosis;
- describe the work of at least four major theorists/clinicians in the psychoanalytic/psychotherapeutic treatment of psychosis; and
- identify two or three ways of working within a psychotic transference.

## Teaching Method

Discussion of the assigned readings with an emphasis on the following questions:

- What has the discovery of the unconscious revealed about psychosis?
- What has our work with psychotic persons told us about psychoanalysis?
- How does a psychotic transference differ from a neurotic one?
- How can we learn to work within a psychotic transference?

Discussion of the students' emotional responses to the clinical and theoretical material being studied.

## Method of Evaluation

Evidence of the student's engagement with the material and progressive understanding and comfort with it is demonstrated by class participation, including a short presentation, logs, and final paper. Logs should be submitted after each class to whurst@cmps.edu. A final paper will be due one week after the last class.

**Twelve written logs** (approximately 250 words by email) are to be completed soon after each class meeting and emailed to the instructor no later than **the day before** the following class meeting, or as soon as possible after the last class. The log is a private communication to the instructor enumerating:

1. thoughts, feelings, and reactions from class regarding course content and class interactions/class dynamics.
2. a short critique of the assigned reading for that class
3. for the final log, a self-evaluation of how you met the course requirements

These responses make clear that you have read and engaged with the readings and are able to relate them to class process. Questions and comments from the logs may serve as a springboard for class discussion.

**The term paper, due one week after the final class**, should discuss two or three of the concepts of psychosis studied in the course, while comparing them to at least one other approach, such as that of modern pschoanalysis. The paper should distinguish clearly between neurotic and psychotic defenses and include a description of the experience of psychosis. It should also consider some of the difficulties of working with a psychotic patient, within a psychotic transference. The paper should be six to eight pages in length, follow the APA style sheet, and be double spaced.

## Elements of Evaluation

Class participation, attendance, quality of writing in the logs and in the final paper.

**Grading:** Students may receive a Pass (P), Low Pass (LP), Incomplete (I), or No Credit (NC). Students are evaluated on the basis of attendance, class participation and the ability to understand, integrate and communicate material from the readings and class discussions. This understanding is demonstrated in classroom discussion and by the quality of writing in the logs and in the term paper.

### **For a grade of “Pass”**

- Miss no more than two class meetings.
- Demonstrate understanding of the course subject matter in class.
- Submit (by e-mail )11 logs by the Wednesday preceding the next class, and the 12<sup>th</sup> log immediately after the last class of the semester.
- Demonstrate understanding of the course subject matter in the logs.
- Submit assignments on time.
- A clear and well-organized presentation to the class of the assigned reading.
- Subject specific vocabulary is used correctly.
- For the final paper, the APA format is used appropriately. The paper is at least six pages long, not including a cover page.

### **For a grade of “Low Pass”**

- Miss no more than two class meetings.
- Submit (by e-mail )11 logs by the Wednesday preceding the next class and the 12<sup>th</sup> log immediately following the last class.
- One or more of the following are present:
  - o Minimal participation in class
  - o Problematic participation in class
  - o Minimal understanding of the course subject matter demonstrated in class, in the individual presentation, and in the logs.
  - o All assignments are completed but some are submitted late.
  - o The final paper has one or more of these issues:
    - The material fails to cover adequately one of the items asked for.
    - Vocabulary is used incorrectly.
    - The paper is less than six pages long or is without the reference page.
    - The paper fails to follow appropriate APA format.
    - The paper is submitted after the due date.

### **For a grade of “Incomplete”**

- Acceptable written work is not submitted by the last class meeting of the semester.

### **For a grade of “No Credit”**

- Acceptable written work is not submitted within 30 days after the end of the semester *or*
- Regularly disruptive behavior interferes with the functioning of the class *or*
- More than two absences

### *Academic Honesty:*

All students are expected to respect the highest standards of academic integrity. The Graduate School considers it a violation of the requirements of intellectual responsibility to submit work that is not one's own or otherwise to subvert the conditions under which academic work is performed by oneself or by others. Violation may lead to failing a course, academic probation, or in repeated cases, suspension or expulsion.

## Resource Texts

- Bleuler, E. (1924). *Textbook of psychiatry* (A. A. Brill, Trans.). Macmillan. (Original work published in German in 1911)
- Boyer, L. B., & Giovacchini, P. L. (Eds.). (1990). *Master clinicians on treating the regressed patient*. Aronson.
- Brown, M., & Charles, M. (Eds.) (2019). *Women and the psychosocial construction of madness*. Rowan and Littlefield.
- Dell, P., & O'Neil, J. (Eds.) (2009). *Dissociation and the dissociative disorders: DSM-V and beyond*. Routledge.
- Eigen, M. (1986). *The psychotic core*. Aronson.
- Fenichel, O. (1954). *The collected papers of Otto Fenichel: Second series*. W. W. Norton.
- Gaudillière, J-M. (2020). *Leçons de la folie: Séminaires 1-7*. Hermann Éditeurs.
- Goldston, D. (2003). *Measuring suicidal behavior and risk in children and adolescents*. American Psychological Association.
- Goodwin, F., & Jamison, K. (1990). *Manic-depressive illness*. Oxford University Press.
- \*Greenberg, J. (1964). *I never promised you a rose garden*. Henry Holt.
- Jacobs, D. (Ed.). (1999). *The Harvard Medical School guide to suicide assessment and intervention*. Jossey-Bass.
- \*Kayson, S. (1993). *Girl, interrupted*. Random House.
- Lacan, J. (1993). *The seminar of Jacques Lacan: Book III: The psychoses, 1955-1956* (J.-A. Miller, Ed.) (R. Grigg, Trans.). W.W. Norton. (Original work published in French in 1981)
- Leudar, I., & Thomas, P. (2000). *Voices of reason, voices of insanity: Studies of verbal hallucinations*. Routledge.
- Meadow, P. W. (2003). *The new psychoanalysis*. Rowman & Littlefield.
- Minkowski, E. (1970). *Lived time* (N. Metzler, Trans.). Northwestern University Press. Originally published in French in 1933.
- Moore, B., & Fine, B. (1990). *Psychoanalytic terms and concepts*. Yale University Press.
- \*Nasar, S. (1998). *A beautiful mind*. Simon & Schuster.
- Nicholi, A. M., Jr. (Ed.). (1999). *New Harvard guide to psychiatry* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.). Harvard University Press.
- Pankow, G. (2006). *L'Être-là du schizophrène*. Flammarion.
- Pankow, G. (1993). *L'homme et sa psychose*. Flammarion.
- \*Romme, M., & Escher, S. (1993). *Accepting voices*. Mind Publications.
- Sacks, O. (2012). *Hallucinations*. Alfred A. Knopf.
- \*Saks, E. (2007). *The center cannot hold: My journey through madness*. Hyperion.
- Schreber, D. P. (2000). *Memoires of my nervous illness* (I. Macalpine & R. A. Hunter, Eds. & Trans.). New York Review of Books. (Original work published in German in 1902)
- Searles, H. (1965). *Collected papers on schizophrenia and related subjects*. International Universities Press.
- Searles, H. (1979). *Countertransference and related subjects: Selected papers*. International Universities Press.
- \*Sechehaye, M. (1951). *Autobiography of a schizophrenic girl*. Grune and Stratton.
- Spotnitz, H. (1985). *Modern psychoanalysis of the schizophrenic patient* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). Human Sciences Press.
- \*Styron, W. (1990). *Darkness visible: A memoir of madness*. Random House.
- Sullivan, H.S. (1974). *Schizophrenia as a human process*. W.W. Norton.

\*Biographical or autobiographical accounts

**To access full text documents from the PEP links, you'll need to first log into your PEP account.**

## **Assigned Readings**

### **Class 1**

- Gonzalez de Chavez, M. (2009). Treatment of psychoses before the twentieth century. In *Psychotherapeutic approaches to schizophrenic psychoses: Past, present, and future* (pp. 10-22). Routledge.
- Freud, S. (1958). Psychoanalytical notes on an autobiographical account of a case of paranoia. In J. Strachey (Ed. and Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 12, pp. 1-34). Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1911)  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=se.012.0001a#p0003>
- Leader, D. (2012). Psychosis. In *What is madness?* (pp. 67-94). Penguin Books.
- Documentary:  
Teale, S. (Producer), & De Leo, M. (Director). (2001). *Bellevue: Inside out* [Video file].  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sz3Xj\\_PIF3g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sz3Xj_PIF3g)

### **Class 2**

- Weiss, H. (2020). Three contributions on psychosis: A brief introduction. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 101(1), 128-135.
- De Masi, F. (2020). Psychosis and analytic therapy: A complex relationship. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 101(1), 152-168.
- Valon, P. (2020). Gisela Pankow (1914-1998): Towards a psychoanalytic treatment of the psychoses. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 101(1), 169-185.
- Anzieu, D. (1974). A discussion of the paper by Gisela Pankow on "The body image in psychosis." *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 55, 415-416.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.055.0415a>

### **Class 3**

- Minkowski, E. (2004). Findings in a case of schizophrenic depression. In R. May, E. Angel, & H. F. Ellenberger (Eds.), *Existence* (B. Bliss, Trans.) (pp. 127-138). Rowan and Littlefield.
- Binswanger, L. (2004). Insanity as life-historical phenomenon and as mental disease: The case of Ilse. In R. May, E. Angel, & H. F. Ellenberger (Eds.), *Existence* (E. Angel, Trans.) (pp. 214-236). Rowan and Littlefield.
- Sechehaye, M. A. (1956). The transference in symbolic realization. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 37, 270-277.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.037.0270a>
- Benedetti, G. (1959). Crucial problems in the psychotherapy of schizophrenia; Individual psychotherapy of schizophrenia. In *Psychotherapy of schizophrenia* (pp. 66-87). New York University Press.
- NOTE: Select either the Minkowski or the Biswanger case for your reading.

### **Class 4**

- Federn, P. (1934). The analysis of psychotics. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 15, 209-214.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.015.0209a>
- Fromm-Reichmann, F. (1939). Transference problems in schizophrenics. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly*, 8, 412-426.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=paq.008.0412a>
- Saad, A. (2020). On the logic of the unconscious. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 101(2), 239-256.

### **Class 5**

- De Masi, F. (2000). The unconscious and psychosis: Some considerations on the psychoanalytic theory of psychosis. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 81(1), 1-20.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.081.0001a>
- Klein, M. (1946). Notes on some schizoid mechanisms. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 27, 99-110.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.027.0099a>

### **Class 6**

- Bion, W. R. (1956). Development of schizophrenic thought. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 37, 344-346.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.037.0344a>
- Bion, W. R. (1957). Differentiation of the psychotic from the non-psychotic personalities. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 38, 266-275.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.038.0266a>
- Bion, W. R. (1959). Attacks on linking. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 40, 308-315.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.040.0308a>

### **Class 7**

- Winnicott, D. W. (1971). Creativity and its origins. In *Playing and reality* (pp. 65-85). Tavistock Publications.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=zbk.017.0001a#p0065>
- Winnicott, D. W. (1974). Fear of breakdown. *The International Review of Psychoanalysis*, 1, 103-107.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=irp.001.0103a>
- Ogden, T. (2014). Fear of breakdown and the un-lived life. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 95(2), 205-223.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.095.0205a>

### **Class 8**

- Fromm-Reichmann, F. (1959). Notes on the development of treatment of schizophrenics by psychoanalytic psychotherapy. In *Psychoanalysis and psychotherapy: Selected papers of Frieda Fromm-Reichmann* (pp. 160-175). The University of Chicago Press.
- Rosenfeld, H. (1969). On the treatment of psychotic states by psychoanalysis: An historical approach. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 50, 615-631.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.050.0615a>
- Green, A. (1999). *The fabric of affect in the psychoanalytic discourse* (A. Sheridan, Trans.) (pp. 116-128). Routledge. (Original work published in French in 1973)

### **Class 9**

- Freud, S. (1961). The loss of reality in neurosis and psychosis. In J. Strachey (Ed. and Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 19, pp. 181-188). Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1924)  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=se.019.0181a#p0183>
- Searles, H. (1996). Transference psychosis in the psychotherapy of schizophrenia (1963). In *Collected papers on schizophrenia and related subjects* (pp. 654-716). International Universities Press.
- Meadow, P. W. (1991). Resonating with the psychotic patient. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 16(1), 87-103.  
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=mpsa.016.0087a>

**Class 10**

Spotnitz, H. (1985). Conceptualization of the illness. In *Modern psychoanalysis of the schizophrenic patient* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed., pp. 40-69). Human Sciences Press.

Meadow, P. W., & Green, A. (2006). "Freud and Modern Psychoanalysis": A discussion. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 31(1), 7-24.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=mpsa.031.0007a>

**Class 11**

Vanheule, S. (2019). On ordinary psychosis. In J. Mills & D. L. Downing (Eds.), *Lacan and psychosis: From theory to praxis* (pp. 77-102). Routledge.

Leader, D. (2012). Triggering. In *What is madness?* (pp. 170-194). Penguin Books.

**Class 12.**

Brown, M., & Charles, M. (Eds.). (2019). *Women and psychosis: Multidisciplinary perspectives* (pp. vii-xi). Rowan and Littlefield.

Davoine, F., & Gaudilliere, J-M. (2004). *History beyond trauma: Whereof one cannot speak thereof one cannot stay silent* (S. Fairfield, Trans.) (pp. xi-xxx). Other Books.

Davoine, F. (2012). *Wittgenstein's folly* (W. J. Hurst, Trans.) (pp. ix-xviii). YBK Publishers. (Original work published in French in 1991)