

Syllabus
PT 187a Observational Skills and Critical Thinking
R. Sacks Fall 2020

NYGSP: 3 Credits

Course Description

Through fiction and documentary film, guest lectures, and readings spanning clinical theory, case material, and film analysis, PT 187a will develop skills critical to understanding patients — including critical observation and psychoanalytic listening.

This two-semester course combines discussion of readings with a laboratory component, consisting of visual and audio media, that focuses on primitive mental functioning. Students will write weekly critiques based on the laboratory viewings that investigate aspects of patient communication, conscious and unconscious symbolic associations, and other issues related to individual countertransference reaction. Subject-matter experts will supplement coursework with case presentations that illustrate core concepts of seeing, hearing, feeling, and thinking in a clinical setting (TBA). This course is three credits per semester.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- identify, describe, and discuss the psychopathology of psychotic disorders including the defense structure of primitive mental functioning;
- identify and articulate countertransference responses experienced while viewing primitive mental functioning; and
- compare and contrast clinical approaches to the understanding and treatment of psychosis.

Laboratory Component

There is a weekly laboratory component done outside the class meeting. Students will view/listen to the assigned laboratory and write critiques based on a prescribed methodology. The methodology will be based on a specific psychoanalytic viewing of film (see Class 2 reading).

Method of Evaluation

- Weekly written critiques (approximately 250 words by email) of the assigned laboratory viewings/listenings
- Personal logs (see log criteria below) submitted to richardjsacks@hotmail.com
- Participation in the class discussions
- Final paper. Final paper will be 8-10 page paper, following the APA format, which focuses on the Class 12 laboratory viewing. Criteria for the final paper will be clarified in class discussion. Final paper must include 5 references from the reading list.

Twelve written logs (approximately 250 words sent by email) are to be completed soon after each class meeting and submitted to the instructor before the following class meeting. The log is a private communication to the instructor enumerating:

1. Thoughts, feelings, and reactions to the class discussions.
2. A short critique of the assigned reading for that class.
3. The final log (Log 12) will be a self-evaluation of how you met the course objectives.

Grading

Students may receive a Pass (P), Low Pass (LP), Incomplete (I), 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 viewings in the weekly written critiques and class discussions.

To earn a grade of Pass, the student

- Misses no more than two class meetings.
- Demonstrates understanding of the course subject matter in class, including the class presentation.
- Submits 12 logs.
- Demonstrates understanding of the course subject matter in the logs.
- Submits assignments on time.

To receive a grade of Low Pass, the student

- Misses no more than two class meetings.
- Submits 12 logs.
- Demonstrates one or more of the following:
 - Minimal participation in class
 - Problematic/disruptive participation in class
 - Minimal understanding of the course subject matter in class discussion or presentation.
 - All assignments are completed but some are submitted late.
 - Logs do not regularly address the two stated criteria

To receive a grade of Incomplete, the student

- Does not submit acceptable written work by the last class meeting of the semester or date specified by the instructor.

To receive No Credit, the student

- Does not submit acceptable written work within 30 days after the end of the semester *or*
- Regularly exhibits disruptive behavior that interferes with the functioning of the class *or*
- Misses more than two classes.

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.

Assigned Readings

Class 1

Liegner, E. (1977). The first interview in modern psychoanalysis. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 2(1), 55-66.
<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=mpsa.002.0055a>

Ogden, T. (2006). On teaching psychoanalysis. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 87(4), 1069-1085.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.087.1069a>

Lab:

Aron, L., & Starr, K. (2013, November 29). A psychotherapy for the people: Towards a progressive psychoanalysis [Audio podcast episode]. In *New Books in Psychoanalysis*.

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/lewis-aron-and-karen-starr-a-psychotherapy-for-the-people-towards-a-progressive-psychoanalysis-routledge-2013/>

Class 2

Gabbard, G.O. (1997). The psychoanalyst at the movies. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 78, 429-434.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.078.0429a>

Gabbard, G.O. (2001). Introduction. In G.O. Gabbard (Ed.), *Psychoanalysis and film* (pp. 1-17). Karnac Books.

Lab:

Cassavettes, J. (Director). (1974). *A woman under the influence* [Film]. Faces International Films.

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x6uajf1>

Also available to rent on Amazon Prime Video and Vudu, and streaming on HBO

Class 3

Margolis, B.D. (1986). Joining, mirroring, psychological reflection: Terminology, definitions, theoretical considerations. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 11(1-2), 19-35.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=mpsa.011.0019a>

Spotnitz, H. (1985). Recognition and understanding of resistance. In *Modern psychoanalysis of the schizophrenic patient* (2nd ed., pp. 142-162). Human Sciences Press.

Lab:

Powell, Steve. (2018, April 15). *Psychiatric interview young woman - evaluation for diagnosis - 1959 - part 1* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVeBr51NITE>

Powell, Steve. (2018, April 15). *Psychiatric interview young woman - after treatment - 1961- part 2* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C92TGV-hHug&t=2s>

Class 4 and 5

Berman, E. (1997). Hitchcock's *Vertigo*: The collapse of a rescue fantasy. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 78, 975-996.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.078.0975a>

Gabbard, G.O. (1998). *Vertigo*: Female objectification, male desire, and object loss. *Psychoanalytic Inquiry*, 18(2), 161-167.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=pi.018.0161a>

McWilliams, N. (2011). Obsessive and compulsive personalities. In *Psychoanalytic diagnosis: Understanding personality structure in the clinical process* (2nd ed., pp. 289-309). Guilford Press.

Robbins, M. (1998). The adaptive significance of destructiveness in primitive personalities. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 36, 627-652.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=apa.036.0627a>

Lab:

Hitchcock, A. (Director). (1958). *Vertigo* [Film]. Alfred J. Hitchcock Productions.
Available to rent on Amazon Prime Video, Vudu, iTunes, and other sites

Class 6

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>

Robbins, M. (2002). The language of schizophrenia and the world of delusion. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 83(2), 383-405.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.083.0383a>

Lab:

Wiseman, F. (Director). (1967). *Titicut follies* [Film]. Zipporah Films.

Documentary filmed at Bridgewater State Hospital, Bridgewater, Massachusetts. Banned by the state of Massachusetts. Institutionalized chronic mentally ill. 84 min.

<https://vimeo.com/389325451>

Class 7

Winnicott, D.W. (1977). *The Piggie: An account of the psychoanalytic treatment of a little girl*.

International Universities Press, 201 pp. (TBD)

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ipl.107.0001a>

Lab:

King, A. (Director). (1967). *Warrendale* [Film]. Allan King.

Produced for the Canadian Broadcasting Channel. Documentary on an Ontario group home for emotionally disturbed children. 1hr 41m.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t9-uU5BinXo>

Class 8

Bollas, C. (2013). Introduction; Emily; Anna; Mark. In *Catch them before they fall: The psychoanalysis of breakdown* (pp. 1-13, 40-68). Routledge

Lab:

Bollas, B. (2013, March 26). Catch them before they fall: The psychoanalysis of breakdown [Audio podcast episode]. In *New Books in Psychoanalysis*.

<https://newbooksnetwork.com/christopher-bollas-catch-them-before-they-fall-the-psychoanalysis-of-breakdown-routledge-2013/>

Mackler, D. (Director). (2008). *Take these broken wings: Recovery from schizophrenia without medication* [Film]. Daniel Mackler.

Documentary on the myths about schizophrenia with interviews with recovered persons with schizophrenia. YouTube. 1h15m.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPfKc-TknWU>

Class 9

Joseph, B. (1971). A clinical contribution to the analysis of a pervasion. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 52, 441-449.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.052.0441a>

Lemma, A. (2012). A perfectly modern Frankenstein: Almodovar's *The skin I live in*. *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 93(5), 1291-1300.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=ijp.093.1291b>

Lab:

Almodovar, P. (Director) (2011). *The skin I live in* [Film]. Sony Pictures Classics.

Available to rent through Amazon Prime Video, Vudu, iTunes, and other sites

Class 10

McWilliams, N. (2011). Depressive and manic personalities. In *Psychoanalytic diagnosis: Understanding personality structure in the clinical process* (2nd ed., pp. 235-264). Guilford Press.

Spotnitz, H. (1985). Recognition and understanding of resistance. In *Modern psychoanalysis of the schizophrenic patient* (2nd ed., pp. 142-162). Human Sciences Press.

Lab:

Feuerzeig, J. (Director). (2005). *The devil and Daniel Johnston* [Film]. Sony Pictures Classics.

Documentary. The story of musician and artist Daniel Johnston who suffered from bipolar disorder. 1h50m.

Available to rent through Amazon Prime Video, Vudu, iTunes, and other sites

Class 11

Meadow, P.W. (1981). Drive theory in diagnosis and treatment. *Modern Psychoanalysis*, 6(2), 141-170.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=mpsa.006.0141a>

Lab:

Walker, D.L. (Director) (2017). *Outside the house* [Film]. Evolutionary Press Films.

Documentary dealing with mental health in the Black community. 1h21m.

<http://outsidethehousedoc.com/>

Class 12

Corbett, K. (1996). Homosexual boyhood: Notes on girlyboys. *Gender and Psychoanalysis*, 1(4), 429-461.

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=gap.001.0429a>

Freud, S. (1961). Civilization and its discontents. In J. Strachey (Ed. and Trans.), *The standard edition of the complete psychological works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 21, pp. 86-98). Hogarth Press. (Original work published 1930)

<http://www.pep-web.org/document.php?id=se.021.0000a>

Lab:

Riggs, M. (Director). (1989). *Tongues untied* [Film]. California Newsreel.

Documentary footage, poetry, and personal accounts on black gay identity. 55m.

Available to rent from Vimeo on Demand at <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/tonguesuntied>