

**BRAIN AND MIND
BASIC CONCEPTS, CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS, AND PRACTICAL TREATMENT
APPLICATIONS**

**Instructors: Ronald Levin MD (206) 323-3771
Stan Case MSW, PhD (425) 775-5678
Location: NW Psychoanalytic Building Library
4033 E. Madison, Seattle**

This course will explore some of the basic organizing principles of early mental activity. The goals of this course include developing an understanding of the evolution of the brain and mind, an understanding of the organization of and relationship between the brain and mind, and an understanding of why particular clinical techniques are more effective in dealing with structuring events occurring early in life.

Our first classes will focus on the functional anatomy of the brain and mind, as well as on theories of the physiological basis of consciousness and sense of self. Later classes will focus more directly on the clinical treatment of patients who present with traumatically disorganized or prematurely organized states of mind. Of course, we hope that juxtaposing these topics will stimulate our thinking and creativity.

BRAIN AND MIND FROM A NEUROSCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

**Introduction: THE MULTI-LAYERED BRAIN AND UNAWARE FUNCTIONING
(casual reading to be completed prior to the course)**

**Carey New York Times 12/23/08 "Blind, Yet Seeing: The Brain's
Subconscious Visual Sense"**

CLASS #1: Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7:30pm

**THE DISTRIBUTED FUNCTIONING OF
THE BRAIN AS EVIDENCED BY DREAMING**

**Solms Ann Psychoanal (2000) 28:179-200 "Preliminaries for an Integration
of Psychoanalysis and Neuroscience"**

This is a description of the distributed neurological organization and essential neurological components of dreaming, as well as a call for research on the full unconscious and unaware structure of psychological syndromes. By implication, it is a call for a new approach to clinical psychoanalysis.

CLASS #2: Monday, February 1, 2010 at 7:30 pm

EVOLUTION, MIND, AND THE GENERATION OF SELF

**Llinas i of the vortex From Neurons to Self Bradford Books (2002)
p. ix-x mind, a product of evolution
p. 1-18 the life of the brain, the function of the brain
p. 72-81 brain and evolution
p. 111-131 consciousness, attention and generation of the self**

In many ways, the brain, like other organ systems, operates as a self-referential closed system. The brain does not depend on continuous input from the external

world to generate perceptions; rather the brain uses external perceptions to modulate what is already internalized. The psychological sense of self appears related to intrinsic oscillatory capabilities of thalamo-cortical neurons that self-generate dynamic brain states.

CLASS #3: Monday, February 8, 2010 at 7:30 pm

**EVOLUTION, DEVELOPMENT, AND CONSCIOUSNESS:
THE ORGANIZATION OF THE BRAIN AND RE-ENTRY**

Edelman/Tonini A Universe of Consciousness How Matter Becomes Imagination Basic Books (2000)

p. 35-50 brain wiring and consciousness

p. 82-93 theory of neuronal group selection

Conscious experience depends on the interaction of many neuronal groups distributed across many regions of the brain. These interactions have to be constantly changing, diverse, and reciprocal.

CLASS #4: Monday, February 22, 2010 at 7:30 pm

**MENTAL DISORDERS AND THE
PERTURBATIONS OF OPTIMAL BRAIN CONNECTIVITY**

Peled NeuroAnalysis Routledge (2008)

p. 24-39 some ideas from computational science

p. 40-59 attempting the conceptual leap

Psychological syndromes result from specific and unique types of breakdowns in the brain's organization. Neuronal synapses – in response to psychological and/or chemical change – appear to play a core role in global syndromes such as depression, mania, anxiety, and disorganization. By implication, each type of connectivity breakdown requires analytic interventions specifically organized for that breakdown type.

BRAIN AND MIND FROM A PSYCHOANALYTIC PERSPECTIVE

CLASS #5: Monday, March 1, 2010 at 7:30 pm

THE ORGANIZATION OF PRIMITIVE PROTO-SYMBOLIC EXPERIENCE

Lehtonen, et al IJP (2006) 87:1335 “Nascent body ego: Meta-psychological and neuro-physiological aspects”

Nursing and active sucking enhance the organization of primitive proto-symbolic mental experience and appear to be stimuli for mind development. There are active neuro-physiologic correlates to this activity. Including body-related primal layers of the mind in psychoanalysis may provide opportunity to revitalize deeper layers of the self.

CLASS #6: Monday, March 8, 2010 at 7:30 pm

**PROJECTIVE IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYTIC
ACCESS TO THE PROTO-SYMBOLIC SELF**

Cimino IJP (2205) 86:51-60 “Projective identification and conscious alteration”

Projective identification provokes sudden and discrete changes in the analyst's state of mind. This type of communication from the patient is an expression belonging to the pre-symbolic, pre-representative mind. Psychic material of this sort, which is felt rather than thought, must be restituted gradually to avoid retraumatization.

CLASS #7: Monday, March 15, 2010 at 7:30 pm

**TRANSFERENCE AND ANALYTIC
ACCESS TO THE PROTO-SYMBOLIC SELF**

Mancia IJP (2006) 87:83-103 “Implicit memory and early unrepressed unconscious”

Implicit memory, shaped by pre-symbolic and preverbal experience, forms the ground structure of the unrepressed unconscious self. The musical dimension of the transference – characterized by intonation and rhythm of voice; prosody of language, and dream images can be utilized to therapeutically access trauma occurring in early development, which shaped the self.

CLASS #8: Monday, March 22, 2010 at 7:30 pm

**RECONSTRUCTION AND WORKING
THROUGH TRAUMA IN THE TRANSFERENCE**

Leuzinger-Bohleber IJP (2008) 89:1165-1187 “Biographical truths and their clinical consequences: Understanding ‘embodied memories’ in a third psychoanalysis with a traumatized patient recovered from severe poliomyelitis”

Early trauma is remembered by the body. Reconstruction of trauma is indispensable in first understanding and then connecting “the language of the body” to the psychological world. Sensory-motor expressions in the transference are vital communications enabling one to understand the intense affects linked to trauma.