

SPSI 4th Year Elective

Fall Quarter, 2009

Elective: Religion and Psychoanalysis

Instructors: Lisa Kahan & Carol Kusche

The focus of this course is on expanding analytic understanding of how psychological structures such as God and Spirituality develop in our patients and in what ways these structures affect treatment. Along with the readings listed below, we will have several experiential exercises. The first exercise – completion of the God Questionnaire – should be filled out prior to our first class. The material will not need to be shared, but it is best to fill it out prior to attending class the first week.

Week 1: Freud's View on Religion

Goal: To understand the development of Freud's theoretical thinking about religion and psychoanalysis

Readings: Totem and Taboo (1919) – optional on peb-web

The Future of an Illusion (1927)

Moses and Monotheism (1939) optional on peb-web

Week 2: Other Early Psychoanalytic Theorists' Views on Religion

Goal: To have a broad understanding of early non-Freudian theoretical thinking about religion and psychoanalysis

Readings: Jung, Psychology & Religion, 1969a, p. 1-39

Fromm, Psychoanalysis & Religion, 1950, p. 65-98

The Psychoanalyst as "Physician of the Soul"

Winnicott, Transitional Objects and Transitional Phenomena, p. 211-219, in Freud and Freudians on Religion, Edited by Donald Capps, Yale University Press, 2001.

The Use of an Object and Relating through Identifications, p. 226-230, in Freud and Freudians on Religion, Edited by Donald Capps, Yale University Press, 2001.

Meissner, Transitional Phenomena in Religion, p. 220-225, in Freud and Freudians on Religion, Edited y Donald Caps, Yale University Press, 2001.

Week 3: The Development of the God Concept

Goal: To define the God concept

To trace the developmental line of the God concept through psychoanalytic readings

Readings: Rizzuto, The Birth of the Living God: A Psychoanalytic Study, 1979, pps. 87-108; 177-211

Week 4: Transference & Does the Religion of the Analyst Matter?

Goal: To consider how transference and religious thinking influence one another

To consider whether the religion/non-religion of the analyst is important

Readings: Jones, Contemporary Psychoanalysis and Religion, 1991, Transference and the Dynamics of Religion, pps. 68-85; & Transference and Transformation, pps. 86-110

Abbasi, Whose Side Are You On? Muslim Psychoanalysts Treating Non-Muslim Patients, pps. 335-350, in The Crescent and the Couch, Edited by Salman Akhtar (2008)

Week 5: Clinical Considerations when Working with Patients' Religious Material

Goal: To understand where religion and neurosis intermingle

To appreciate spirituality in patients' internal world

Readings: Spero, Psychotherapy of the Religious Patient (1996)

Chapter 2: Diagnostic Guidelines for Psychotherapy of the Religious Patient, pps 19-60.

Chapter 10: (Salzman) Religious Conversion and Paranoid States as Issues in Psychotherapeutic Process, pp. 208-230.

Week 6: Psychoanalysis and Specific Other Religions

Exercise: Each participant will choose an article to read and teach to us in a 15 minute period.

Goal: To have a working definition of religion

To have a basic understanding of concepts from five religions and psychoanalytic counterparts

Readings from: *Psychoanalysis and Religion in the 21st Century*, Edited by David M. Black (2006)

Epstein, *The Structure of no structure: Winnicott's concept of unintegration and the Buddhist notion of no-self* , pps. 223-233

Cunningham, *Vedanta and Psychoanalysis*, pps. 234-251

Frosh, *Psychoanalysis and Judaism*, pps. 205-223

Bomford, *A simple question?*, pps. 252-269

Shafii, *Sufi Perspective on Human Suffering and its Relief*, pps. 161-179, in *The Crescent and the Couch*, Edited by Salman Akhtar (2008)