Doctoral Program in Clinical Psychology  
The Graduate Center of the City University of New York

Practicum V: Transference and Countertransference
Course # 74103.13186
Fall, 2010

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Day & Time: Thursday 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Office Hours: By appointment via e-mail

Course Description:
This doctoral level elective clinical/theoretical course will introduce advanced clinical psychology graduate students to the basic concepts relevant to understanding transference and countertransference processes in psychotherapy. The course offers a comprehensive introduction to these constructs, and an opportunity, within a case presentation format, to consider their impact within the context of ongoing clinical work. The format for the course combines lecture and clinical case review. Requirements include assigned readings, in-class oral clinical presentations, and a brief final paper using a case to highlight one of the controversies discussed in the lectures. Students will become knowledgeable about the history of the concept of transference, beginning with Freud’s seminal papers and continuing through recent reformulations of the concept within the relational, interpersonal and neurobiological spheres and learn to delineate transference from similar concepts such as the working alliance and the “real relationship.” Students will become knowledgeable about the development of theories of countertransference and their utility in the clinical situation. Controversies over whether countertransference is a help or a hindrance to the treatment will be addressed within the context of weekly case presentations. The uses and abuses of countertransference with specific subject groups will also be addressed. The course will have a mixed lecture/class presentation format. The instructor will lecture on the central concept each week, and a student will present a typed transcript of their clinical casework, and discuss the case in the context of the week’s readings.

Course Objectives:
To promote critical thinking about clinical concepts and their applicability within the context of their historical development. In addition, close attention to each participant’s clinical work will give students a hands on understanding of how these processes work in the psychotherapeutic situation with different types of patients. More specifically, Students will understand the historical development of the theoretical concepts of transference and countertransference as well as related concepts such as the working alliance and the real relationship. They will understand how different schools of psychotherapy conceptualize transference and countertransference. Students will become more aware of themselves as active participants in the therapeutic relationship and particular attention will be paid to how racial, sexual and cultural factors interface with the development of the treatment. Students will learn to use their affective reactions as
another source of information about the patient as well as the verbal content of the session. They will have the experience of hearing and reading detailed process notes of their peer’s clinical work, and making constructive suggestions, as a beginning experience in peer supervision.

**Required Texts:**

There are no required texts. All readings are accessible either from the PEP web available through the Graduate Center or from the class web site available through the City College Cohen library. Students may access this web site by going to semester reserves, choosing my name, and the appropriate course. The password is psylweinstein to open the files.

**Recommended Texts:**


**Requirements and Grading:**

- 5% Attendance
- 20% Classroom participation
- 40% Students will be asked to do an in-class presentation of a clinical case that will be discussed in relation to specific class readings and content.
- 35% 5 – 10 page write up of case material illuminating a controversy in the literature discussed in class.

Policy for missed exam or late papers:

- Late papers will not be accepted.

**Weekly Reading Assignments and Class Topics:**

**Week 1: Origins of the Concept of Transference**

Objective: To understand how Freud understood the phenomena of transference and its relationship to the recovery of memory; to understand some of the inevitable pitfalls in a treatment situation that involves the therapist’s ability to both observe and participate


Week Two: Transference or Working Alliance? Differentiating Conscious and Unconscious Contributions to the Therapeutic Relationship

Objective: To evaluate whether the therapeutic relationship always involves transference, or are there extra-transferential factors that are critical to the alliance. To understand for which patients a focus on the “real” relationship might be more critical.


Gill, M. Analysis of Transference. Psychological Issues Monographs. 53 New York: IUP.


Week Three: Cognitive and Neuroscience perspectives on transference

Objective: To understand transference in a larger literature in neuroscience and cognition.


Implications for theories of transference. *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association*, 50, 100 - 131


**Week Four: Transference in Behavioral and Cognitive Treatment**

Objective: To assess the application of models developed in psychoanalytic long-term treatment to other psychotherapeutic modalities including short-term treatments Rhoads, J. & Feather, B. (1972). Transference and resistance observed in behavior therapy. *British Journal of Medical Psychology*, 45 (2), 99-103.


**Week Five: Theories of Countertransference: The historical/classical take:**

Objective: To understand the limitations of countertransference as a sole source of clinical knowledge.


**Week Six and Seven: Broadening the Concept: Kleinian, British Object Relations, and Kohutian Approaches**

Objective: To understand the clinical reasons for a broadening of the concept of countertransference, from an interruption to a constructive force; to understand how it was conceived differently by different theoretical groups.


**Week Eight  Current perspectives on Countertransference**


**Week Nine:  Action and Enactment**

Objective: To understand the similarities and differences between enactments and countertransference role responsiveness.


**Week Ten:  How the Analyst Works**


Ogden, T. (1997) Reverie and metaphor: Some thoughts on how I work as a


**SPECIAL TOPICS**

Objective: To understand the special effects of gender, culture, age, and race on the transference/countertransference matrix.

**Week Eleven: Gender**


**Week Twelve: Cultural Considerations: Race, Religion, Ethnicity**


**Week Thirteen Special Problems of Countertransference in Children**


**Week Fourteen: Extreme Examples of Countertransference: Sleepiness**


Dean, E. (1957) Drowsiness as a symptom of countertransference. *Psychoanalytic Quarterly,* 26, 246 - 247


**Week Fifteen: Framework as a Manifestation of Countertransference enactment**