We will be reading chapters from the following books for this course. You may wish to purchase some or all of them for inclusion in your library:


**Session 1: December 15, 2011**

*Introduction, Philosophical Origins and the Evolution of Intersubjective Systems Theory*

During this first class we will examine the philosophical underpinnings and central tenants of IST, ideas that we return to throughout the course. You will be introduced to concepts like metapsychology, hermeneutics, existential phenomenology and structuralism. We’ll also begin to explore the ways that these philosophical roots influence the IST sensibility and attitude towards the analytic process including the analyst’s stance, the unconscious, transference, resistance, etc.

Required Readings:
Interview of Robert Solorow by Laureano Ralon for Figure/Ground Communications, read questions and answers # 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9

[http://figureground.ca/interviews/robert-d-stolorow/](http://figureground.ca/interviews/robert-d-stolorow/)
Session 2: January 5, 2012
Affect, Concretization, and Unconscious Experience

IST considers affect to be the central motivating factor in human experience. This shift from drives to affectivity has important implications which we will discuss in this session. We will also begin to explore the ways that this focus on affectivity recontextualizes unconscious experience.

PLEASE NOTE: There is more reading for this session since you will have a break over the holidays.

Required Readings:


Session 3: January 12, 2012
Transference and Countertransference, Therapeutic Action
Class taught by Penelope Starr-Karlin

This session explores the concepts of transference and countertransference. The implications of conflict and deficit models will be explored and IST’s perspective will be delineated. This discussion will also enable us to consider ideas about therapeutic action and cure.

Required readings:


Session 4: January 19, 2012
Impasses: Disjunction, and Conjunction

The idea of forming a “therapeutic” or “working alliance” with patients has generally been considered to be an important aspect of therapeutic action and success. By contextualizing the concept of a therapeutic alliance, IST contributes to our understanding of how to recognize and work with therapeutic stalemates and impasses.


Recommended:


**Session 5: January 26, 2012**
Pathological Accommodation

Among Bernard Brandchaft’s many contributions to IST, he is perhaps best known for his elaboration of systems of pathological accommodation. Many have compared this concept to Winnicott’s false self. Brandchaft’s focus on the intersubjective contexts in which a person becomes organized around the subjectivity of another will be the focus of this discussion.


Recommended:

**Session 6: January 31, 2013**
Working with “Borderlines”
Class taught by Margaret Allen

With this session, we will begin to explore the clinical implications and application of IST. This class will focus on the “borderline” diagnosis as it is commonly used and consider the intersubjective contexts in which borderline phenomena emerges.


**Session 7: February 7, 2013**

“Psychotic” Experience  
Class taught by Leonard Bearne

We will continue our focus on the clinical application of IST concepts this week as we explore how to understand and work with psychotic thought processes.


Session 8: February 14, 2013  
The Relational Contextuality of Emotional Trauma  
Class taught by Peter Maduro


Recommended:  

**Session 9: February 14, 2013**


Recommended:


**Session 10: February 21, 2013**
Class taught by Roger Frie

