INTERSUBJECTIVE-SYSTEMS THEORY
as a
Phenomenological Contextualism
SYLLABUS

Instructors:
Margaret Allan, Psy.D., M.S.W.
Peter N. Maduro, J.D., Psy.D., Psy.D.

CASE PRESENTATION
Over the course of the year, we would like each candidate to present a clinical case that reflects your work with an individual patient. Let’s schedule case presentations during the first weekend we meet in September with the thought that the first candidate-presentation might occur in November.

We request that a foundation of the case material be presented within about 30 minutes. This assures that plenty of time will remain in that same class session (even after introductory remarks and any review of past classes) to discuss your material in light of the theory we are studying together. These case presentations will advance your individual, and our collective, integration of the readings with clinical experience, and allow us to struggle through the always-challenging learning process together.

WRITTEN CASE STUDY
There is a single writing requirement in this course that will be due on March 26, 2017. Please write a confidential case study of your work with an individual patient (disguise thoroughly) using concepts you have learned in this course up to the time of your writing. Naturally, you may use the case you present in class as the basis for your written case study.

Ultimately you are free to use this writing exercise in any way that you wish and deem productive. Nevertheless we can suggest the following as a potentially useful approach: describe the patient’s emotional world, including transference longings and anxieties, and explain these emotional organizations in terms of the intersubjective (relational) contexts...
in which they take form and are felt, or not felt, as the case may be. If you are comfortable and willing, you might also comment on your own transference longings and anxieties in the treatment and the clinical complexities to which they give rise.

Your written product should be no longer than 7 double-spaced pages.

COURSE READINGS
We have tried to assign “Required Readings” that are substantively central to the Intersubjective-systems perspective. Additionally, we want them to be manageable in number & length given the other academic demands of your ICP weekend program curriculum.

A list of “Additional Related Readings”, organized by class/topic, as well as “Recommended Book Purchases”, will be distributed to you directly by group-email before the class-year commences. This list is available to you for your reference in the event you wish to read more deeply into the topics at hand.

If and when you have questions and comments regarding the Required Readings during our class time together, please draw upon and refer directly to the pertinent portions of the actual text. This will help clarify the nexus between your questions/comments and the readings, and in turn keep our class discussions grounded.

COURSE-LONG REQUIREMENTS:
Atwood on YouTube.com
Watch & listen to George Atwood lectures (Rutgers Univ.) on Abnormal Psychology, all on YouTube.com (see internet links below). We recommend you begin watching & listening to these lectures as soon as possible and pace yourselves so you can complete watching as many as possible by Friday, March 24, 2017 when we hope George will join us by Skype.

Lecture 16, Part 2 http://youtube/N6UnUEyuoZM
Lecture 17, Part 1 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqtIpyWLggw
Lecture 17, Part 2 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6brJh_oN0p4
Lecture 18, Part 1 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q0FsBDIqPM4
Lecture 18, Part 2 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2MePCPvAU_M
Lecture 19, Part 1 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvACGtY60PA
Lecture 19, Part 2 http://youtu.be/ATZ8WGTS98k
Lecture 20, Part 1 http://youtu.be/sL52IESyo2w
Lecture 20, Part 2 http://youtu.be/-mTiHeq_Ock
Lecture 21, Part 2 http://youtu.be/zLnahhh_pYA
STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BOOK & BLOG:
Please try to read George Atwood’s book *The Abyss of Madness* cover-to-cover over the course of the year:


Also, try to read Bob Stolorow’s blog in Psychology Today “on-line.” His postings tend to be succinct, very readable essays on topics of interest from his existentially enriched Intersubjective-systems perspective, a perspective that one of us (P.M.) has described as an “existential, relational, affect theory.” The blog series is entitled “Feeling, Relating, Existing” and can be found at:

https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing
CLASS-BY-CLASS TOPICS & REQUIRED READINGS

CLASS #1 of 12: Intersubjective-Systems Theory as Phenomenological Contextualism: Introduction – The Personal, Historical Contexts of the Theorist (just like us!) and His/Her Theories.

Friday, September 23, 2016
11:30 am – 2 pm

READINGS:


Sunday, September 25, 2016
8:30 – 11 am

READINGS:


Friday, November 4, 2016
11:30 am – 2 pm

READINGS:


Sunday, November 6, 2016
8:30 – 11 am

READINGS:


Friday, December 9, 2016
11:30 am – 2 pm

READINGS:


CLASS #6 of 12: Psychoanalytic Knowing, Part I – A Unity of Observer and Observed.

Sunday, December 11, 2016
8:30 – 11 am

READINGS:


CLASS #7 of 12: The Contextuality of Emotional Trauma – *The Intersubjective Context of Unbearable Emotion.*

Friday, January 27, 2017
11:30 am – 2 pm

READINGS:


CLASS #8 of 12: Existential Dimensions of Emotional Trauma – *Trauma As Something We All Know.*

Sunday, January 29, 2017
8:30 – 11 am

READINGS:


CLASS #9 of 12: Understanding Extreme States, Part I – The Annihilated Subject and His/Her Quest to Survive.

Friday, March 24, 2017
11:30 am – 2 pm

READINGS:


CLASS #10 of 12: Understanding and Working with Extreme States, Part II - Intersubjective Contexts of Radical Invalidation and Personal Annihilation.

Sunday, March 26, 2017
8:30 – 11 am

*****WRITTEN CASE STUDY DUE TODAY*****

READINGS:


CLASS #11 of 12: Psychoanalytic Knowing, Part II - Attitudes and Sensibilities Associated With the Intersubjective-systems Perspective.

Friday, May 5, 2017
11:30 am – 2 pm

READINGS:

Stolorow, R. D. (2013). Psychology Today On-Line BLOG: “I’ll be with you when the deal goes down”
https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201303/i-ll-be-you-when-the-deal-goes-down

https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201308/undergoing-the-situation


CLASS #12 of 12: Commonalities and Differences Between and Among the Co-Collaborators Atwood, Orange & Stolorow – Collaboration & Creative Explosion.

Sunday, May 7, 2017
8:30 – 11 am

READINGS:


Peruse George Atwood’s website: http://www.georgeatwood.com/index.html

Listen/watch George Atwood “Swan Song” Last Lecture (Rutgers Univ.) before retirement:
See internet links:
Lecture 22, Part 1 (His last lecture ever!) http://youtu.be/LLfY_sEyfUg
Lecture 22, Part 2  http://youtu.be/c-8sT0Kv6tID
