ICP WEEKDAY PROGRAM CORE COURSE

Syllabus for Spring 2017

INTERSUBJECTIVE-SYSTEMS THEORY:
A PHENOMENOLOGICAL-CONTEXTUALIST CONTEMPORARY RELATIONAL PSYCHOANALYSIS.

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*Indicates that articles can be found on PEP

Blogs are all available online.

Lectures are available on YouTube.


This syllabus attempts to introduce you in just 30 hours to over 45 years of creative outpouring by Robert D. Stolorow, George E. Atwood and their collaborators. While I have done my best to condense the material into just a few readings each week I could not avoid some omissions and partial repeats. I encourage you to read, listen, read, digest, and return again and again to their complex but rewarding psychoanalytic thinking. The readings are listed in order of teaching priorities, and I have left some options so that you choose according to your interest and preferences. Enjoy.

Assignment: Candidates will be asked to write up a case study (preferably a training case in process) conceptualized through an intersubjective-systems perspective, and present it during the final meeting on May 18th (each will take about 20 minutes of class time). This assignment is designed to help you integrate the course syllabus readings, presentations, and discussions. We will briefly work together on assignments during sessions 3, 6, and 14.
2/2/17 - SESSION 1. FACES:

Introduction to course, theory, and theorists of intersubjective-systems theory.

READINGS:


Or


2/9/17 - SESSION 2. FOUNDATIONS:

History, precepts, and development of the theory:

READINGS:


2/16/17 - SESSION 3. RELATIONAL CONTEXTS. Guest speaker will introduce the work of Donna Orange. This will be followed by discussion of ‘the psychoanalytic relational context.’

Candidates are asked to be ready to discuss their autobiography and theoretical ancestry, and how these may impact their experience of working with an outstandingly difficult patient, or their analyst or supervisor (about 5 minutes).

READINGS:


2/23/17 - SESSION 4. AFFECTIVITY AND THE ORGANIZATION OF RELATIONAL EXPERIENCE.

Theoretical ground – working with affects.

READINGS:


Starr-Karlin, P. S. (2015). “The analyst as muse: The expansive dimension of the transference.” International Journal of Psychoanalytic Self Psychology, Vol 10, #1, pp 33-52. (The tradition in this course is to include one article by the course instructor. This paper discusses a case in which intense affectivity played a central role. The original version was awarded the Daphne Stolorow Memorial Essay Award in 2012).


Stolorow, R. D. (2013), PT Blog “Integrating Emotional Trauma:”
3/2/17 - SESSION 5. MAINTAINING A WORLD OF EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCE.

Psychological processes at play in the relational psychoanalytic context.

READINGS:


The following are very short:


**3/9/17 - SESSION 6. CLINICAL:**

**Guest speaker on the Life and Work of Bernard Brandchaft.**

**Case conceptualizations by candidates.**

Candidates are asked to choose a training case, conceptualize it using what they have learned so far of the IST perspective, and be prepared to discuss in class (5-10 minutes).

**READINGS:**


**3/16/17 - SESSION 7. THE WORK OF THE ANALYST:**

**READINGS:**


3/23/17 - SESSION 8. THE ANALYTIC SITUATION.

READINGS:


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4/6/17 - SESSION 9: CONCRETIZATIONS, DREAMS, FANTASY, AND ART.

We will consider the many forms ‘Concretizations’ of subjective emotional situations take when symbolization into language is not possible.

READINGS:


Or


Optional:


**4/13/17 - SESSION 10. WORKING WITH EXTREME STATES I, DELUSIONS. THE COMPASSIONATE GENIUS OF GEORGE ATWOOD (appearing in person via Skype).**

**REQUIRED:**


George gave lectures on psychopathology at Rutgers. These tell the story of Anna and George.

ATWOOD LECTURE 10, Part 1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Flgr-Vs4tA

ATWOOD LECTURE 10, Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsNWMTFc8zo

ATWOOD LECTURE 11, Part 1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxvXwYqMAkY

ATWOOD LECTURE 11, Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3C5q_VLqCc

**Optional Reading:**


**4/20/17 - SESSION 11. WORKING WITH EXTREME STATES II: SUICIDALITY.**

GEORGE ATWOOD (in person via Skype).

**REQUIRED:**

ATWOOD LECTURE 15, Parts 1 and 2: DEPRESSION AND SUICIDALITY. Another look at Freud’s “Mourning and Melancholia,” and the context of suicides – unbearable despair over an untenable situation. The suicidal are “seizing power in the cavern of despair.”

Part 1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUeQ9ZTbiEU
Part 2:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57utAjllD-4

ATWOOD LECTURE 16, Parts 1 and 2: SUICIDE, AND THE EMOTIONAL PHENOMENOLOGY OF THOSE LEFT BEHIND.

Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niAONJ0EALI

Part 2:  http://youtu.be/N6UnUEyuoZM

Optional: Additional details of case material can be found in George Atwood’s *The Abyss of Madness*, Chapter 6: The Tragedy of Self-Destruction and Chapter 7: The Dark Sun of Melancholia.

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**REQUIRED:**


http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201309/being-remainder

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**5/4/17 - SESSION 13. CASE STUDY: WORKING WITH THE SEVERELY TRAUMATIZED, GUEST SPEAKER.**

**READINGS:**


**Optional:**

ATWOOD LECTURE 17, Parts 1 and 2: George distinguishes the appearance and function of dissociative states from states of personal annihilation.


Lecture 17, Part 2: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6brJh_oN0p4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6brJh_oN0p4)

**5/11/17 - SESSION 14. CASE STUDY: WORKING WITH DIVERSITY, GUEST SPEAKER.**

Q&A about your cases (to be presented next session).

**READINGS:**


Russell Carr (2013), PT Blog, “Desperateness: This is what it feels like to survive combat:”

Russell Carr (2013), PT Blog, “Danger where there is none:”

**5/18/17 - SESSION 15. WRAP UP, AND CASE PRESENTATIONS BY CANDIDATES.**

Candidates will have 20 minutes to present and receive feedback about their case. The written report is also due.
READINGS to show how IST is useful in understanding larger contexts:


Stolorow, R. D. (2012), PT Blog “Earthquakes, Trauma, and Existential Anxiety: Earthquakes shake our confidence in the ground we stand on.
http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201201/earthquakes-trauma-and-existential-anxiety

Recommended Books (by year):

Ideally, in order to deeply understand and integrate Intersubjective-Systems Theory into your clinical thinking you will extend the studies entailed in this course by reading, or at least having at hand for reference, the following books -- each of which constitutes a central contribution to the Intersubjective-Systems literature. Therefore, we recommend you purchase these books to compliment your psychoanalytic library. Nevertheless, all the required and recommended readings will be accessible in article or book-chapter form on the ICP website.


YouTube: Abnormal Psychology, lectures from Rutgers by George Atwood.
(copy and paste)

Intro, recommended books:
Lecture 1, Part 1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YA5kiKDOIeo
Lecture 1, Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYMsdSepFA

Sybolic thinking, anorexia, cutting, hit me!:
Lecture 2, Part 1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3JBeMQa-FQ
Lecture 2, Part 2: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Buoh6AOYocE

Phenomenology and anti-phenomenology. The phenomenological question:
Lecture 3, Part 1: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xG0K95VWMgQ
Lecture 3, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CqgKMDc4_Jo

Freud and the Wolf Man:
Lecture 4, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P75Oes1Zov0
Lecture 4, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Z0lo_0643o

Wolf Man contd, medical model and other obstacles to phenomenology:
Lecture 5, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=om-A1906hHo
Lecture 5, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHtzOX9z4ZU

Arrested grief reaction, Anna and Elizabeth:
Lecture 6, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkEgz9pBlag
Lecture 6, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KfvTJrp8_0

Diagnosis or the phenomenological question:
Lecture 7, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Kx91MQ_kk
Lecture 7, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g8jZy9x9n3jU

The Really Real and the impact of a diagnosis:
Lecture 8, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=maHPuoBBEek
Lecture 8, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LOKNPxaxDVc

Reality and epistemological trauma
Lecture 9, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpGZUru6QZs
Lecture 9, Part 2:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4WV-K2iy9E

Anna and George, concretizations:
Lecture 10, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2F1qrg-Vs4tA
Lecture 10, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PsNWMTFce8zo
Lecture 11, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QxvXxYqMAY
Lecture 11, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3C5q_vLqCc

The phenomenological versus the literal world, subjective truth:
Lecture 12, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SWzFXgQrTK
Lecture 12, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqRbzeAyrNY

Freud and Daniel Paul Schreber:
Lecture 13, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEUD5dacUTw
Lecture 13, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqsWaCwMXxO

Lecture 14, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HpDGime1Po8
Lecture 14, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbhgmIkJd02q

Suicidality and Depression. Mourning and melancholia:
Lecture 15, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUeO92TbiEU
Lecture 15, Part 2:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=57utAj1lD-4

Suicide and the fate of those left behind:
Lecture 16, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIAONJ0EALI
Lecture 16, Part 2:  https://youtu.be/N6UnUEyuo2N

Trauma, dissociation, multiplicity:
Lecture 17, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zgt1pyWLgq1
Lecture 17, Part 2:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6brJh_oN0p4
Lecture 18, Part 1:  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOFsBDIqPM4
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:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Lka18fy52Y

Lecture 20, Part 2:  http://youtu.be/-mTiHeg_Ock


George Atwood’s final lecture at Rutgers: Doctor of the soul:
Lecture 22, Part 2:  http://youtu.be/c-8sT0Kv6tI