

Psychodynamic Theory and Clinic Social Work Practice

The purpose of this course is to review the evolution of psychodynamic theory, starting with Freud, and to consider key concepts in psychoanalysis, ego psychology, object relations theory, self-psychology, attachment theory, relational and intersubjective theories and current findings in cognitive neuroscience relevant to psychodynamic psychotherapy. Participants will explore human psychological functioning as explained by these various psychodynamic theories and through the bio-psycho-social lens that informs social work practice. Students will examine how factors such as race, class, gender, culture and biology are interwoven with often unconscious, internal psychological determinants, creating the complexities of human behavior that challenge us in our clinical work. Case presentations by students, the instructor and guest lecturers will demonstrate how concepts from psychodynamic theory are applicable and relevant to contemporary clinical practice with diverse populations. For undergraduates in psa minor, this course is an opportunity to gain an understanding how these theories are applied in actual practice.