Course Learning Objectives: At the end of this course candidates will, First; be able to recognize, distinguish, and assess the nature of the defects and deficits in structural integrity, in the object relational organization, and in the narcissistic regulatory processes that are found in the character disorders as differentiated from the neuroses and, then, as found between the different kinds of character disorders themselves; and, Second; by presenting their own most difficult cases for clinical examination candidates will recognize how to employ practice that discriminates dynamically between the character disorders, modify frozen structures, manage clinical impasses, constructively convert countertransference and enactment engagements, and formulate plans of approach for work with persons whose capacity to symbolize is severely compromised.

Weekly Readings and Subject Matter:¹

1 - Character: Development

At the end of the two introductory weeks, candidates will be able to describe and explain the dynamics and development of character from both historical and contemporary perspectives. Participants will recognize distinctions between neurotic and characterological organization. Participants will observe the kinds of defects and deficits in psychic structure, the pathological alterations in object relations, the deficiencies in narcissistic regulatory processes, the problems in regulating affect (and other tension controls) that are regularly associated with character disorders.

Baudry, F. The evolution of the concept of character in Freud’s writings.
Liebert, R. The concept of character: a historical review.
Mitrani, J. Some technical implications of Klein’s concept of ‘premature ego development’.

2 - Character: Development

LaFarge, L. Emptiness as a defense in severe regressive states.
Reich, A. Early identifications as archaic elements of the superego.
Reich, A. Pathologic forms of self-esteem regulation.
Reich, A. Character formation representing integration of unusual conflict resolutions into ego structure.

3 - Character: Treatment

At the end of week 3 candidates will be able to provide an overview of the general approach that has been used in the treatment of the character disorders, utilizing clinical demonstrations of clinical material from the instructor and seminar participants. Seminar will utilize a historical contextualization of how treatment ideas have shifted over the years (i.e., "the widening scope" and its influence on theory and technique).

Dickes, R. Severe regressive disruptions of the therapeutic alliance.
Gedo, J. Notes on the psychoanalytic management of archaic transferences.
Valenstein, A. Pre-oedipal reconstructions in psychoanalysis.
Vermote, R. The nature of the problems of psychoanalysis with so-called 'difficult patients'.
Wallerstein, R. Reconstruction and mastery in the transference psychosis.

¹ Full references for these readings can be found in Sections 1 & 2 of the attached Bibliography.
**4 - Narcissistic Character**

At the end of weeks 4-8 candidates will be able to provide an overview of the general approach that has been used in the treatment of the narcissistic character disorder, utilizing clinical demonstrations of clinical material from the instructor and seminar participants. Seminar will utilize a comparative contextualization of how treatment ideas have been conceptualized by different analysts. Participants will, by presenting their most difficult patients (of this type) apply better, more effective technique. Seminar 5 will demonstrate Kohut’s contributions to the problem. Seminar 6 will demonstrate Kernberg’s contribution to the problem. Seminar 7 will demonstrate problems in the management of narcissistic rage. Seminar 8 will demonstrate Bach’s contribution to the problem.

Angel, K. Unanalyzability and narcissistic transference.
Kavka, J. The analysis of phallic narcissism.
Rothstein, A. The implications of early psychopathology for the analyzability of narcissistic personality disorders.

**5 - Narcissistic Character**

Kron, R. Psychoanalytic complications of a narcissistic transference.
Steiner, J. Seeing and being seen: narcissistic pride and narcissistic humiliation.

**6 - Narcissistic Character**

Kernberg, O. Factors in the psychoanalytic treatment of narcissistic personalities.
Kernberg, O. Further contributions to the treatment of narcissistic personalities.

**7 - Narcissistic Character**

Kohut, H. Forms and transformations of narcissism.
Kohut, H. Thoughts on narcissism and narcissistic rage.
Kohut, H. The psychoanalytical treatment of narcissistic personality disorders.

**8 - Narcissistic Character**

Bach, S. Narcissistic States and the Therapeutic Process, Chapter 10.
Kohut, H. The 2 analyses of Mr. Z.

**9 - Hysterical Character Pathology and Dissociation**

At the end of week 9 candidates will be able to provide an overview of the general approach that has been used in the treatment of the hysterical character pathology and dissociation, utilizing clinical demonstrations of clinical material from the instructor and seminar participants. Seminar will utilize a comparative contextualization of how treatment ideas have been conceptualized by different analysts. Participants will, by presenting their most difficult patients (of this type) apply better, more effective technique. Continued readings and further presentation of case material will permit seminar participants better utilization of technique and permits, in addition, fuller observation of both technical and dynamic phenomena.

Easer & Lesser. Transference resistance in hysterical character neurosis.
Easer & Lesser. Hysterical personality: a re-evaluation.
O’Neill, S. The psychotherapy of a male anorectic.

**10 - Acting Out**

At the end of week 10 candidates will be able to provide an overview of the general approach that has been used in the treatment of acting out, utilizing clinical demonstrations of clinical material from the instructor and seminar participants. Seminar will utilize a comparative contextualization of how treatment ideas have been conceptualized by different analysts. Participants will, by presenting their most difficult patients (of this type) apply better, more effective technique. Continued readings and further presentation of case material will permit seminar participants better utilization of technique and permits, in addition, fuller observation of both technical and dynamic phenomena.
Bird, B. A specific peculiarity of acting out.
Boesky, D. A reconsideration of the concept of acting out.
Greenacre, P. General problems of acting out.
Greenacre, P. Problems of acting out in the transference neurosis.

11 - Moral Masochism

At the end of weeks 11-13 candidates will be able to provide an overview of the general approach that has been used in the treatment of moral masochism, utilizing clinical demonstrations of clinical material from the instructor and seminar participants. Seminar will utilize a comparative contextualization of how treatment ideas have been conceptualized by different analysts. Participants will, by presenting their most difficult patients (of this type) apply better, more effective technique. Continued readings and further presentation of case material will permit seminar participants better utilization of technique and permits, in addition, fuller observation of both technical and dynamic phenomena. Seminar 11 will describe the special role objet relations can have in moral masochism. Seminar 12 will describe the special role of internalization can have in moral masochism. Seminar 13 will describe the special role of structural issues can have in moral masochism.

Berliner, B. The role of object relations in moral masochism.
Bernstein, I. The role of narcissism in moral masochism.
Cooper, A. The narcissistic-masochistic character.
Dorpat, T. An object-relations perspective on masochism.

12 - Moral Masochism

Lax, R. The role of internalization in the development of certain aspects of female masochism: ego psychological considerations.
Modell, A. On having a right to a life: an aspect of the superego’s development.

13 - Moral Masochism

Meyers, H. A consideration of treatment techniques in relation to the function of masochism.
Rothstein, A. The fear of humiliation.
Segel, N. Narcissism and adaptation to indignity.

14 - Negative Therapeutic Reaction

At the end of this week candidates will be able to provide an overview of the general approach that has been used in the treatment of the negative therapeutic reaction, utilizing clinical demonstrations of clinical material from the instructor and seminar participants. Seminar will utilize a comparative contextualization of how treatment ideas have been conceptualized by different analysts. Participants will, by presenting their most difficult patients (of this type) apply better, more effective technique. Continued readings and further presentation of case material will permit seminar participants better utilization of technique and permits, in addition, fuller observation of both technical and dynamic phenomena.

Kernberg, O. An ego psychology-object relations approach to the transference.
Limentani, A. Some positive aspects of the negative therapeutic reaction.
Olnick, S. The negative therapeutic reaction.
Valenstein, A. On attachment to painful feelings and the negative therapeutic reaction.

15 - Dissociative Process and Multiple Personality

At the end of this week candidates will be able to provide an overview of the general approach that has been used in the treatment of dissociative processes and multiple personality, utilizing clinical demonstrations of clinical material from the instructor and seminar participants. Seminar will utilize a comparative contextualization of how treatment ideas have been conceptualized by different analysts. Participants will, by presenting their most difficult patients (of this type) apply better, more effective technique. Continued readings and further presentation of case material will permit seminar
participants better utilization of technique and permits, in addition, fuller observation of both technical and dynamic phenomena.

Berman, E. Multiple personality: psychoanalytic perspectives.
Brenneis, C.B. Multiple personality: fantasy proneness, demand characteristics, and indirect communication.
Brenner, I. The dissociative character: a reconsideration of "multiple personality".
Gottleib, R.M. Does the mind fall apart in multiple personality disorder? Some proposals based on a psychoanalytic case.
Ross, D.R. Discussion: an agnostic viewpoint on multiple personality disorder.

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Section 1: General Considerations in the Development and Treatment of Character Disorders

Section 2: Specific Character Difficulties: Developmental and Treatment Issues

Abbreviations:  
IJP - International Journal of Psycho-Analysis
IRP - International Review of Psycho-Analysis
JAPA - Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association
LAX - Essential Papers on Character Neurosis and Treatment
PQ - Psychoanalytic Quarterly
PR - Psychoanalytic Review
PSC - Psychoanalytic Study of the Child

SECTION 1:

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND Treatment of CHARACTER NEUROSes:

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2. Some considerations on repetition and repetition compulsion.
3. Instinct theory, object relation, and psychic structure.
4. On the therapeutic action of psychoanalysis.
5. Internalization, separation, mourning, and the superego.
6. Freud's conception of the negative therapeutic reaction, with comments on instinct theory.
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