Termination has always been a problematic word that we have inherited from a poorly translated version of Freud’s original work on ending. Many analysts would prefer any word other than termination, a term suggesting being fired, exterminated or gotten rid of. Nonetheless the work does end and how we conceptualize and then work with that ending is important and necessary for the dyad. My specific interest has been in how terminations can be understood as co-created enactments of complex unconscious processes between patient and analyst. The old conceptualization that the analyst decides when the treatment is ready to be concluded does not always hold. Sometimes it is the patient who wants to end, and it is abrupt or unforeseen. While other times no one can see how they might end and an enactment of another kind is in play. This class will look at the history of some of the writings on termination, noting the difficulties that were being addressed and discussed while also considering how ending treatment is a complex process vulnerable to disorienting dissociative processes. We will then move into more contemporary relational writings to see how the discussion has been reviewed and re-conceptualized, holding in mind the role of attachment styles and histories of trauma. Lastly we will look at the most recent writings to see how the field is shifting in its view of ending treatment. Case vignettes, provided by the instructor and class members, will enable us to examine the difficulties inherent in ending while keeping in mind how essential ending may be to the working through and mourning process.

**Week 1: Introduction: Does it all start with Freud?**

**Suggested Readings**

**Week 2: First Responses and Concerns**

**Week 3: Freudian Perspectives**

**Week 4: Perspectives in a new lens**

**Week 5: Freudian Critiques**

**Week 6: Early Relational/Interpersonal Perspectives**

**Week 7: Contemporary Relational Perspectives**
Week 8: Contemporary Perspectives

Week 9: Contemporary Classical Perspective

Week 10: Contemporary British Perspective

Weeks 11: Breaks, Interruptions and Abrupt Endings

Week 12: Impasse or Readiness to End?

Week 13: Difficulties in Ending
**Week 14: Long Treatments**

**Week 15: Post-Termination**

**Further Suggested Readings**