FAIRBAIRN'S OBJECT RELATIONS THEORY

Writing in the preface to Fairbairn's (1952) *Psychoanalytic Studies of the Personality*, Earnest Jones notes the geographical and professional isolation in which Fairbairn formulated his ideas. Yet Fairbairn most pointedly directed his revisions of classical psychoanalytic theory to others, notably Freud and Klein. This course will attempt to place Fairbairn's ideas in the context of the established currents of thought to which he addressed his writings. It will also attempt to draw the threads of his theory forward in time to more contemporary trends in relational theory, self psychology, and trauma theory. The course will rely heavily on clinical material to illustrate the comparative issues discussed.

**Required Books:**


**Recommended Book:**

I. TOWARD A NEW THEORY OF MOTIVATION: LIBIDO RECONSIDERED
(Week 1 and 2)

Chapters 1.

2. GREENBERG, J. and MITCHELL, S. (1983), Object Relations in

In Skolnick and Scharff (Eds.), Fairbairn, Then and Now. p. 115-137.

RECOMMENDED READING

1. WISDOM, J.C. (1963), Fairbairn's contribution on object relationship,

contribution. In Skolnick and Scharff (Eds.) Fairbairn, Then and Now.
p. 33-53.

p.276-287.

II. PSYCHOPATHOLOGY- REPRESSION AND GUILT RECONSIDERED
(Week 3)

Chapter 3.

2. GREENBERG, J. A. and MITCHELL, S. (1983), Object Relations in

3. DAVIES, J.M. (1996), Repression and dissociation- Freud and Janet:
Fairbairn's new model of unconscious process. In Skolnick and Scharff
(Eds.) Fairbairn, Then and Now. p. 53-71.
RECOMMENDED READING


iii. TOWARD A NEW THEORY OF ENDOPSYCHIC STRUCTURE: EGO AND SUPEREGO RECONSIDERED (Week 4)

1. FAIRBAIRN, W.R.D. (1952), Psychoanalytic Studies of the Personality Chapter 4
3. SKOLNICK, N.J. (1996), The good, the bad, and the ambivalent: Fairbairn's difficulty locating the good object in the endopsychic structure. In Skolnick and Scharff (Eds.) Fairbairn, Then and Now. p. 137-161.

RECOMMENDED READING

iV. **GUNTRIP’S CONTRIBUTION (Week 5)**


**RECOMMENDED READING**


V. **THE SELF: RELATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS (Week 6)**


**RECOMMENDED READING**


VI. TREATMENT CONSIDERATIONS: WHAT’S A GOOD OBJECT TO DO? (Week 7)


RECOMMENDED READING


REFERENCES


Freud, S. (1920). Beyond the Pleasure Principal, S.E. 18.


