

# The Teachings of Jacques Lacan and their Implications for Psychoanalytic Practice

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FALL 2019

## Primary Texts

Lacan, J. (2006) *Ecrits*. New York: Norton

---- (2002a) *Seminar VI: Desire and Its Interpretation*. London: Karnac

---- (2002b) *Seminar X: Anxiety* London: Karnac

----- (2008) *Seminar XVII: The Other side of Psychoanalysis*. London: Karnac

Lacan J. & MITCHELL, J; ROSE, J. (1982) *Feminine Sexuality: Jacques Lacan and the Ecole Freudienne*. New York: Norton

## Secondary Texts

Bailly, L. (2009) *Lacan: A Beginner's Guide*. London: One World Publications

Dor, J. (2001) *Structures and Perversions*. New York: Other Press

Kris, E. (1951). Ego Psychology and Interpretation in Psychoanalytic Therapy. *Psychoanal Q.*, 20:15-30.

Sharpe, E (1995) *Dream Analysis*. London:Karnac

Vanier , A. (2000) *Lacan (The Lacanian Clinical Field)*. New York: Other Press.

## Class Outline

Class 1. The Signifier as Representative of Unconscious Desire. Sept 18, 2019

Lacan's approach to linguistics and its role in psychoanalytic theory will be introduced. We will study his core concept of the unconscious signifier. Implications for our theory of the subject, intersubjectivity , and the role of the analyst will be considered.

Reading:

1. Lacan, J. The Instance of the Letter in the Unconscious or Reason Since Freud. *Ecrits* p.412-445.
2. Lacan, J. The Function and Field of Speech and Language in Psychoanalysis. *Ecrits* p. 197-269

*Learning Objective: The candidate will learn Lacan's distinctive approach to structural linguistics and its relevance to the psychoanalytic process.*

Class 2. Narcissism in the Formation of the Ego. October 2, 2019

Lacan's use of the 'Mirror Stage' as derived from the work of developmental psychologist Henri Wallon will be introduced. We will consider the distinctive theory of the ego that Lacan derives from the child's discovery of and fascination with self-image and the interplay between image and word. This will allow us to consider how Lacan's theory of the ego in relation to the symbolic structure of language affects the principles of clinical practice.

Reading:

1. Lacan, J. The Mirror Stage as Formative of the *I* Function as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience. *Ecrits* p.75-82
2. Lacan, J. Aggressiveness in Psychoanalysis *Ecrits* p. 82-102

*Learning Objective: Candidates will become familiar with Lacan's ideas about the Imaginary register of the self, about the roots of self-alienation and aggression in relation to the imaginary other.*

Class 3. The Position of the Analyst: Part One October 9, 2019

Ideas about psychoanalytic practice will be introduced in light of the theory of the signifier, the structure of language, and the narcissistic functions of the ego as outlined in the prior two classes. Lacan's concepts of the Symbolic, the Imaginary, and the Real will be introduced and discussed.

Reading:

1. Lacan, J. The Direction of the Treatment and the Principles of its Power. *Ecrits* p.489-543
2. Lacan, J. Selections from *Seminar XVII: The Other Side of Psychoanalysis*

*Learning Objective: Candidates will begin to learn the clinical significance and effects on psychoanalytic practice of Lacan's particular attention to speech and language, and especially how analytic attention to signifiers affects the intersubjective field.*

Class 4. The Position of the Analyst: Part Two October 23, 2019

This class session will be a continuation of Class 3 as the readings and the topics there are extensive and warrant two full class meetings. Particular instances of case material will be considered.

Reading:

1. Kris, E. (1951). Ego Psychology and Interpretation in Psychoanalytic Therapy
2. Sharpe, E (1995) *Dream Analysis*. London:Karnac

*Learning Objective: A deepening appreciation of the role of speech and language will be the objective of this segment with particular attention to sample case material.*

#### Class 5. The Theory of Desire October 30, 2019

The idea of unconscious desire, its difference from conscious wishes, and its relationship to psychoanalytic interpretation will be introduced. The concept of Desire and its relation to the triadic structure of the Imaginary, Symbolic and Real is a cornerstone in Lacan's theory of the Subject and of the Unconscious.

##### Readings:

1. The Subversion of the Subject and the Dialectic of Desire in the Freudian Unconscious. *Ecrits p. 671-703.*
2. Selections from *Seminar VI: Desire and Its Interpretation*

*Learning Objectives: The candidate will be introduced to Lacan's theory of unconscious desire, how desire comes into being in the intersubjective field, and how desire is affected by interpretation.*

#### Class 6. On the Object that is the Cause of Desire November 6, 2019

Lacan's theory of the 'object a' will be introduced. Its relationship to Winnicott's 'transitional object' will be considered as well as its role in relation to love, anxiety, and the symbolization of desire.

##### Readings:

1. Selections from *Seminar X: Anxiety*
2. Selections from *Seminar XVII The Other Side of Psychoanalysis*

*Learning Objectives: The candidate will learn about Lacan's key concept: 'the object a'. This concept, which Lacan thought was among his most important and original contributions, is fundamental to the clinical approach that derives from his theories.*

#### Class 7. On Sexual Difference, the Signification of the Phallus, and Feminine *Jouissance* November 13, 2019

Lacan reinterpreted the Freudian idea of the phallic stage by attributing to it a signifying (symbolic) function rather than a biological reality. The phallic function and its formative role in subjectivity and in sexuality is a complex and controversial part of Lacan's work that has important implications for clinical practice. Lacan also developed a notion of the feminine as non-phallic with significance for clinical work.

##### Readings:

1. The Signification of the Phallus. *Ecrits* p. 575-585
2. *Feminine Sexuality* including the essays by Juliet Mitchell and Jacqueline Rose.

*Learning Objective: The candidate will understand the meaning of the symbolic phallus for Lacan and why it is central to Lacan's theories of gender and sexuality. The candidate will also be introduced to Lacan's idea of feminine jouissance.*

Class 8. Psychosis, Neurosis, and Perversion December 4, 2019

Lacan's ideas about diagnosis and his commitment to the original Freudian structures of psychopathology will be discussed. The ideas of the 'name of the father' and the 'Law of the Symbolic Function' will be introduced and considered as they were used by Lacan to distinguish between the classical diagnostic categories of psychosis, neurosis, and perversion.

Reading:

1. On a Question prior to any Treatment of Psychosis. *Ecrits* p.445-489
2. Remarks on Daniel Lagache's Presentation: "Psychoanalysis and Personality Structure. *Ecrits* p. 543-575.
3. Selections from Dor, J. (2001) *Structures and Perversions*

*Learning Objective: The candidate come to understand Lacan's approach to diagnostic structure and the logic by which Lacan differentiates Neurosis, Psychosis, and Perversion in terms of symbolic law.*