

# PINC

## INTRODUCTION TO THE WORK OF JACQUES LACAN

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This seminar, stretched over two weekends will provide an introduction into the theoretical and clinical work of the French psychoanalyst, Jacques Lacan. The course will be divided into five parts: first we will look at some very basic theoretical concepts of Lacan, such as the three registers of “The Imaginary, The Symbolic and The Real” which Lacan considered to be major re-readings of Freud’s basic tenets; secondly, we will study the conduct of the cure and the role the symptom plays in the beginning and at the end of treatment with a particular focus on the idea that the patient comes to identify with his/her symptom at the end of analysis. In addition, we will look at the role of interpretation and the idea that interpretations are made in the transference rather than about the transference and discuss the concept of resistance of coming primarily from the side of the analyst. Fourthly, we will examine the four basic clinical structures Lacan identified as hysteria, obsession, perversion and psychosis and use clinical examples to illustrate each structure. We will move between the metapsychological and clinical registers in order to explore the application of Lacanian theory in the consulting room. Lastly, we will explore the different ideas of intersubjectivity and compare the Relational model of intersubjectivity with the model used by Lacan.

### **Goals:**

The goal of this course is to obtain a basic understanding of the theoretical and clinical contributions of Jacques Lacan whose theory has greatly shaped the French and South-American schools of psychoanalysis and has informed the theoretical thinking of many literary and cinematic scholars as well as the clinical conduct of French and South American psychoanalysts. The goal is for students and candidates to gain a foothold in Lacanian theory so that they can begin to compare and cross-reference intersubjectivity from a Relational and Lacanian point of view.

### **Objectives:**

- 1.To present the theoretical foundations of Lacanian theory.
- 2.To understand the clinical implications of his re-reading and return to Freud.

3. To examine the four basic clinical structures of hysteria, obsession, perversion, psychosis.
4. To study the conduct of a cure and the analysand's changing relationship to his/her symptom.
5. To compare the different concepts of intersubjectivity from a Relational and Lacanian point of view.

### **Course syllabus:**

#### **First weekend:**

##### **General Introduction to Lacan's work**

Fink, Bruce, (2004) *Lacanian Technique in the "Direction of the Cure"* in Lacan to the Letter, pp 1-22

Leupin, Alexandre (2004) *The Structure of the Subject*, Lacan Today, pp. 1-23.

Learning Objective: Students will be able to define Lacan's concept of the structure of the subject.

### **Section II**

#### **Mirror Stage, The Register of the Imaginary**

Lacan, Jacques, *The Mirror Stage as Formative of the I Function, as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience*, Ecrits, 1966/2002, translation Bruce Fink, pp. 3- 9

Bowie, Malcolm, *Inventing The I*, (1991) Lacan, pp. 17 -43

Dor, Joel (1998) *The Mirror Stage and the Oedipus Complex*, Introduction to the Reading of Lacan, pp.93-110

Learning Objective: Students will be able to define Lacan's concept of the mirror stage and compare it with the concept of the Oedipus complex.

### **Section III**

#### **The Symbolic, The Structure of Language, Castration and the Emergence of Desire**

Bowie, Malcolm, *Language and the Unconscious*, Lacan, (1991) pp.44- 87

Soler, Colette, *The Symbolic Order I and II*, Reading Seminars I and II, (1991), edited by Richard Feldstein, Bruce Fink & Maire Jaanus, pp. 118-129.

Learning Objective: Students will be able to define Lacan's concept of the Symbolic.

#### **Section IV**

##### **The Real, Jouissance and the objet a**

Nobus, Dany, *From Kantian Ethics to Mystical Experience: An Exploration of Jouissance*, Key Concepts of Lacanian Psychoanalysis, (1999), pp. 1 – 28.

Bowie, Malcolm, *Symbolic, Imaginary, Real ...and True*, Lacan, (1991), pp. 88-121

Learning Objective: Students will be able to define Lacan's concepts of Imaginary and Real and compare them to the concept of the Symbolic.

#### **Second weekend:**

##### **The Lacanian Clinic, The Direction of the Cure and the Analyst's desire**

Lacan, Jacques, *The Presence of the Analyst*, The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis, (1981), pp.123-135

Libbrecht, Katrien, *The Original Sin of Psychoanalysis: On the desire of the analyst*, Key Concepts of Lacanian Psychoanalysis, (1999) pp.75- 100

Learning Objective: Students will be able to define Lacan's conception of the desire of the analyst.

#### **Section II**

##### **The Lacanian Clinic continued, Transference and what constitutes an interpretation?**

Fink, Bruce , *Interpreting, Fundamentals of Psychoanalytic Technique, A Lacanian Approach for Practitioners*. (2007), pp. 74-100

Soler, Colette, *Time and Interpretation & Transference*, Reading Seminars I and II, (1996), pp. 56-66

Nobus, Dany, *Strategies of Transference*, Jacques Lacan and the Freudian Practice of Psychoanalysis, (2000), pp. 106-152, optional reading

Learning Objective: Students will be able to define at least two strategies offered by Lacan concerning the transference.

### **Section III**

#### **The Clinical Structures, Hysteria and Obsession**

Verhaege, Paul, *The Psychopathological Position of the Subject: Hysteria and Neurosis, On Being Normal and Other Disorders*, (2004), pp.351- 395.

Lacan, Jacques, *The Hysteric's Question, The Psychoses, The Seminar of Jacques Lacan, Book III* (1955), pp.161-183.

Learning Objective: Students will be able to define and compare Lacan's concepts of the hysteric and the psychotic.

### **Section IV**

#### **The Clinical Structures (continued), Perversion and Psychosis**

Verhaege, Paul, *Perverse Structure versus Perverse Traits & The Psychotic Structure of the Subject, On Being Normal and Other Disorders*, (2004), pp. 397- 458.

Useful to buy for the course as a side-reading for the Clinical Lectures on Lacan is Joel Dor's book, *The Clinical Lacan*, (1999) Other Press.

Learning Objective: Students will be able to define Lacan's concept of the perverse structure and compare it to the concept of perverse traits.

### **Section V**

#### **Comparison of Intersubjectivity between the Relational School and Lacan**

Verhaege, Paul, *Causation and destitution of a pre-ontological non-entity: On the Lacanian Subject, Key Concepts of Lacanian Psychoanalysis*, (1999), Other Press, pp.164-189.

Leupin, Alexandre, *The Structure of the Subject, Lacan Today*, (2004), Other Press, pp.1 -29.

Aron, Lewis, *Intersubjectivity in the Analytic Situation. Self-Relations in the Psychotherapeutic Process*, APA, (2001), pp. 137-164.

Ghent, Emmanuel, *The Dialectics of One-Person and Two-Person Psychologies, Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, # 25, (1989), pp. 169-211

Learning Objective: Students will be able to define the Lacanian subject and describe its relevance to Ghent's dialectics of one-person and two-person psychologies.

