SPECIAL TOPICS IN COUPLE THERAPY

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The purpose of this course is to familiarize the clinician with the theory and practice of treating couples, who have particular circumstances or conflicts that effect their interpersonal psychodynamic functioning. The class will combine a theoretical approach with student and lecturer practice material. This syllabus also has some helpful websites for you and your patients.

# SYLLABUS

WEEK 1

# Models of Couple Therapy: An Overview/ A Contemporary Context

(who am I now as a couple therapist?)

Integration of theory: What questions will I ask myself?

Goldstein, Sondra and Susan Thau (2004) “Integrating Attachment Theory and Neuroscience in Couple Therapy,” International Journal of Applied Psychoanalytic Studies pp.214-223. (Available on pepweb).

Zeitner, Richard M. (2003). “Obstacles for the Psychoanalyst in the Practice of Couple Therapy.” Psychoanalytic Psychology pp. 348-362. (Available on Pepweb)

Coontz, Stephanie, July 26, 2014, “The New Instability” New York Times, Opinion Page

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/27/opinion/sunday/the-new-instability.html

Related Readings:

Coontz, Stephanie (Feb. 12, 2012), The MRS. and the PHD, "The New York Times" Sunday Review.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/12/opinion/sunday/marriage-suits-educated-women.html?scp=2&sq=Stephanie%20coontz&st=cse>

[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/09/mhagazine/does-a-more-equal-marriage-mean-less-sex.html?ref=magazine&\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/09/magazine/does-a-more-equal-marriage-mean-less-sex.html?ref=magazine&_r=2)

Bolick, Kate( Nov. 2011). “All the Single Ladies,” The Atlantic Magazine, pp. 116-136. (Available on line).

<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/11/all-the-single-ladies/8654/>

WEEK 2

# Couples with Sexual Dysfunction

Iasenza, Suzanne, “What is Queer about Sex?: Expanding Sexual Frames in Theory and Practice, “Family Processes, Vol 49, No. 3, Sept. 2010, pp. 291-308. (I will email you the article)

Johnson, Sue Posted 7/21/08,”The Three Kinds of Sex,” Huffpost healthy Living( blog.)

Weeks, G. and Gambescia, (2015) “Couple Therapy and Sexual Problems,” In A.S. Gurman, J.L. Lebow and D.K. Snyder, Ed. Clinical Handbook of Couples Therapy. (5th Edition) pp. 635-656. New York: Guilford Press.

Miehl, D (1997) Projective Identification in Sexual Abuse Survivors and Their Partners: Couple Treatment Implications, Psychoanalytic Social Work, 4:5-22. Available on pepweb.

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/02/11/health/female-sex-drive-drug/index.html>

Recommended Watching:

Esther Perel-“The secret to desire in a long term relationship, “Feb 14, 2013-Youtube.

Related Reading:

Keesling, Barbara, Ph.D., (2006), Sexual Healing: The Completest guide to Overcoming Common Sexual Problems, 3rd Edition: Hunter House Inc. Publishers. (You may or may not purchase the book. I will outline some of the important issues.

Kaplan. HS, (1983). The Evaluation of Sexual Disorders, Taylor and Francis: Levittown,:PA. PP. 13-50.

Kaplan, HS. (1990). “Sex, intimacy and the Aging Process,” The Journal of the American Academy of Psychoanalysis and Dynamic Psychiatry. (18)ii:185-205.

WEEK 3

**Couples with Trauma Histories-look at history of internal objects**

Basham, K and Miehls,D.(1998) Integration of Object Relations Theory and Trauma Theory in Couples Therapy with Survivors of Childhood Trauma, Part 1 and Part II (pepweb)

Pizer, B and Pizer, R. (2006) “The Gift of an Apple or the Twist of an Arm, :Negotiation in Couples and Couple Therapy,” Psychoanalytic Dialogues 16:71-92. (Available on pepweb) read bottom assignments!

WEEK 4

# Couple Therapy in a Multicultural Context

D’Urso, S, Reynaga, S and Patterson, J. E. (2009). “The Emotional Experience of Immigration for Couples,” In Rastogi, M and V. Thomas, ed. Multicultural Couple Therapy, pp. 29-45. New York: Sage Publications.

Rubalcava, L.A. Waldman, K.M. (2004). “Working with Intercultural Couples: An Intersubjective Constructivist Perspective, “ Progress in Self Psychology. 20:127-149. (pepweb)

Kilian, K (2015) “Couple Therapy and Intercultural Relationships” in Gurman, A, J.L. Lebow, JL, and D. Snyder, Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy, 5th Edition, pp. 512-527. Guilford Press, New York.

Related Readings:

Falicov, Celia (2008). “Transnational Journeys,” In McGoldrick, M. and K. Hardy, Ed., Revisioning Family Therapy, Race, Culture and Gender in Clinical Practice pp. 25-38. New York,; Guilford Press

Smith, B. and Tang, N. Different Differences:Revelation and Disclosure of Social Identity in the Psychoanalytic Situation.” The Psychoanalytic Quarterly, (2006)75:295-321.

WEEK 5

# Couple Therapy in a Multiracial and Religious Context

Racial Context:

Killian, K.D. “Reconstituting Racial Histories and Identities: The Narratives of Interracial Couples,” Journal Marital Family therapy, 2001 Jan. 27 (1):27-42.

Addison, S. Thomas, V. (2009) “Power, Privilege and Oppression: White therapists Working With Minority Couples. In Rastogi, M and V. Thomas, ed. Multicultural Couple Therapy, pp. 9-24. New York: Sage Publications.

Kelly, S and Boyd-Franklin, N. (2009). “Joining, Understanding, and Supporting Black Couples in Treatment,” In Rastogi, M and V. Thomas, ed. Multicultural Couple Therapy, pp. 235-275. New York: Sage Publication

# Couple Therapy In a Religious Context:

Butler, MH and Harper, J.M. (2004) The Divine Triangle: God in the Marital System of Religious Couples: Family Process. Volume 33, Issue 3, pp.277-286.

McCarthy, Kate(2007) Pluralist Family Values:Domestic Strategies for Living with Religious Difference, AAPSS Annals: 612: July p. 188-208.

Related Reading:

Meyerstein, Israela (2009) ‘Two Jews, three Opinions, Understanding and Working with Jewish Couples in therapy, In Rastogi, M and V. Thomas, ed. Multicultural Couple Therapy, pp. 121-139. New York: Sage Publications.

WEEK 6

# Couple Therapy and Addictions

McCrady, B , E. Epstein, “Couple Therapy for Alcoholism and Alcohol Problems:, In A.S. Gurman, J.L.Lebow and D.K.Snyder, Ed., Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy (5th Edition), pp. 555-567. New York: Guilford Press.

Trute, B., Docking, B and Herbert-Murphy, D., (2001) Couples Therapy for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse Who are in Addictions Recovery: A Comparative Case Study of Treatment Process and Outcome,” Journal of Marital and Family Therapy.”Voll.27, No. 1, 99-110.

Cavacuiti, Chris, MD. ‘You, Me and Drugs-A Love Triangle: Important Considerations When Both Members of a Couple are Abusing Substances.” Substance Use and Misuse, Vol 39, No 4, pp. 645-656, 2004.

Related Reading:

Ulman, R.B., and Paul, H. (1990) “The Addictive Personality and Addictive Trigger Mechanisms: (ATMS): The Self Psychology of Addiction and It’s Treatment.” Progress in Self Psychology, 6: 129-156. (pepweb)

WEEK 7

# Gay and Lesbians in Couple Therapy

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Drescher, J., (2007), From Bisexuality to Intersexuality:Rethinking Gender Categories. Contemporary Psychoanalysis, 43:224-228.(Available on pepweb)

Bernstein, A.C. (2000). Straight Therapists Working with Lesbian and Gays in Family Therapy. Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, 26, 443-454.

Green, R.J. and Mitchell, V. (2015) “Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Issues in Couple Therapy, In A.S. Gurman, J.L Lebow and D.S. Snyder, Ed. Clinical Handbook of Couples Therapy. (5th Edition) pp. 489-510. New York: Guilford Press

Related Readings:

Posner, Richard A. (July 24, 2013) How Gay Marriage became legitimate: A revisionist history of a social revolution” The New Republic. (Available on line.)

WEEK 8

**Couple Therapy with Stepfamilies**

Papernow, P ,” (2015) “Therapy with Couples in Stepfamilies.” In In A.S. Gurman, J.L. Lebow and D.K. Snyder, Ed., Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy (5th Edition), pp. 467-487. New York: Guilford Press.

Bernstein, Anne, (1999),” Restructuring the Brothers Grimm: New Tales for Stepfamily Life,” Family Processes 38:415-429.

Helpguide.org.stepfamilies

WEEK 9

**Couple therapy with Partners who Fight**

Epstein, N, C.A. Werlinich, J.J. LaTaillade, (2015) “Couple Therapy for Partner Aggression” In A.S. Gurman, J.L. Lebow, and D.K. Snyder, Ed., Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy (5th Edition), pp.389-409. New York: Guilford Press.

Fishbane, M., (2015) “Couple Therapy and Interpersonal Neurobiology,” In A.S. Gurman, J.L. Lebow, and D.K. Snyder, Ed., Clinical Handbook of Couple Therapy (5th Edition), pp.681-701. New York: Guilford Press.

# Week 10 and 11

# Couple Therapy for Divorce and Infidelity

Required Reading:

Doherty, William (November/December 2011) “In or Out,” Psychotherapy Networker, pp.45-50, 58-60.-on line.

Josephs, L. Shimberg, J. (2010). The Dynamics of Sexual Fidelity, Personality Style as a Reproductive Strategy, Psychoanalytic Psychology, 27:279-295. Available on pepweb.

Nelson, Tammy (March 30, 2014) Conscious Uncoupling, Huffington Post.

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tammy-nelson-phd/conscious-uncoupling_b_5042386.html>

Lebow, J. (2015). Separation and Divorce Issues in Couple Therapy.” In A.S. Gurman, J.L. Lebow, D.K. Snyder, Clinical Handbook of Couples Therapy. (5th Edition) pp.445-463. New York: Guilford Press.

Gordon K., A. Khaddouma, D. Baucom, D. Snyder, (2015).”Couple Therapy and the Treatment of Affairs.” In A.S. Gurman, Ed. Clinical Handbook of Couples Therapy. (5th Edition) pp. 412-441. New York: Guilford Press.

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/magazine/2013/11/17/the-state-extramarital-affairs-getting-caught-and-cheater-meter/o3juJzkgQwkJ6GOu0bXliO/story.html>

Collaborative divorce resources: [www.collaborativepractice.com](http://www.collaborativepractice.com)

Esther Perel video rethinking infidelity. you-tube.