

Critical Reflections on Psychotherapy and Language (was History of Ideas)

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to examine, reflect and discuss in considerable detail the language they use as psychotherapists: its origins and history, the cultural assumptions behind it, their assumptions about it, their experience of it. The sources of this language will be drawn from psychoanalytic and psychotherapy theory and including the Competency Profile for Registered Psychotherapists from the CRPO, and other sources.

Students will be encouraged to begin to examine the language they use as psychotherapists to gain a richer, more nuanced grasp of the concepts that are used automatically in practice, conversation or writing. Having the ability to approach the theory and the regulation of our profession this way will help keep the fundamental principles that ground a psychotherapist's practice in place.

A preliminary list of words/concepts will be provided that the students will add to. They will be asked to engage with the ideas and language, to express their experience in as wide a range of modalities as necessary: academic study, poetry, conversation, argument, clinical work, dreams etc.

This course is open to therapists-in-supervision.

Format: Seminar Discussion, short weekly presentations.

Requirements: One paper of 2500-3000 words.

Meetings weekly, 2 hours, Wednesdays 5-7, Room A: January 13, 20, 27, Feb 3, 10, 17, 24, Mar 2, 9, 23, 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27, 2016 for a total of 30 hours.

Recommended Books:

Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society, New Edition, Raymond Williams, Oxford UP 2014.

The Language of Psychoanalysis, Jean Laplanche & Jean-Bertrand Pontalis, Norton 1974

A Critical Dictionary of Psychoanalysis, Charles Rycroft, Penguin, 1974/1995

A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought, Revised Edition, Robert Hinshelwood, Free Association 1991

More readings will be referred to.