UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Psychodynamic Methods: Comparing Five Classic Cases

2122-3-E2401P123

Learning area

Knowledge and skills useful to understand, promote and change individual psychological functioning

Learning objectives

Knowledge and understanding

- Main contributions of the most influential psychoanalysts
- Technical implications of the authors
- In-depth study of the most influential clinical cases

Applying knowledge and understanding

- Develop the ability to understand the main theoretical models and their reciprocal connections
- Develop an understanding of how theory informs and guides clinical work
- Develop the ability to compare the different interpretations of clinical cases
- Develop a critical understanding of the theoretical and technical developments within psychoanalysis

Contents

The course aims to enlighten the clinical work of the most influential master of psychoanalysis, merging the theoretical and practical level.

Detailed program

- Sigmund and Anna Freud : unconscious, dream, setting, transference, defense mechanisms, ego analysis, resistance
- Melanie Klein: primitive defense mechanism, clinical use of children’s game, positions
- Wilfred Bion: containment, groups, projective identification, negative capability and origin of thought
- Donald Winnicott: holding, false self, transitional object
- Heinz Kohut: narcissism, empathy, self-objects and transference

Prerequisites

Knowledge of the most influential psychoanalysts is highly recommended but not obligatory.

Teaching methods

Each author will be briefly introduced, underlining how their life helped shaping their theory. Clinical cases will be presented, and the student will have to apply the clinical instruments just learned. In addition, many examples from many fields will be brought (video, photo, biblio, etc). All materials will be available on the designated platforms.

Lessons will be held in presence, unless further COVID-19-related restrictions are imposed.

Assessment methods

The students will be split in groups, wich will be asked to produce a short essay on laboratory-related issues.

During the Covid-19 emergency, exams will be conducted according to the University’s regulations regarding the COVID-19 emergency situation.

Textbooks and Reading Materials

Slides will be provided during the lab.