



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

ADVANCED THEORIES OF PERSONALITY - 03895

Last update 12-10-2025

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Social Work

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Orya Tishby Dr. Adi Duchin

Coordinator Email: orya.tishby@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 10:00 am

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Orya Tishby,
Dr. Adi Duchin

Course/Module description:

This course presents a psychoanalytic framework for assessing patients according to developmental levels of personality organization, in order to best fit the treatment to the individual. Kernberg's levels of organization are : neurotic, borderline and psychotic. These levels differ in their adaptation, ability to maintain close relationships, reality testing, emotion regulation, defenses and identity formation. Assessment according to developmental levels has clinical implications, which will be discussed. IN addition, 4 personality types will be presented: schizoid, narcissistic, depressed and borderline, with recommendations for treatment

Course/Module aims:

- 1.To identify levels of personality organization in order to assess level of functioning and motivation for treatment
2. To identify personality structures in order to fit the therapy and the therapeutic relationship to the patient
3. To link theoretical concepts with personality structures.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- 1.To assess level of personality organization from a written clinical description of patients
2. To identify characteristics of the four personality structures and the differences between them
3. To define the treatment goals and the therapeutic interventions for each type of personality structure.

Attendance requirements(%):

80

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: presentations and reading

Course/Module Content:

1. Levels of personality organization
2. Clinical implications of levels of organization
3. Schizoid personalities
4. Depressed personalities
- 5.Narcissistic personalities

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6. Borderline personalities
 7. Practice case - before exam

Required Reading:

Course main text:

McWilliams, N. (2011). *Psychoanalytic diagnosis: Understanding personality structure in the clinical process*. New York, Guilford Press.

Additional Reading Material:

Will be uploaded in the first 2 weeks of the semester

Grading Scheme:

Written Exam % 90

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 10 %

Additional information:

Students have to hand in 3 short assignments out of 4. They are done in pairs.