

Spring 2023

Freud's Social Thought and Activism

Instructor: Wally Fletcher, D Min, NCPsyA

Teaching Assistant: Rebecca Lee, LCSW

Location: Live Webinar

Meeting Dates: Saturdays, 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. (EST):

- January 21, 28
- February 4, 11, 25
- March 4, 11, 18, 25
- April 1, 15, 22

CE's: 18

Cost: \$450

Course Description:

*The early psychoanalytic movement was deeply humanitarian and progressive in spirit. Freud and his early followers viewed psychoanalysis as a method of treatment and a meta-psychological theory with broad implications for the alleviation of human suffering and the improvement and welfare of society. Yet, Freud and his followers understood that reformers cannot effectively address the dynamics of racism, sexism, poverty, and other forms of cultural pathology without understanding *the structure of the mind and the role of the unconscious*.*

This course will review and consider the relevance of early psychoanalytic social activism for our volatile times. In addition to key texts from Freud and his contemporaries this course will make use of Dr. Elizabeth Danto's ground-breaking research in her 2005 *Freud's free clinics: psychoanalysis & social justice, 1918-1938*.

Objectives:

1. To consider the social progressivism of the early psychoanalytic movement, and discuss its legacy and implications for contemporary practice. This includes a strong emphasis not only on treating pathology but on promoting individual and community resilience through health, education and social welfare reforms and clinical practices in line with them.
2. To consider the lasting contribution early psychoanalysts made to the development of trauma informed care in the wake of World War I when psychoanalysts were front line innovators in the treatment of trauma victims and their families.
3. To consider and discuss how the therapist's social values/vision should and inevitably do affect his or her practice (i.e. its effect on patient selection/advocacy, fee setting, and countertransference).
4. To analyze the healing and educative role/responsibility for the analyst in society as well as toward individual patients (i.e. what are the implications of practicing analysis during a time of great social upheaval?).
5. Utilize class discussions to make connections between reading assignments and one's clinical and life experiences in order to assess ethical questions in psychoanalytic theory and practice.

About the Instructor:

Wally Fletcher, D.Min.,NCPsyA has extensive training and experience as a therapist, consultant, educator and

non-profit executive. He is a certified psychoanalyst and clinical supervisor in the National Association for the Advancement of Psychoanalysis and is chairman of the Board of Directors of the Philadelphia School of Psychoanalysis. He is also a member of The Association for Clinical Pastoral Education-ACPE Psychotherapist category. He teaches courses in the Masters in Business and Organizational Leadership at Neuman University and courses in the history and evolution of psychoanalysis at the Philadelphia School of Psychoanalysis. He serves on the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health's Faith and Spiritual Affairs Advisory Board. He is also on the mental health faculty of CREDO, an intensive wellness program for clergy administered by the Pension Boards of the Episcopal and Presbyterian Churches US.