

## 5 Clinical Papers – How They Worked and How We Work

**2025-2026 Fall Trimester, 10:15am - 11:45am**

Jackie Gotthold, PsyD. (September/October 2025)

Deborah Sherman, BC-DMT, LMHC (November 2025)

### **Course Description**

In this course we will read five significant psychoanalytic papers, spending two weeks on each. As we cover the papers, we will focus on how each analyst/clinical theory writer is thinking about their work. What is unique about these writers is the way they think about their clinical work and make the jump to salient clinical conceptualizations. We will be asking the question, “How do they work and how does it relate to how I work?” In the first class of each paper we will formulate the author’s clinical principles through discussion; in the second week we will elaborate these principles based on one or two candidate’s case presentations. The goal of the presentations and discussion will be to connect the work of each author with the current work of the candidate presenter.

### **Learning Objectives**

1. Candidates will be able to describe at least one psychoanalytic conceptualization associated with each of the 5 papers.
2. Candidates will be able to apply at least one of the 5 authors’ work in an in-depth way to a case study drawn from their own clinical work.

## Readings:

*Jackie Gotthold, PsyD (September/October 2025)*

September 8, 2025	Paul Ornstein – The Evolution Of Heinz Kohut’s Psychoanalytic Psychology of the Self.  Introduction in The Search for Self – Selected Writings of Heinz Kohut. Volume 1, 1950-1978, Edited by Paul Ornstein – IUP 1978
September 15, 2025	Two ½ hr. Case Presentations discussing ideas from the chapter. Key concepts such as transference, defense, working through process – idea is to think if the shift from classical theory to Delf Psychology a’la Kohut changes anything for you.
September 22, 2025	Anna Ornstein -The Dread to Repeat and the New Beginning: A Contribution to the Psychoanalysis of the Narcissistic Personality Disorder and/or Comments on the Working Through Process in JAPA.
September 29, 2025	Two 1/2hr Case Presentations discussing key ideas from Anna’s papers. Idea is to consider both the ideas of Narcissistic Personality Disorders and a Self Psychology Approach and the idea of repetition.
October 6, 2025	Reading – Shelley Doctors - Branschaft’s Pathological Accomodation: What It Is and What It Isn’t. 2017 PSC Vol. 12 #1
October 27, 2025	Two ½ hr Presentation thinking about repetition from Branschaft’s view in contrast to Ornstein’s

November 3, 2025	<p>George Atwood, <i>The Abyss of Madness</i>, Routledge, Taylor &amp; Francis, 2012. Ch.1,"Psychotherapy is a Human Science" pp. 1-36; ch. 2 "Exploring the Abyss of Madness" pp. 37-55. (Please buy this book.)</p> <p>George Atwood uses a self psychological and self-in-context frame to work with psycho-pathology and psychosis. How might you describe his clinical techniques here and how are they like or unlike your own?</p>
November 10, 2025	<p>Two 30 minute presentations answering these questions through presentation of case material.</p>
November 17, 2025	<p>Christopher Mawson, "On the Clinical Relevance of Negative Capability," in <i>Three Papers of WR Bion</i>, ed. Chris Mawson, Routledge, London, 2018.</p> <p>This paper was published as Chris Mawson's postscript to Bion's paper, "Negative Capability". (I will send you Mawson's paper via email.)</p> <p>Chris Mawson explores Bion's use of the term "negative capability" as a way of developing Freud's comment on analytic observation as an attempt "to see in the darkness" and Melanie Klein's comments on the "Psychoanalytic attitude". We will discuss what makes psychoanalytic attention, observation and attitude different than other psychotherapeutic orientations and how these ideas are useful to your own clinical work.</p>
November 24, 2025	<p>Two 30 minute presentations applying the discussion of November 17 to case material</p>