

Development I: Infancy & Early Relational Experiences

2025-2026 Fall Trimester, 12:45pm - 2:15pm

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Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85234367402>

Meeting ID: 852 3436 7402

Course Description:

In this course, we will work to understand “What is development?” and “Why do we study child development in a training program aimed at treating adults?”

We will review historical psychoanalytic theories of development, putting into context the classical “analytic baby” before shifting towards a more modern, “two-person” theoretical approach. We will look at attachment theory, intersubjectivity theory, infant research, and neuroscience to understand development as a relational concept.

To highlight the co-created nature of development, we will adapt and shift the course material to best meet the needs and interests of the group. We will strive to apply our learning clinically; as such, candidates should come to class prepared with at least one clinical snippet relevant to the reading material.

Course objectives:

1. Students will be able to describe the co-creative nature of development and therapeutic action.
2. Students will understand how expectancies of social interaction become organized in early relationships.
3. Students will recognize the potential connection between dissociative symptomology and disorganized attachment styles.
4. Students will be able to identify non-interpretive mechanisms of therapeutic action.

Readings:

Jackie Gotthold, PsyD (September/October 2025)

September 8, 2025	<p>Required Reading:</p> <p>Seligman, S. (2018). <i>Relationships in Development: Infancy, Intersubjectivity, and Attachment</i>. Routledge. Introduction, Ch 1- 2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction - Why Developmental Psychoanalysis?• Ch 1 - Childhood Has Meaning of Its Own: Freud and the Invention of Psychoanalysis Ch 2 - Theory I: Foreshadowings: Core Themes and Controversies in the Early Freudian Theories <p>Additional Resources:</p> <p>Ferenzi, S. (1904). Confusion of tongues between the adults and the child: the language of tenderness and passion. <i>International Journal of Psychoanalysis</i>, 30, 225-230.</p> <p>Freud, S. (1905). Three essays on the theory of sexuality. <i>Standard Edition</i> 7: 123- 246.</p>
September 15, 2025	<p>Required Reading:</p> <p>Seligman, S. (2018). <i>Relationships in Development: Infancy, Intersubjectivity, and Attachment</i>. Routledge. Introduction, Ch 3-5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ch 3 - The Baby at the Crossroads: The Structural Model, Ego Psychology, and Object Relations Ch 4 - Theory II: What Is a "Robust Developmental Perspective?"• Ch 5 - The Postwar Diversification and Pluralization of Psychoanalysis in the United States <p>Additional Resources:</p> <p>Freud, S. (1923). The Ego and the Id. <i>The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, Volume XIX (1923-1925): The Ego and the Id and Other Works</i>, 1-66 https://www.sas.upenn.edu/~cavitch/pdf-library/Freud_SE_Ego_Id_complete.pdf</p> <p>Winnicott, D.W. (1960). <i>The Theory of the Parent-Infant Relationship</i>.</p>

September 22, 2025	<p>Required Reading:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beebe, B., & Lachmann, F. M. (2014). <i>The origins of attachment: Infant research and adult treatment</i>. Chapter 2 - The Organization of Relational Experience <i>*I will provide a copy</i> • Beebe, B., & Lachmann, F. M. (2002). <i>Infant research and adult treatment: Co-constructing interactions</i>. Chapter 2 - A Dyadic Systems View <p>Additional Resources:</p> <p>Beebe, B, Knoblauch, S., Rustin, J., & Sorter, D. (2003). Introduction: A Systems View, <i>Psychoanalytic Dialogues</i>, 13:6, 743-775 http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10481881309348767</p> <p>Beebe, B., & Lachmann, F. (2020). Infant research and adult treatment revisited: Cocreating self- and interactive regulation. <i>Psychoanalytic Psychology</i>, 37(4), 313–323. https://doi.org/10.1037/pap0000305</p>
September 29, 2025	<p>Required Reading:</p> <p>Beebe & Lachmann (2014). <i>Origins of Attachment</i>, Ch 4 Disorganized Attachment & Dissociation <i>*I will provide a copy</i></p>
October 6, 2025	<p>Required Reading:</p> <p>With Dr. Beatrice Beebe</p> <p>Additional Resources:</p> <p>With Dr. Beatrice Beebe</p>
October 27, 2025	<p>Required Reading:</p> <p>With Dr. Beatrice Beebe</p> <p>Additional Resources:</p> <p>With Dr. Beatrice Beebe</p>
November 3, 2025	<p>Required Reading:</p> <p>With Dr. Beatrice Beebe</p> <p>Additional Resources:</p> <p>With Dr. Beatrice Beebe</p>

November 10, 2025	<p>Required Reading:</p> <p>Tronick, E. Z. (2003). Of Course All Relationships are Unique: How Co-creative Processes Generate Unique Mother-infant and Patient-therapist Relationships and Change Other Relationships. <i>Psychoanalytic Inquiry</i>, 23(3), 473–491. https://doi.org/10.1080/07351692309349044</p>
November 17, 2025	<p>Required Reading:</p> <p>The Boston Change Process Study Group (BCPSG). (1998). Non-Interpretive Mechanisms in Psychoanalytic Therapy: The 'Something More' Than Interpretation. <i>International Journal of Psychoanalysis</i>., 79:903-921 http://www.changeprocess.org/sites/default/files/documents/Non-Interpretive%20Mechanisms%20in%20Psychoanalytic%20Therapy.pdf</p> <p>Additional Resources:</p> <p>The Boston Change Process Study Group (BCPSG). (2005). The Something More Than Interpretation Revisited: Sloppiness and Co-Creativity in the Psychoanalytic Encounter. <i>JAPA</i>. http://www.changeprocess.org/sites/default/files/documents/The%20Something%20More%20Than%20Interpretation%20Revisited.pdf</p>
November 24, 2025	<p>Leaving open knowing there will be weeks we'll want extra time to dig deeper into the reading, or to add sources to expand on a topic that sparks interest.</p>