



CHICAGO  
PSYCHOANALYTIC  
INSTITUTE

*Being. Human.*

# Open Classes Course Catalog

Spring 2026

## Qualifications

- All courses listed below currently do not have prerequisite requirements.
- Students are limited to a maximum of two courses at a time.

## Tuition and Fees

- Course fees are \$550 per class (\$1650 for year-long courses)
- Additional fees for Open Class enrollment include:
  - PEPWeb Fee: \$60
  - Technology & Learning Fee: \$75 per trimester

## How to Register

1. Students complete the Open Classes Application.
2. Admitted students then complete the [Open Class Request Form](#) for course registration.
3. The Education Department receives the request, enrolls students in the course(s), and creates tuition and fees assignments in the student database.
4. Students are notified of the enrollment and pay fees.
5. Once fees are paid, students receive course information and database logins.

## Important Dates

- The deadline for Open Classes Applications is March 1st, 2026. ([Apply Now](#))
- The Spring Trimester begins on the week of March 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>
- The Spring Trimester ends on the week of June 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

## Psychoanalytic Education Program

### Gender & Sexuality I

Friday 10:00 - 11:15 a.m.

Trimester: Spring (12 Weeks)

Instructor: Dennis Shelby

This course will explore the development of ideas about gender and sexuality in psychoanalytic theory and practice. We will begin with Freud's views on sexuality and gender. We will proceed by exploring psychoanalytic perspectives on femininity/masculinity, LGBTQ lives and perversion/kink, gender and sexuality, with a particular emphasis on LGBTQ lives as psychoanalysis has responded to the challenges of feminist, queer and trans perspectives. As we discuss how recent psychoanalysts are expanding the horizons of psychoanalysis through reconceptualization's of gender and sexuality, we will also be exploring how our own horizons are being expanded. Throughout the course we will reflect upon how these different conceptualizations might play out in our clinical work, especially in our countertransference.

### Latin American and European Psychoanalysis

Friday 8:30-9:45 a.m.

Trimester: Spring (11 Weeks)

Instructors: Multiple

This course has the objective of familiarizing students with contributions of analysts in other regions of the world not always available in current curriculums. Analysts trained in different theoretical and clinical models can expand our psychoanalytic knowledge and clinical options.

## Psychoanalytic Writing

Friday 10:00-11:15 a.m.

Trimester: Spring (12 Weeks)

Instructors: Elizabeth Feldman, Cliff Wilkerson

Your instructors designed the Psychoanalytic Writing Workshop to help you learn about psychoanalytic processes and principles and to assist you in writing about them. In the process we will also help you begin preparing a six-month case report. We will present to you the necessary elements of a case history as outlined in the seminar topics listed below. The Writing Workshop is not an exercise in learning to write; we assume that all of you are capable of that. Most or all of you have written case histories in the past but likely have never written a psychoanalytic case history. This is something quite different from what most of you have done in the past, it is quite difficult to make the transition from conceptualizing your work from a social work, psychological or medical framework to that of a psychoanalytic one. Or to write psychoanalytically. We hope to help make that transition easier for you.

Learning to write about analytic work can help consolidate your analytic knowledge and assist you in developing an increased sense of identity, maturity, and confidence as an analyst. Practicing analysis requires letting your minds function at multiple levels—integrating, synthesizing, free-associating, attending, and maintaining your own reverie—simultaneously. Writing about this helps you to develop the ability to organize this unique intimate and interpersonal experience and to demonstrate your thinking, experience, and understanding of it. To do this requires you to express freely what you think, feel, and do in the analytic hour and to write about it without fear that doing so will unduly expose or embarrass you. We provide a classroom milieu which you will find helps you to do this.

## Electives

### Authoritarianism Through the Lens of Psychoanalysis

Wednesday 7:45-9:00 p.m.

Trimester(s): Spring (12 Weeks)

Instructor: Marshall Kordon

The intricate dance between authoritarianism and the human psyche invites us into a realm where power, fear, and identity intertwine. At its core, authoritarianism thrives not merely through political structures but through the psychological apparatus that governs our emotions, desires, and fears.

Psychoanalysis, with its deep exploration of the unconscious, offers a compelling framework to dissect the allure and grip of authoritarian regimes. By examining the dynamics of identification and desire, we delve into how authoritarian figures often embody the repressed ideals of their supporters, forging a bond that transcends rationality. This identification can lead to an intense, almost pathological allegiance where dissent becomes an act of betrayal not only to the leader but to the imagined community that the leader represents.

By channeling collective frustrations toward scapegoats, such as marginalized groups or perceived enemies, these regimes not only distract from their failings but also create a shared sense of purpose among their followers. In this landscape, the psychoanalytical exploration of authoritarianism is not merely academic; it is a vital lens through which we can understand the psychological underpinnings of oppression and destruction.

### Complexity

Wednesday 6:15-7:45p.m.

Trimester(s): Spring (12 Weeks)

Instructor: Robert Galatzer-Levy

This course explores psychoanalysis and psychotherapy as a complex nonlinear dynamic system. Concepts from complex systems provide a new lens on psychoanalysis by integrating the well-studied phenomena that occur in these

systems, including emergence, the edge of chaos, and self-organization. The course will introduce students to the basic principles of complexity theory and their application to psychoanalysis and psychotherapy in general. Throughout the course, the concepts of complex systems will be integrated with their clinical applications. We will begin by demonstrating the power of complex systems thinking in various fields of study and then focus specifically on what contributes to the understanding of human development, including how development occurs in the intricate, ever-changing landscapes in which we live. We will then examine the application of these ideas to the psychotherapeutic situation, which is viewed as a process that leads to the resumption of development, and consider the implications of these ideas for psychoanalytic technique.

The course is partly based on the forthcoming book by Charles Jaffe and Robert Galatzer-Levy, *I Don't Know Where We're Going, But I Know How to Get There: Complexity Theory and Psychotherapy*, which is currently in press with Oxford University Press. The sequence of material to be covered and the focus of the class will be determined by the interests of the students.

## [Ogden II: Vitality and Being](#)

Friday 10:00 – 11:15 a.m.

Trimester(s): Spring (6 Weeks)

Instructor: Christine Sterkel

This course provides a comprehensive survey of the theoretical and clinical contributions of Thomas Ogden, one of the most influential voices in contemporary psychoanalysis.

Students will examine how Ogden re-envisioned the analytic relationship not as two separate individuals, but as a unique intersubjective entity. We will explore his radical approach to "talking-as-dreaming," where the goal of therapy is less about uncovering hidden truths and more about helping the patient "dream" their previously un-dreamable experiences into existence. By engaging with his writings on poetry, voice, and the music of clinical speech, participants will develop a more nuanced understanding of the analyst's presence as a lived, creative process.