CHICAGO PSYCHOANALYTIC INSTITUTE

Being. **Human.**

Open Classes Course Catalog

Winter 2027

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 November 22, 2026. (Apply Now)
- The Winter Trimester begins on the week of December 2nd – 4th

Idealization: Psychological, Spiritual, and Political Meanings

Wednesday 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Trimester: Winter (11 Weeks)

Instructor(s): Charles Strozier, PhD

This course is an advanced elective in the self psychology curriculum of the Chicago Psychoanalytic Institute. In our conversations, we will explore the many areas of clinical, spiritual, and political meanings of idealization. Kohut properly salvaged idealization from the ravages of drive theory, but even he may have short-changed the full range of idealization in the clinic and the culture.

Writing Psychoanalysis: From Conception to Publication

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

Trimester: Winter (6 Weeks)

Instructor(s): Gregory Rizzolo, PhD, Robert Galatzer-Levy, MD

Writing psychoanalysis is both an act of clarification and a vital form of professional dialogue. But translating complex clinical experiences, nuanced theoretical models, and interpretive insights into a compelling, publishable paper is challenging.

This six-session seminar provides a practical, supportive framework for developing, drafting, and refining psychoanalytic scholarship. Our primary focus is peer-reviewed journal articles, but the core principles translate across monographs, edited collections, and interdisciplinary writing. The course uses a flexible paper template as a scaffolding tool that helps authors clarify their arguments, marshal clinical and conceptual evidence, and engage readers.

We will examine published papers, including representative works by the instructors and significant journal selection to actively engage with the iterative processes of drafting, constructive editing, and peer feedback.

Anyone interested in writing psychoanalysis is welcome to the course.

LePlanche

Friday 11:30 - 12:45 p.m.

Trimester: Winter (11 Weeks)

Instructor(s): Theo Pintzuk, LCSW, J. Dakota Cimo, PhD

The work of Jean LaPlanche has recently come to the attention of many American psychoanalysts. He offers a profound and subtle re-working of Freudian psychoanalytic theory by using the methodology Freud developed to analyze the Freud's theory. From

this he has developed a psychoanalytic theory on a "new foundation" that feels both modern and radical. This foundation recovers Freud's original discoveries of infantile sexuality, seduction, and the unconscious. This is a 2-person theory with clinical implications very different from the 2-person theories of the Intersubjectivists and Relational Analysts. It is concerned with the ongoing role of infantile sexuality throughout one's life, the disruptive power of the sexual drive (for better or for worse), and the fundamental human condition as one in which the decentering that is the result of having an unconscious is transmitted intergenerationally and results in human subjectivity. His theory also offers a nascent accounting of the role of culture in the psychic life of the subject. He was a subtle and exquisite reader of Freud, and a subtle and exquisite theorist in his own right.

This 11 week course provides a general overview of his theory of mind and approach to psychoanalysis.

Ego Psychology

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

Trimester: Winter (11 Weeks)

Instructor(s): Leo Weinstein, MD

The goal of this course is to develop a sophisticated understanding of the concept of the ego as a central functional entity in the psychoanalytic process. We will look at the significance of the ego's development, as well as its role in mediating intrapsychic conflict.

Self Psychology I

Wednesday 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Trimester: Winter (11 Weeks)

Instructor(s): Jeffrey Stern, PhD

The listed readings form the skeletal structure of the course, but we will veer off when it seems to our purposes to discuss films that express self psychological concepts, possibly fiction, and certainly cases – mine and yours -- that aren't part of what you see below. In other words, our style will to some extent be improvisational. Self psychology isn't something you will learn from scholarly papers so much as from an immersion in texts, cases you read or hear discussed, your own work with patients, your supervision, your own analysis and life itself. Some of you may already know quite a lot about self psychology, some very little. But whatever the case, this course will mark a beginning of your formal study of self psychology at the Institute. I hope we will have a rich and enjoyable time!

The Psychoanalyst's Emotional Tasks

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

Trimester: Winter (11 Weeks)

Instructor(s): Wendy Selene, PhD, LCSW

This is a clinical course primarily concerned with our subjectivity. Clinical theories offer a way for the analyst to deal with their emotions—to organize and give them shape and meaning, and to help tolerate and contain their emotional states in the face of relational pressure. Theories do this work by offering an interpretation of how we feel, answering questions about how to use our emotional responses in a session and what our emotions have to say about the patient's inner world and the nature of the relationship. Grappling with emotions require serious emotional work. This course will present the view that our emotional work involves mourning and surrender, yielding to emotional experience, as a place to begin in achieving availability and receptivity. This work means facing emotional vulnerability, insecurity and uncertainty. We initially give up a position of stability and security and authority for the aim of greater immediacy and contact with the patient. Mourning, then allows for holding, containing and expanding self-awareness. The overarching view is that of an ethic of uncertainty: a commitment to the emotional work needed to tolerate the indeterminacy of doing analysis, states of confusion, exposure, vulnerability and aloneness. It is precisely our areas of greatest vulnerability that often give us our clearest insights and sense of connection.

The class will consist of didactic and discussion learning, including a weekly student presentation.

Dream Class

Wednesday 6:15-7:30 p.m.

Trimester: Winter (11 Weeks)

Instructor(s): Gabriel Ruiz, LCPC

This Winter and Quarter course will focus on models of dream theory and technique. We will examine dreams in relation to Freud and beyond through the lenses of listening, affect, development, creativity, and Transference/Countertransference. Further, we will examine the forward edge of dreaming, trauma, reverie, and transformations in dreaming. Students are expected to bring in clinical examples of dreams in order to facilitate our analytic growth.

Adult Clinical Process and Technique

Wednesday 11:30a.m.-12:45p.m.

Trimester(s): Fall, Winter & Spring (35 Weeks)

Instructor(s): Lynn Borenstein, LCSW

Welcome to Adult Clinical Process and Technique, an introductory course for those studying psychoanalytic treatment. In this class we will learn the core principles of psychoanalytic treatment, broadly review several main schools of psychoanalysis, and apply our learning to a patient, Daniel, in psychoanalytic treatment. We will take a chronological journey. In the Fall we will read about the development of the treatment alliance and an analytic mind, how to listen to the unconscious and understand transference and countertransference. We will look at these concepts in action at the start of Daniel's therapy. In the Winter we will focus on the mid stage of treatment: repetition, working through, enactments, interpretations and therapeutic change, and will observe these in Daniel's work. In the Spring we will talk about the process of termination and will apply ideas from different psychoanalytic schools of thought to our final review of the patient.