

THEORY II: BEYOND WISH AND DEFENSE

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The 23 years from the publication of *The Interpretation of Dreams* to the writing of *The Ego and the Id* are a middle period of psychoanalysis marked by decisive changes in theory. They are frequently misunderstood or poorly appreciated. This era is often called the period of "classical psychoanalysis," with the somewhat disparaging undertone that, during this time, Freud was primitively preoccupied with the exploration of the dynamic unconscious to the exclusion of other concerns. In actual fact, during this time, Freud strikingly enriched the picture of the psychic apparatus. He created new formulations about secondary (erotic) narcissism, aggression, sadism, paranoia, masochism, and depression. For several subsequent analysts this expansion of analytic horizons was the high water mark of Freud's intellectual career. It begins with the studies on Leonardo and Schreber, achieves programmatic status in the essay *On Narcissism*, is further extended in several of the *Papers on Metapsychology* and culminates in the picture of narcissistic relations in *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*. These extensive revisions include new formulations about object relations and about the transference. They feature concepts of identification, introjection and idealization. They require the postulation of new organs of the psychic apparatus such as the ego ideal and the superego, and thus pave the way for the tripartite model of 1923.

The objective of this course is to enable the student to grasp these important changes in Freud's psychology. The status of Freud's thinking at the time of the publication of *The Interpretation of Dreams* will be reviewed. Clinical data from the case underlying the Leonardo study and from Schreber's *Memoirs* will be examined for elements that require an expansion of theory. The impact of these findings will be discussed in the context of *On Narcissism: An Introduction* and followed into the further developments of *Instincts and Their Vicissitudes*, *A Child is Being Beaten*, *Mourning and Melancholia*, and *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*. At the end of the course, the student should be familiar with the distinctive qualities of the theory of this period, both as it paves the way for the later development of the tripartite model and as it underlies contemporary concerns with narcissistic phenomena.