According to Lawrence Friedman, Loewald is the greatest psychoanalytic theorist since Freud, yet he is only now finding his way into our curriculum. Loewald has been called a “radical conservative,” because his revision of Freudian theory is imbedded in a phenomenally close reading of Freud. I think he is more radical than conservative. Although he abandons nothing useful in Freud, and in fact salvages much that Freud seems to abandon, he disagrees with some of Freud’s most basic assumptions, beginning with the nature of reality, and ending with Freud’s fundamental pessimism.

Among the themes we will try to elaborate through the readings are:

The nature of reality;
The nature of psychological birth and development;
The process of psychic reorganization through differentiation and integration;
The synthetic (integrative) nature of ego organization;
The process of internalization and its relation to mourning and structure formation;
The nature of ‘instincts” and their origins;
The nature of therapeutic change.

More implicitly, we should get a feel for Loewald’s optimism as associated with Freud’s reformulation of Eros, and also a feel for Loewald’s reclaiming of the spiritual and locating it psychologically.

We will be forced to give short shrift to Loewald’s development of the concept of sublimation, to which he devoted a separate monograph.

Ideally, one should be well-schooled in Freud’s work to appreciate the nuances of Loewald’s contribution. We may do a little back-filling in that regard along the way, but I would recommend that you at least revisit Freud’s “On Narcissism” (1914) and his description of Eros, e.g., in the Outline (1940), SE 23, p. 148 (just the one page), before the course begins. Also glance at page 23 in The Ego and the Id (SE 19) where Freud talks about Groddeck’s contribution.
Readings:

**Part One: The integrative ego and the nature of reality**


**Part Two: Internalization, Instinct Theory, and structure formation**


**Part Three: Sein und Zeit**


**Part Four: Interaction of psychic organizations**


**Part Five: Oedipus redefined**
