

Course Syllabus
Introduction to the Work of Hans Loewald
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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

Week 1. _____. (1951). Ego and Reality. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 32:10-18.

(Optional: _____. (1988).* Psychoanalysis in Search of Nature: Thoughts on Metapsychology, "Metaphysics," Projection. *Ann. Psychoanal.* 16:49-54.)

Week 2. _____. (1952). The Problem of Defence and the Neurotic Interpretation of Reality. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 33:444-449.

(Optional: _____. (1973). Ego-Organization and Defense. In *Papers on Psychoanalysis*, Chapter 11. New Haven and London: Yale Univ. Press, 1980.)

Part Two: Internalization, Instinct Theory, and structure formation

Week 3. _____. (1962). Internalization, Separation, Mourning, and the Superego. *Psychoanal. Q.*, 31:483-504

Week 4. _____. (1973). On Internalization. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 54:9-17

Week 5. _____. (1977). Instinct Theory, Object Relations and Psychic Structure Formation. *J. Amer. Psychoanal. Assn.*, 26:493-506.

Week 6. _____. (1971). On Motivation and Instinct Theory. *Psychoanal. St. Child*, 26:91-128

Part Three: *Sein und Zeit*

Week 7. _____. (1972). The Experience of Time. *Psychoanal. St. Child*, 27:401-410

(Optional: _____. (1962). The Superego and the Ego-Ideal. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 43:264-268 (later reprinted as Superego and Time).

Part Four: Interaction of psychic organizations

Week 8. _____. (1960). On the Therapeutic Action of Psycho-Analysis. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 41:16-33

Part Five: Oedipus redefined

Week 9. _____. (1979). The Waning of the Oedipus Complex. *J. Amer. Psychoanal. Assn.*, 27:751-775

*All but the 1988 paper are reprinted in his *Papers on Psychoanalysis*. New Haven and London: Yale Univ. Press, 1980, and in *The Essential Loewald*. Hagerstown, MD: Univ. Publishing Group, 2000.