Sex (or screens), Drugs (legal and street) and Rock and Roll (Or Whatever genre is current): Not just a way of life but the essence of adolescence. Encountering the world outside the home with others and trying to radically reimagine oneself and the world, moving to and from the home base. Working with adolescents enlivens the entire analytic project and shapes the analyst in ways that profoundly affect our treatment with adults. In this class we will do a quick run through some of the main discussions in the field vis a vis adolescents.

The Developing Mind: Adolescence
San Francisco Center for Psychoanalysis
May 3, 2019-May 31, 2019  Maureen Katz, MD
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Educational objectives:
Candidates will be able to:
1. Describe and compare both classical and contemporary psychoanalytic models of involved in adolescent development.
2. Describe the challenge of adolescent symptomatology that a) often expresses what can’t be represented due to the absence or failure of containing structures; and b) can mislead by suggesting more severe pathology than is necessarily present.
3. Describe the unique tension in analytic work on the transference/countertransference interplay that reflects a developmentally driven reliance among adolescents on evacuative defenses.
4. Describe the unique relationship the body in adolescence has to symptomatology vis a vis the virtual world and in a cases of an eating disorder.
5. Describe the profound and often traumatic impact on adolescent development of prejudice and oppression centered on race, gender, sexuality, and social class, and the responsibility of addressing these in psychoanalytic treatment.

Week 1 Adolescent Development: Shifts in object relations and the sense of self
Focus: The transition from Childhood to Adolescence

Required reading:

Suggested reading:

Week 2 Adolescent Development: Shifts in object relations and the sense of self
Focus: Mid- and Late Adolescence and the Transition to Adulthood

Required reading:

Suggested reading:

Week 3 Adolescent Psychopathology

Required reading:

Suggested reading:

Week 4: Sexuality: Presentation of the analysis of an anorexic adolescent involving the integration of sexuality within the transference/countertransference interplay.

Required reading:

Suggested reading:

Week 5: “To close your eyes is to know nothing of blindness.”
Adolescent development within the sociocultural context of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, and social class

Required reading:

Suggested reading:

With thanks to Michael Loughlan, MD who constructed most of this syllabus for his 2017 class.