

Course Syllabus  
**Introduction to the Work of Hans Loewald**  
Lee Grossman, M.D.  
Fall 2018 – Winter 2019

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 rigorous 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 will 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. Chapter 7 of *The Interpretation of Dreams* would be foundational, if you have not already read it.

## Readings\*:

### **Part One: Freud and Loewald.**

Week 1. Loewald's position in analytic history. Overview of topics: ontology, development, organization, differentiation and integration, object relations, defensive vs. integrative ego, internalization, instinct theory. No assigned reading; review Freud as needed.

### **Part Two: The integrative ego and the nature of reality**

Week 2. Loewald, H.W. (1951). Ego and Reality. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 32:10-18. **PEP**

Week 3. \_\_\_\_\_. (1952). The Problem of Defence and the Neurotic Interpretation of Reality. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 33:444-449. **PEP**

(Optional: \_\_\_\_\_. (1973). Ego-Organization and Defense.\* In *The Essential Loewald* or in *Papers on Psychoanalysis*, Chapter 11

### **Part Three: Internalization, Instinct Theory, and structure formation**

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

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

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

### **Part Four: *Sein und Zeit***

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

(Optional: \_\_\_\_\_. (1962). The Superego and the Ego-Ideal. *Int. J. Psycho-Anal.*, 43:264-268 (reprinted in the collections as Superego and Time). **PEP**

### **Part Five: Interaction of psychic organizations**

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

### **Part Six: Oedipus redefined**

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

\*All papers are reprinted in *The Essential Loewald*. Hagerstown, MD: Univ. Publishing Group, 2000, and in his *Papers on Psychoanalysis*. New Haven and London: Yale Univ. Press, 1980. Chapters and pagination are the same for both volumes.