Course Description:
Language, Symbol, and Meaning will read key accounts of the role of language, symbols and meanings as they contribute to psychoanalytic treatment. Our goal will be to grasp the major ideas and debates that represent a psychoanalytic understanding of these terms.

Goals: Having taken the course Language, Symbol, Meaning, participants will be able to:
1. Formulate two vignettes illustrating how language facilitates the psychoanalytic process.
2. Explain two theoretical accounts of how language contributes to psychic change and organization.
3. Define and apply to clinical examples two concepts that have been proposed for understanding the role of language in human development and organization.

“Psychical treatment denotes, rather, treatment taking its start in the mind, treatment (whether of mental or physical disorders) by measures which operate in the first instance and immediately upon the human mind. Foremost among such measures is the use of words; and words are the essential tool of mental treatment. A layman will no doubt find it hard to understand how pathological disorders of body and mind can be eliminated by ‘mere words.’ He will feel that he is being asked to believe in magic. And he will not be so wrong, for the words which we use in our everyday speech are nothing but watered down magic, [due] to their former magical power. Words are the most important media by which one man seeks to bring his influence to bear on another; words are a good method of producing mental changes in the person to whom they are addressed. So that there is no longer anything puzzling in the assertion that the magic of words can remove the symptoms of illness, and especially such as are themselves founded in mental states.” -- S. Freud.

All texts will be available through Pepweb unless otherwise noted.

WEEK 1 (11/27/18)
What is the “Talking Cure”? The Discovery
Learning goal: the student will be able to describe the historical origin of talk therapy.
Optional reading on this theme:
WEEK 2 (12/04/18)
**Neuroscience and the Causality of Talk in Brain Plasticity**
Learning goal: the student will be able to describe the changes in the brain resulting from talk therapy.
* Doidge, Norman, MD. Turning Our Ghosts into Ancestors: Psychoanalysis as a Neuroplastic Therapy. (Chapt. 9, in: *The Brain that Changes Itself*. Penguin Books, 2007. [This reading to be sent electronically.]

WEEK 3 (12/11/18)
**Language and Symbol as Ground of Psychic Coherence**

WEEK 4 (12/18/18)
**What is Language?**
Learning goal: the student will be able to describe the structure of language.
* Saussure, Ferdinand de (1916/1983) Introduction, Chapter III: The Object of Linguistics, From: *Course in General Linguistics*, Eds. Charles Bally & Albert Sechehaye, La Salle, IL: Open Court, p. 960-977. (This reading will be sent electronically)

WEEK 5 (01/08/19)
**Treating Mental Representation or Mental Function?**
Learning goal: the student will be able to compare the concepts of mental function and mental representation.

WEEK 6 (01/15/19)
**Implicit and Explicit Meaning in the Psychoanalytic Process**
Learning goal: the student will be able to compare the psychoanalytic account of the unconscious to the Boston Change’s account of Implicit Learning.
WEEK 7 (01/29/19)
Language, Metaphor, Memory
Learning goal: the student will be able to describe the function of metaphor.

WEEK 8 (02/12/19)
Language in the Presence of the Analyst
Learning goal: the student will be able to compare listening dominated by theoretical assumptions to listening less constrained by theoretical assumptions.