

Lewis and Clark College  
Graduate School of Education and Counseling  
Spring 2017

**CPSY 590 - 01:**  
**Somatic Psychology**  
**&**  
**the Art of Body-Mind Psychotherapy**

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1 Semester Credit  
Class meetings: Tuesdays, 1:00 to 4:00 pm  
York Graduate Center, Room 101

**Required Class Readings:**

Boadella, D. (1997). Wilhelm Reich: From Psychoanalysis to Energy Medicine.  
<http://www.biosynthesis-institute.com/print/reich.pdf>

Eiden, B. The Use of Touch in Psychotherapy.  
<http://www.integrazioneposturale.it/varieftp/eiden.pdf>

Leijssen, M. (2006). Validation of the Body in Psychotherapy. *Journal of Humanistic Psychology*,  
46, 2, 126-146.

Reich, W (1973.) Ether, God & Devil & Cosmic Superimposition. New York: Farrar, Straus and  
Giroux. pp 53-55.

Schiff, D. (2014). Addressing Disturbances in Contact in the Beginning Phase of Orgone Therapy:  
A Case Study. *Annals of the Institute for Orgonomic Science*, Vol. 12, 53-58.

Tomkins, S. What Tomkins Said. <http://www.tomkins.org/what-tomkins-said>

Young, C. 150 Years On: The history, significance and scope of Body-Psychotherapy Today.  
<http://www.courtenay-young.co.uk/courtenay/articles/index.htm>

Zur, O. (2007). "Touch in Therapy and The Standard of Care in Counseling: Bringing Clarity to  
Illusive Relationships." *United States Association of Body Psychotherapy*, 6/2, 61-93.

**CPSY 590-01 Somatic Psychology**  
**Spring 2018**

**Course Description:**

Today, as we hear daily about some new understanding regarding the relationship between brain function and behavior, the separation between the body (somatic) and the mind (psychology) is rapidly collapsing. As a result so rises the current development of, and interest in, somatic psychology and those psychotherapeutic approaches that truly treat the whole person – the body-mind. From the perspective of somatic psychology life experiences are embodied experiences. Thus investigation into a person's phenomenology, so central to the art and science of psychotherapy, must include a focus on one's experience of somatic processes (breathing, movement, muscular tensions, emotional expressions, etc.) in addition to the more common focus on ones' thoughts, feelings, attitudes. In this course, through the use of readings, personal reflections, somatically based experiential exercises, discussions of clinical cases, and clinical demonstrations you will be introduced to field of somatic psychology, its history and development, and today's emerging body-mind psychotherapeutic approaches.

**Course goals and objectives:**

- be able to define the scope of somatic psychology as it is conceived of and practiced today and understand its developmental roots.
- gain an 'embodied' understanding of effects of experience upon one's bio-psychosocial functioning.
- develop a beginning understanding of some of the skills and approaches used in body-mind psychotherapy.
- develop skills to further your felt sense connection with your body-mind.

**Course Requirements:**

- Regular class attendance. CPSY Departmental Attendance Policy states: Class attendance is expected and required. Any missed class time will be made up by completing extra assignments designed by the instructor. Missing more than ten percent of class time may result in failure to complete the class. This would be 4.5 hours of a 45 hour class (3 credits), 3.0 hours for a 30 hour class (2 credits) or 1.5 hours for a 15 hour class (1 credit.) In case of extreme hardship and also at the discretion of the instructor, a grade of

incomplete may be given for an assignment or the entire course. In such cases, the work to be submitted in order to remove the incomplete must be documented appropriately and stated deadlines met. Students are expected to be on time to class and tardiness may be seen as an absence that requires make-up work.

- Regarding missed classes or assignment submission delays the above applies to this class as follows: Due to the brevity of our meeting time together, more than one absence from class over the term may result in a failing or incomplete grade. I will expect you to contact me prior to class sessions or due dates regarding any absences from class or problems with assignment deadlines. If you miss a significant amount of any class period, I will expect a make-up writing assignment, due at the beginning of the next class period: A two-page paper in which you describe what you learned from interviewing 3 class participants from the session you missed.
- Participation in class discussions and exercises. Learning is not a passive process. Rather it occurs through active engagement. Thus you will be expected to participate in class discussions and experiential exercises.
- Read the readings and do the weekly out of class experiential assignment. Each week I will send you an mp3 audio file which will lead you through an experiential somatic exercise. You will be required to do the exercise twice during the week (a minimum of one day between the times that you do the exercise) and after each time jot down some notes regarding your experience. These notes will be included in the weekly electronic journal described below.
- Submit your weekly electronic journal. Each week you will be required to e-mail me a 2-3 page journal. This journal will consist of.
  - Your process notes describing whatever thoughts/feelings/emotions/sensations were evoked each time you did the out of class experiential exercise and a reflection on the similarities and differences in your experience between your first and second time.
  - Some reflections/questions/concerns sparked by **one** passage that caught your interest in **each** of the readings for the week. **Look carefully at the course weekly overview below to see which readings you will be discussing in your journal. It can get confusing.** (Copy and paste the passage into your journal prior to your

commenting on it). Be prepared, if called upon, to read aloud in class this passage and share your reflections/questions/concerns with the class as part of our class discussions.

- Somatic Psychology final paper. A 4 – 5 page paper that summarizes and integrates your experiences and learning in the class. Due by 5PM on 4/15/18.

**Guidelines for this paper are as follows:**

- a. The paper contains a cover page that includes the title, course number, and author contact information (name, phone, and email).
- b. The paper is double-spaced, page-numbered, and turned in on time. Papers are to be e-mailed to me in .doc format.
- c. The paper is free of spelling, punctuation, or grammatical errors, and is clearly written. It is suggested that you have someone proof read your paper to best achieve this result.
- d. Quotations of over 40 words are indented in block form.
- e. The paper contains the following sections:
  - i. Introductory paragraph: Describe what you intend to do in this paper and why. The opening should be an overview of what you will cover in the paper and is best written upon completion of the rest of your paper.
  - ii. Body of the paper: Drawing in part from your weekly journals: a. highlight the ideas, concepts and experiences from the class that had special significance to you. And  
b. compare your current understanding of somatic psychology to when you began the course.
  - iii. Closing paragraph: Summarize what you have covered in this paper and discuss how you might use the information presented in your future work and what further study in somatic psychology you would like to pursue if any.

**Grading Guidelines:**

Attendance	expected
Class Preparation and Presence	1/3 of your grade
Weekly Electronic Journals	1/3 of your grade
Final Paper	1/3 of your grade

**Course weekly overview:**

Meetings	Topics/Readings/Assignments	Class Agenda
<p><b>1</b> <b>(2/27)</b></p>	<p><u>Topic:</u> The Development of Somatic Psychology and Body-Mind Psychotherapy</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> (completed prior to the class meeting). Boadella, D. (1997) Young, C.</p> <p><u>Experiential Activity #1</u> (completed after the class meeting)</p> <p><u>Journal #1</u> – due by noon 3/4 (2/27 class readings and experiential exercise #1)</p>	<p>Part 1: <u>Introductions:</u> to each other and to the course</p> <p>Part 2: <u>Lecture/Discussion:</u> The Development of Somatic Psychology and Body-Mind Psychotherapy – An overview</p>
<p><b>2</b> <b>(3/6)</b></p>	<p><u>Topics:</u> a. Emotions – a view from somatic psychology b. Emotional defenses – a somatic perspective</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> (completed prior to the class meeting). Reich, W. (1973) Tomkins, S.</p> <p><u>Experiential Activity #2</u> (completed after the class meeting)</p> <p><u>Journal #2</u> – due by noon 3/11 (3/6 class readings and experiential exercise #2)</p>	<p>Part 1: <u>Experiential exercise #1:</u> Sharing and processing</p> <p><u>Lecture/Discussion:</u> Emotions – a view from somatic psychology</p> <p>Part 2: <u>Experiential Activity:</u> Respiration and emotional experience</p> <p><u>Lecture/Discussion:</u> Emotional defenses – a somatic perspective</p>

<p><b>3 (3/13)</b></p>	<p><u>Topic:</u> Basic interventions in body-mind psychotherapies</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> (completed prior to the class meeting). Leijssen, M. (2006)</p> <p><u>Experiential Activity #3</u> (completed after the class meeting)</p> <p><u>Journal #3</u> – due by noon 3/18 (3/13 class readings and experiential exercise #3)</p>	<p>Part 1: <u>Experiential exercise #2:</u> Sharing and processing</p> <p><u>Lecture/Discussion:</u> Basic interventions in body-mind psychotherapies</p> <p>Part 2: <u>Clinical interventions demonstration #1:</u> Basic interventions in body-mind psychotherapies</p>
<p><b>4 (3/20)</b></p>	<p><u>Topics:</u> a. Making Contact: Characterological and Somatic Interventions from a Reichian Perspective.</p> <p><u>Readings:</u> (completed prior to the class meeting). Schiff, D. (2014)</p> <p><u>Experiential Activity #4</u> (completed after the class meeting)</p> <p><u>Journal #4</u> – due by noon 3/25 (3/20 class readings and experiential exercise #4)</p>	<p>Part 1: <u>Experiential exercise #3:</u> Sharing and processing</p> <p><u>Lecture/Discussion:</u> Making Contact: Characterological and Somatic Interventions from a Reichian Perspective.</p> <p>Part 2: <u>Clinical intervention demonstration #2:</u> Making Contact</p>
<p><b>Meetings</b></p>	<p><b>Topics/Readings/Assignments</b></p>	<p><b>Class Agenda</b></p>

<p>5 (4/3)</p>	<p><u>Topic:</u> The issue of touch in psychotherapy</p> <p>Readings: (completed prior to the class meeting). Eiden, B. Zur, O. (2007)</p> <p><u>Experiential Activity #5</u> (completed after the class meeting)</p> <p><u>Journal #5</u> – due by noon 4/8 (experiential exercise #5)</p> <p><u>Final Paper</u> – due by 5PM 4/15</p>	<p>Part 1: <u>Experiential exercise #4:</u> Sharing and processing</p> <p><u>Lecture/Discussion:</u> The issue of touch in psychotherapy</p> <p>Part 2: <u>Clinical intervention demonstration #3:</u> The use of touch in somatic psychotherapy</p> <p><u>Closing</u></p>
<p><b>Meetings</b></p>	<p><b>Topics/Readings/Assignments</b></p>	<p><b>Class Agenda</b></p>

**Bibliography:**

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Baker, E. (1967) Man in the Trap. New York, Collier Macmillan.

Bean, O. (1971) Me and the Orgone: One man's search for sexual fulfillment. New York, St Martin's Press.

Boadella, D. (1973) Wilhelm Reich: The evolution of his work. London, Vision.

Boadella, D. (1987) Lifestreams: An introduction to Biosynthesis. London, Routledge.

Boadella, D. (1999) Somatic Psychology and Somatic Psychotherapy: A Chronology over four Centuries. Energy & Character, Vol. 30, No. 2, pp. 95-106.

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Brown, M. (1990) The Healing Touch: An introduction to Organismic Psychotherapy Mendocino, CA, LifeRhythm.

Glenn, L, & Müller-Schwefe, R. (eds) (1999) The Radix Reader USA, Heron Press.

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Keleman, S. (1986) Emotional Anatomy. Berkeley, CA, Center Press.

Kurtz, R. (1990) Body-Centered Psychotherapy: The Hakomi Method: The integrated use of mindfulness, non-violence and the body. Boulder, CO, LifeRhythm Press.

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- Mann, W.E. & Hoffmann, E. (1980) *The man who dreamed of tomorrow: A conceptual biography of Wilhelm Reich*. Los Angeles, Tarcher.
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- Rubinfeld, I. (1998) *The Listening Touch*. London, Piatkus.
- Sharaf, M. (1983) *Fury on Earth: A biography of Wilhelm Reich* London, Deutsch.