

**Psychology 7810C-01**  
**Advanced Theory: Psychotherapy, Teaching, and Supervision**  
**Spring 2020**

MW 9:30 – 10:45  
Melson 207

Instructor: Mark Kunkel  
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Office Hours: by appointment

**Text:**

Kunkel, M. A. (2018). *Allegories for psychotherapy, teaching, and supervision: Windows, landscapes, and questions for the traveler*. Palgrave/Macmillan: Switzerland.

(available new, used, Kindle, for-rent, here:

<https://www.amazon.com/Allegories-Psychotherapy-Teaching-Supervision-Landscapes-ebook/dp/B07FKCZH2G>

Note: By arrangement with the publisher, I received only a minimal honorarium for writing (down) this book, and receive no royalties or any other proceeds from any of its sales/downloads.

Supplementary readings as assigned

**Course description and objectives:**

*To the degree that you read a text analytically, to the degree that your terminology claims to encompass it, claims to know the text better than it knows itself, to that degree you give up the possibility of being read by it. A book can have inspirational value only if it is allowed to recontextualize much of what you had known.*

*Richard Rorty, "The Necessity of Inspired Reading"*

This course is a graduate seminar (from the Latin *seminarium*, a “breeding ground or plant nursery”). That’s exactly what I hope for, and intend, to gather as a breeding ground and nursery in which the seeds of the book are nurtured and brought forth in the soil and light and watering of our work.

As set forth in my announcement of the course, we will work collaboratively:

1. with the chapters in the *Allegories* text;
2. with some additional *Allegories* chapters not included (for various reasons) in the final text; and most gratefully
3. with allegorical and metaphorical and mythopoetic touchstones of yours, brought forth as similar surfaces for learning.

Our meetings will be organized, as would a breeding ground, around the *Allegories* as seeding. As in the appended schedule, in our gatherings we will address the *Allegories* sequentially, with collaborative consideration of each of their window, landscape, and especially questioning components. Each of us is expected to have read the assigned chapter for that gathering and to consider it deeply. We will be able to dwell deeply in the material and more importantly allow it to come to life in our teaching, psychotherapy, and supervision work.

I also have in mind a structure for facilitating your bringing of your gifts, as *designated docents*. A docent is an informed guide, one who has done additional work to accompany and tend a journey. In this role I would like each of you to:

- review the table of contents and the chapter abstracts;
- identify two chapters of personal and professional interest;
- indicate those designations on a shared spreadsheet;
- prepare for proctoring and facilitating our gathering around those chapters through:
  - preparing a two-page “guide” in which you
    - summarize what is interesting or provocative to you about the reading
    - suggest some specific landscape territories
    - point toward several specific “questions for the traveler” or generate some of your own
  - e-mail this guide to all class members no later than 24 hours before our gathering
  - lead us in our shared consideration of the chapter (as would a docent) from an informed perspective

### **Course Requirements:**

#### 1. Attendance

Each of us will be expected to attend all class meetings. No explanation for absence is necessary; rather, you are encouraged to take responsibility for compensating for any necessary absence (e.g., through asking another student to record the meeting for your later listening enjoyment).

#### 2. Readings

Do all the reading. Graduate study is not a spectator sport, and you cannot do justice to the material, to our process, and ultimately to yourself without thorough preparation.

a. *Keep notes.* Underline or highlight passages that seem especially interesting or unusually unclear for later discussion. Your notes will be very helpful as you prepare for and contribute to course discussion.

b. *Ask yourself questions.* I’ve framed windows and sketched landscapes and suggested questions, but you will want to have some of your own. Find something to be curious about in each reading.

c. *Look for bridges and linkages.* This is my book, my voice, but it both speaks and echoes. Chase down some of the theoretical structures or ideas I reference. Try to interrogate and question and contextualize my necessary brief treatment.

**Evaluation:**

The emphasis throughout will be on learning as an end in itself, and especially in a class like this we would not want to ignore or minimize the effect of evaluation on collaboration. As a necessary concession to the system, grades will be assigned collaboratively as follows:

A -- Exceptionally good completion of all course requirements

B -- Satisfactory completion of all course requirements

C – Less than satisfactory or partial completion of course requirements

**\*Tentative Schedule:**

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Topic and reading</b>	
1/6	Seeing one another, framing our project	
1/8	Preface	
1/13	An Abundance of Sweet	Ch. 1
1/15	Beautiful Lies and Beautiful Truths	Ch. 2
1/19	Martin Luther King Jr. <i>Agape is a willingness to go to any length to restore community... Therefore if I respond to hate with a reciprocal hate I do nothing but intensify the cleavages of a broken community.</i>	
1/22	The Stones in Our Chimneys	Ch. 19
1/27	Breathing Into the Self	Ch. 3
1/29	Contact	Ch. 4
2/3	Cows, Milk, and Milking	Ch. 5
2/5	Crickets and Seagulls	Ch. 6
2/10	The Fourth Presence in the Fire	Ch. 7
2/12	Gifts and Their Giving	Ch. 8
2/17	Going in, and Coming Back	Ch. 9
2/19	Good Medicine, Good Companions	Ch. 10
2/24	Instructions to the Worker Bee	Ch. 11
2/26	Juries, Evaluation, and Games...	Ch. 12
3/2	Pillows of Faith	Ch. 13
3/4	Pitfalls	Ch. 14
3/9	Reactors	Ch. 15
3/11	Sacred Shaping	Ch. 16
3/16 3/18	<i>Spring Break</i>	

Tentative schedule (continued)

3/23	Sirens and Masts	Ch. 17
3/25	Still Honest?	Ch. 18
3/30	Three Musical Virtues	Ch. 20
4/1	Tigers and What I Hold in My Hands	Ch. 21
4/6	Wood and Blood	Ch. 22

Additional chapters [here...](#)

4/8	(First Lessons)	
4/13	(Loss and Hope)	
4/15	(Range of Motion)	
4/20	(Management)	
4/22	(Scars and Shrapnel)	
4/27	(Two Kinds of Poisons)	
4/29	Yay! You're Almost There!	Ch. 23

\* Our schedule is "tentative" because we'll follow the path of our interest and bliss.  
"Life doesn't happen along interstates, it's against the law" (William Least Heat Moon).