



Essential Psychotherapies, Third Edition: Theory and Practice

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The leading survey text for basic psychotherapy courses, this book offers authoritative, engaging presentations of the 12 most important forms of psychotherapy practiced today. Prominent experts cover traditional treatments as well as influential models that have been developed relatively recently, giving students and practitioners a solid grasp of foundational theories, techniques, and research. Each chapter follows a common set of organizational guidelines; features illustrative vignettes and a full case example; and concludes with readings and resources to guide further study.

New to This Edition

- *Incorporates the latest clinical developments and research.
- *Chapter on "third-wave" behavior therapies.
- *Each chapter has expanded discussions of the role of the therapeutic relationship and the use of evidence-based practices.
- *Concise chapters make the book even more instructor and student friendly.

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Editorial Review

Review

"*Essential Psychotherapies* is a classic. In the third edition, Messer and Gurman have once again accomplished their goal of providing a thorough exposition of the most important approaches of our field. The chapters are written by foremost authors who cover the waterfront from treatments with deep historical roots (such as dynamic and humanistic approaches) to those associated with empirical traditions (such as behavioral and cognitive-behavioral approaches), as well as those at the cutting edge (such as third-wave behavioral treatments). There is no more comprehensive and informative volume on this topic."--Bruce E. Wampold, PhD, ABPP, Department of Counseling Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

"All students, regardless of their theoretical preferences, need to be well versed in the major models of psychotherapy practice. Clinical training faculty have come to depend on this text to provide the essential information about each major model. In the third edition, Messer and Gurman demonstrate their awareness of evolving models by including a chapter on mindfulness, acceptance, and other 'third-wave' behavioral therapies. Instructors will enthusiastically choose this book as a primary text for their classes on psychotherapy theories."--JoEllen Patterson, PhD, Department of Counseling and Marital and Family Therapy, University of San Diego

"This book has become a classic in the field. The editors provide an organizational framework for each chapter that makes it easy to compare the therapies. Each chapter presents a different therapy approach, including integrative therapies, and covers both theory and practice, with an extended case example and a section on research. This is an invaluable text for undergraduate and graduate courses on psychotherapy; in my experience, it has been very well received by students. It is one of the best psychotherapy resources I have come across in a long time."--Hal Arkowitz, PhD, Department of Psychology, University of Arizona

"This book offers a round-the-world tour of psychotherapy for both the student and the experienced practitioner. Chapters by distinguished experts reveal the breadth of the field, highlighting controversies, underlining similarities, taking on sacred cows, and celebrating traditions. Undergraduate teachers, graduate seminar leaders, and training directors will value the structure and clarity of the book as it tackles thorny, unresolved issues of relationship versus technique, integration versus specific models, and the nature of empirical support."--Richard F. Summers, MD, Co-Director of Residency Training, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine

"I would want to expose students to all of the chapters in this book....The best feature of this book is the outstanding writing. The amount of jargon is kept to a minimum and the clarity of communication is at a maximum."

(Psychotherapy Research 2011-04-22)

"This book will serve as a text for a graduate or advanced undergraduate course dealing with approaches to psychotherapy. It would also be helpful as a sourcebook for the clinician/therapist wishing to 'come up to speed' on techniques and theories."

(Psychotherapy in Private Practice 2011-04-22)

"For practitioners, [this book] provides an opportunity to enhance and augment their comprehension of different perspectives of personality and therapy. For the student, it affords an invaluable source of information as they become increasingly aware that no single approach can validly be considered to constitute the ultimate and true approach."

(*Transactional Analysis Journal* 2011-04-22)

About the Author

Stanley B. Messer, PhD, is Dean of the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, where he was Chairperson of the Department of Clinical Psychology for 9 years. He is interested in the application of psychodynamic theory and research to the brief and integrative therapies and has contributed to the debate on evidence-based practice. The author or editor of a number of books and many articles and book chapters, Dr. Messer is currently Associate Editor of the online journal *Pragmatic Case Studies in Psychotherapy* and serves on several other editorial boards. He is an American Psychological Association Fellow in the Society of Clinical Psychology, the Society of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology, and the Society for the Advancement of Psychotherapy. Dr. Messer maintains a private practice in Highland Park, New Jersey.

Alan S. Gurman, PhD, until his death in 2013, was Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health in Madison. A pioneer in the development of integrative approaches to couple therapy, he edited and wrote many influential books; was a past two-term editor of the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*; and was former President of the Society for Psychotherapy Research. Dr. Gurman received numerous awards for his contributions to couple and family therapy, including the Distinguished Achievement in Family Therapy Research Award from the American Family Therapy Academy and the Distinguished Contribution to Family Psychology Award from the American Psychological Association. He also received the Award for Distinguished Achievement in Teaching and Training from the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers.

Users Review

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Jerry Gavin:

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