

Pericles Lewis
Revised Syllabus
September 7, 2006

Psychoanalysis and Literature:
An inquiry into Freud's use of literature and literature's use of Freud

Class meeting time: Thursdays, 1:30-3:20, LC 319
Office hours: 451 College, room 213, Tuesdays, 2:00-3:40 by appointment
Please contact Angelika Schriever at 432-2760 to make appointments for office hours.

Readings

Unit 1: The Interpretation of Dreams

September 7

Syllabus

Freud, Letter to Fliess of October 15, 1897

September 14

Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, chapters I to IV

Suggested reading:

Alexander Welsh, *Freud's Wishful Dream Book*

September 21

Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, chapter V

Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*, trans. Roche or Grene

Aristotle, *Poetics*

September 28

Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, chapters VI-VII

Further discussion of Sophocles

Suggested reading:

Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna*

Unit 2: Freud's Use of Literature

October 5

Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

Suggested reading:

Freud, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*, part I, "Parapraxes"

October 12

Freud, "The Theme of the Three Caskets," "Creative Writers and Day-dreaming"

Suggested reading:

Shakespeare, *King Lear*

Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice*

October 19

No class meeting.

Suggested reading:

Freud, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*, part II, "Dreams"

Paul Ricoeur, *Freud and Philosophy*

Harold Bloom, *The Anxiety of Influence*

October 26

Freud, "The Uncanny"

E. T. A. Hoffmann, *Tales of Hoffmann*, especially "The Sandman"

Suggested reading:

Freud, *The Freud Reader*, Part Four, "Psychoanalysis and Culture"

Freud, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*, part III, "General Theory of the Neuroses"

Unit 3: Literature's Use of Freud

November 2

Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw* and *The Aspern Papers*

Suggested reading:

Freud, excerpt from *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*

Edmund Wilson, "The Ambiguity of Henry James"

Shoshana Felman, "Turning the Screw of Interpretation"

Peter Brooks, *Reading for the Plot*

November 9

Franz Kafka, "The Judgment" and various other stories

Freud, *Moses and Monotheism*

Suggested reading:

Freud, excerpt from *Totem and Taboo*

November 16

Franz Kafka, various stories

Suggested reading:

Freud, "The Future of an Illusion"

November 30

Virginia Woolf, *Between the Acts*

Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*

December 7

Frederick Crews, ed., *Unauthorized Freud*

Presentations on suggested reading

Suggested reading:

Freud, "An Autobiographical Study"

Philip Rieff, *The Triumph of the Therapeutic*

December 14

Make-up session for remaining presentations on suggested reading

Course requirements

Each student will give at least one oral report, of **no more than ten minutes**, on a suggested or required reading assignment. The oral report should be **given from notes, not read**. Each student will write two papers, of about ten pages each. Students should write papers in two of the following three categories: an analysis of a particular work by Freud; a reading of a literary work in relation to Freud's thought; or a commentary on a suggested secondary reading. (One of these papers may be an expansion of an oral presentation). The first paper should be submitted no later than Friday, October 20. The second is due Friday, December 15.

Consult the *MLA Handbook* or *The Chicago Manual of Style* for guidelines about documentation. Your essays should be printed in 12-point font, with margins of one inch. You should document all your sources for any ideas or information if you are unsure whether they originated with you. (This includes any information you find on the web; it is normally unnecessary, however, to footnote class discussion or widely known biographical or historical facts). Graduate School regulations require that I report all cases of plagiarism to the Executive Committee. You can find further information in a pamphlet entitled "Sources: Their Use and Acknowledgment." See <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sources/>.

Participation will be taken into consideration in assigning a final grade; you may participate in class and by contributing to the on-line discussion forum (accessible from classesv2.yale.edu). Each student is expected to make at least three contributions to the on-line forum over the course of the semester, and all students are expected to read the on-line forum weekly.

Students are expected to have read the three Shakespeare plays (*Hamlet*, *King Lear*, and *The Merchant of Venice*) before class begins. *King Lear* and *The Merchant of Venice* will form a fairly minor part of the discussion, so it may not be necessary to re-read these two plays if you have read them fairly recently. Those with little background in psychoanalysis are advised to read Freud's *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis* over the summer. Students with knowledge of Greek or German are encouraged to read the literary works in the original language.

Required texts available at Labyrinth Books

Aristotle, *Poetics**

Sigmund Freud, *The Freud Reader*, ed. Peter Gay

---, *The Interpretation of Dreams*

---, *Moses and Monotheism*

E. T. A. Hoffmann, *Tales of Hoffmann* (Penguin)

Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw and The Aspern Papers* (Penguin)*

Franz Kafka, *Complete Stories*

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, ed. Edwards (New Cambridge Shakespeare)*

Sophocles, *The Oedipus Plays of Sophocles*, trans. Roche (Penguin)*

Virginia Woolf, *Between the Acts*

*other editions will suffice; in place of the Roche translation, you may prefer to buy David Grene, trans., *Sophocles I: Three Tragedies* on-line or to read it in the library; it is out of print.

Required text not available at Labyrinth

Frederick Crews, ed., *Unauthorized Freud* out of print; buy on-line

Suggested texts available at Labyrinth Books (these and others are also on Reserve at CCL)

Harold Bloom, *The Anxiety of Influence*

Peter Brooks, *Reading for the Plot*

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents**

---, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*

Peter Gay, *Freud: A Life for Our Time*

Philip Rieff, *The Triumph of the Therapeutic*

Paul Ricoeur, *Freud and Philosophy*

Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna*

William Shakespeare, *King Lear*, ed. Halio (New Cambridge Shakespeare)*

---, *The Merchant of Venice*, ed. Mahood (New Cambridge Shakespeare)*

Suggested text not available at Labyrinth

Alexander Welsh, *Freud's Wishful Dream Book* out of print; buy on-line

*other editions of *King Lear* and *The Merchant of Venice* will suffice. Much of *Civilization and its Discontents* is printed in *The Freud Reader*, so the separate edition of the book is merely suggested.