

Psychoanalysis and Politics: History and Theory

Fall 2020, Prof. D. Herzog, Tuesdays 2-4

This is a course in intellectual history and theory; but it is also, and above all, a course in the history of ideas about human selfhood, motivation, and behavior – and the endless mystery of the relationships between fantasy and reality. The course arcs from Freud’s and his contemporaries’ writings in the 1890s-1930s through World War II, Cold War and decolonization to the post-postmodern present. Themes explored include: trauma, aggression, anxiety, destruction, and prejudice; obsession, love, desire, pleasure, attachment, dependency; models of selfhood (conflict vs. deficit vs. chaos), compulsion, neurosis, perversion, narcissism, psychosis; therapy, including neutrality, interpretation, holding, transference, and countertransference; and the myriad relationships of psychoanalysis to politics. Most of the texts focus on Europe and the U.S., but we will explore as well examples from the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America.

Our aim is not only to acquire a deepened understanding of the interactions between individual subjectivities, social conditions, and ideological formations (and to consider how psychoanalysis-inspired commentators have theorized these interactions), but to inquire into whether and, if so, how the mechanisms of these interactions may perhaps themselves have changed over time (and this will require situating the assigned texts contextually, but also often reading them against their own grain).

Requirements include: consistent careful reading of assigned materials and active and informed participation in class discussions; one final conference-style paper with PowerPoint images relevant to the student’s dissertation (or related intellectual development) either focused on a psychoanalysis-related topic or in some way putting to use psychoanalytic concepts. The final two sessions (Dec. 1 and Dec. 8) are reserved for student presentations to the class. However, first drafts will be circulated ahead of time (they are due Nov. 17), and students will be expected to provide helpful written responses to their peers (due Nov. 24). Instructor permission is required to enroll in this course.

Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

- *Read both primary-source and secondary-scholarship texts more critically and effectively than when the semester began
- *Identify – and summarize accessibly and persuasively, both verbally and in writing – challenging theoretical-conceptual ideas
- *Demonstrate a strengthened understanding of the evolution of psychoanalytic theory over the last 100+ years as well as many of the possible uses to which Freudian and post-Freudian thought has been put – but also a deepened grasp of the conundrums posed by psychoanalytic theory to historians’ craft and historians’ enduring concerns with periodization, causation, and interpretation
- *Develop and present a formal conference paper to the class creatively engaging psychoanalytic history and/or theory

Sep 1 **Introduction to the Class**

1 Sep 8 Debates about Freud

Jacques Lacan, "Overture to the Seminar" (1953), *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan: Book I, Freud's Papers on Technique, 1953-1954* (1988), pp. 1-3.

Slavoj Zizek, "Introduction," *How to Read Lacan* (2006), pp. 1-6.

George Makari, "The Unhappy Marriage of Psyche and Eros" and "Everything May Perish," both in *Revolution in Mind* (2008), pp. 85-125 and 295-319.

Frederick Crews, "Physician, Heal Thyself: Part II," *New York Review of Books* (Oct. 13, 2011).

Omnia El Shakry, "The Arabic Freud: The Unconscious and the Modern Subject," *Modern Intellectual History* 11.1 (April 2014), pp. 89-118.

Lisa Appignanesi, "Freud's Clay Feet," *New York Review of Books* (Oct. 26, 2017).

Zahid Chaudhary et al., "What is the Future of Psychoanalysis in the Academy?" *Psychoanalysis and History* 20.1 (2018), pp. 23-35.

2 Sep 15 Desires (Drives and Objects)

Sigmund Freud, "On the Universal Tendency to Debasement in the Sphere of Love" (1912), *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, Volume XI*, pp. 177-190.

Karen Horney, "The Problem of the Monogamous Ideal" (excerpt), *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* 9 (1928), pp. 324-331 only.

Theodor Adorno, "Sexual Taboos and Law Today" (1963), *Critical Models: Interventions and Catchwords*, pp. 71-88.

Maria Ramas, "Freud's Dora, Dora's Hysteria," in Charles Bernheimer and Claire Kahane, eds., *In Dora's Case* (1985), pp. 149-180.

Kenneth Lewes, "Homosexuality, Homophobia, and Gay-Friendly Psychoanalysis," *Fort Da* 11.1 (2005), pp. 13-34.

Teresa de Lauretis, "Introduction: Death @ Work" and "The Queer Space of the Drive: Reading Freud with Laplanche," both in *Freud's Drive: Psychoanalysis, Literature and Film* (2008), pp. 1-12 only and pp. 58-87.

Avgi Saketopoulou, "To Suffer Pleasure: The Shattering of the Ego as the Psychic Labor of Perverse Sexuality," *Studies in Gender and Sexuality* 15.4 (2014), pp. 254-268.

3 Sep 22 Selves (Identities, Memories, Meanings)

Jacques Lacan, "The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Function of the *I* as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience" (1936), *Écrits*, pp. 1-6.

Melanie Klein, "Notes on Some Schizoid Mechanisms" (1946), *Envy and Gratitude*, pp. 1-24.

Jean Laplanche and Jean-Bertrand Pontalis, "Deferred Action" and "Screen Memory," both in *The Language of Psychoanalysis* (1967/1973).

Jacqueline Rose, "Introduction: States of Fantasy," *States of Fantasy* (1996), pp. 1-16.

Elizabeth Lunbeck, "Borderline Histories: Psychoanalysis Inside and Out," *Science in Context* 19.1 (2006), pp. 151-173.

Erik Linstrum, "The Laboratory in the Field: Inventing Imperial Psychology" and "A Dream Dictionary for the World: The Globalization of the Unconscious," both in *Ruling Minds: Psychology in the British Empire* (2016), pp. 13-42 and 43-82.

Igor Krtolica and Guillaume Sibertin-Blanc, "The Children Estranged from Language: Fernand Deligny, in his Time and Against Lacan," *Psychoanalysis and History* 21.2 (2019), pp. 211-227.

Sep 29 No class – CUNY on a Monday schedule

4 Oct 6 Aggression

Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (1930), Part V, pp. 68-74 only.

Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, "Elements of Antisemitism" (excerpt, Parts II-IV), *Dialectic of Enlightenment* (1944), pp. 139-147 only.

Theodor Adorno, "Freudian Theory and the Patterns of Fascist Propaganda" (1951), in Andrew Arato and Eike Gebhardt, eds., *The Essential Frankfurt School Reader*, pp. 118-137, 177-180.

Jean Laplanche and Jean-Bertrand Pontalis, "Aggressiveness," *The Language of Psychoanalysis* (1967/1973).

Alexander Mitscherlich, "On Hostility and Man-Made Stupidity" (1969), *Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association* 19 (1971), pp. 819-834.

Slavoj Žižek, "Cynicism as a Form of Ideology," *The Sublime Object of Ideology* (1989), pp. 28-30.

Camille Robcis, "Liberté, Égalité, Hétérosexualité: Race and Reproduction in the French Gay Marriage Debates," *Constellations* 22.3 (2015), pp. 447-461.

Ana Antic, "Therapeutic Violence: Psychoanalysis and the 'Re-education' of Political Prisoners in Cold War Yugoslavia," in Matt Ffytche and Daniel Pick, eds., *Psychoanalysis in the Age of Totalitarianism* (2016), pp. 163-177.

Oct 13 **Film:** *The Act of Killing*, dir. Joshua Oppenheimer (2012). Trailer:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tQhIRBxbchU>

5 Oct 20 **Trauma**

Sandor Ferenczi, “Confusion of Tongues between the Adult and the Child” (1932), *International Journal of Psycho-Analysis* 30 (1949), pp. 225-230.

Frantz Fanon, “Colonial War and Mental Disorders,” *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961), pp. 181-199.

Kurt Eissler, “Perverted Psychiatry?” *American Journal of Psychiatry* 123 (May 1967), pp. 1352-1358.

Diana Kordon, “Impunity’s Psychological Effects: Its Ethical Consequences,” *Journal of Medical Ethics* 17, Supplement (1991), pp. 29-32.

David Becker, *Dealing with the Consequences of Organized Violence in Trauma Work* (2004)

Dorothy Evans Holmes, “Culturally Imposed Trauma: The Sleeping Dog Has Awakened. Will Psychoanalysis Take Heed?,” *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* 26.6 (2016), pp. 641-654.

Stefania Pandolfo, “Divine Trial and *Experimentum Mentis*: The Psychoanalyst, the Imam, and the Ordeal of Madness,” *Psychoanalysis and History* 20.3 (2018), pp. 293-311.

Stephen Sheehi, “Psychoanalysis under Occupation: Nonviolence and Dialogue Initiatives,” *Psychoanalysis and History* 20.3 (2018), pp. 353-369.

6 Oct 27 **Therapy**

Sigmund Freud, “Remembering, Repeating and Working-Through” (1914), *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud, Volume XII*, pp. 145-156.

Betty Joseph, “Addiction to Near-Death,” *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* 63 (1982), pp. 449-456.

Masud Khan, “The Evil Hand,” *Hidden Selves* (1989), pp.

Helmut Hinz, “Projective Identification: The Fate of the Concept in Germany,” in Elizabeth Spillius and Edna O’Shaunessy, eds., *Projective Identification* (2012), pp. 186-203.

Sandra Silverman, “The Colonized Mind: Gender, Trauma, and Mentalization,” *Psychoanalytic Dialogues* 25.1 (2015), pp. 51-66.

Ralf Binswanger, “Dream Diagnostics: Fritz Morgenthaler’s Work on Dreams,” *Psychoanalytic Quarterly* 85.3 (2016), pp. 727-757.

Jamieson Webster, “The Psychopharmacology of Everyday Life,” *New York Review of Books* (Nov. 19, 2018).

7 Nov 3 **Resistance**

Wilhelm Reich, "Ideology as a Material Force" *The Mass Psychology of Fascism* (1933/1946), pp. 3-9 and 21 only.

Helio Pelligrino, "Oedipal Pact and Social Pact" (1966/1983), *Psychoanalysis and History* 22.3 (2020), forthcoming.

Elvio Fachinelli, "Dissident Desire" (1968) and Lillith, "Mortifying Mommy (with Response)" (1974), both in *Psychoanalysis and History* 21.3 (2019), pp. 293-301 and 301-309.

Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus* (1972/1983), pp. 291-293 only.

Félix Guattari, "Psychoanalysis and Schizoanalysis," and Gilles Deleuze, "Three Group Problems," both in *Sémiotexte* 2.3 (1977), pp. 77-85 and 99-109.

Chabani Manganyi, "The Violent Reverie: The Unconscious in Literature and Society" (1977), *PINS* 41 (2011), pp. 7-19.

Audre Lorde, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House" (1979), *Sister Outsider* (1984), pp. 110-114.

Michel Foucault, "Preface" (1983), in Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus*, pp. xi-xiv.

Paul Gilroy, "Introduction: On Living with Difference," *Postcolonial Melancholia* (2005), pp. 1-28.

David Gutherz, "On Not Getting What You Want: Elvio Fachinelli's Anti-Authoritarianism," *Psychoanalysis and History* 21.3 (2019), pp. 267-291.

Nov 10-11 Individual conferences on final conference-paper projects.

Nov 17 Student choice readings to be discussed; final project drafts due, to be circulated to entire class.

Nov 24 Written responses to each other due.

Dec 1 & Dec 8 Student presentations.