

A Comprehensive Introduction to Sigmund Freud's Theories: The Origins of Psychoanalytic Thought

Fall term 2022

Wednesdays, 12:10 to 2 pm

Hamilton Hall 401

Course Instructors: W. Craig Tomlinson, MD, and Adele Tutter, MD, PhD, with additional guest instructors

Description:

In the modern world anyone who knows anything knows something – and has an opinion about -- Sigmund Freud. The caricatures routinely applied sometimes bring to mind the often-quoted quip about modern art: “I don’t really know anything about art, but I know what I (don’t) like.” University classes touching on Freud often do just that: touch upon his thought, without a more substantive engagement with the development of his thinking.

In contrast, this course offers a comprehensive understanding of the origins, foundations and evolution of Freud’s psychoanalytic theorizing during the four decades following 1895. Via close readings of his texts, with neither worship nor condescension, we will situate the development of psychoanalysis as a theory of mind within historical context, and explore its applications to education, society, culture, and the humanities.

Grading will reflect class discussion of required reading (30%); weekly short reading responses (30%); and a 15-20 page final paper (40%), a précis of which will be due at midterm.

Schedule:

Block I: The beginnings of psychoanalysis

All Readings: “SE” = *Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, tr. A. Strachey, Hogarth Press, London, 1966

Session 1 (9/6): Tutter/Tomlinson	Beginnings, Trauma, cathartic method and the seduction theory An Autobiographical Study (chs 1-3), SE vol 20, pp 3-74 <i>Studies on Hysteria</i> (1895), excerpts: On the Psychical Mechanism of Hysterical Phenomena: Preliminary Communication, SE vol 2, pp 3-17 <i>Studies on Hysteria</i> , case of Lucy R, SE vol 2, pp 110-124
Session 2 (9/13): Tutter/Tomlinson	The interpretation of dreams (part 1) On Dreams, SE vol 5, pp 631-86
Session 3: (9/20) Tutter/Tomlinson	The interpretation of dreams (part 2) <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> , ch. 6-7 (excerpts), SE vols 4 and 5, pp 277-349, pp 588-621

Block II: Sexuality, and from the couch to culture

Session 4: (9/27): Fragment of an Analysis of a Case of Hysteria (Dora), SE vol 7, pp 3-124
Tutter

Session 5 (10/4) Theory of Sexuality: The Three Essays
Colibazzi/Tutter Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality, SE vol 7, pp 125-243

Session 6 (10/11): Creative Writers and Daydreaming, SE vol 9, pp. 141-53
Colibazzi/Tutter Obsessive Actions and Religious Practices, SE vol 9, pp115-128
Civilized Sexual Morality and Modern Nervousness, SE vol 9, pp 177-204
A Special Type of Object Choice Made by Men, SE vol 11, pp 163-176
On the Universal Tendency to Debasement in the Sphere of Love," SE vol 11,
pp 177-90

Session 7(10/18)
Colibazzi/Tomlinson Those Wrecked by Success, SE vol 14; pp 316-31
The Uncanny, SE vol 17, p. 279, pp 218-256

Block IV: Metapsychology and a theory in evolution

Session 8 (10/25): On Narcissism: An Introduction, SE vol 14, pp 67-104
Kelly/Tomlinson

Session 9 (11/1): Beyond the Pleasure Principle, SE vol 18, pp 3-66
Kelly/Tutter

Session 10 (11/8): Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego, SE vol 18, pp 65-142
Kelly/Tutter

Session 11 (11/15): The Ego and the Id, chs 1-5, SE vol 19, pp 3-68
Chaplan/Tomlinson

11/22: No class—Thanksgiving holiday

Block V: Revisiting society and civilization

Session 12 (11/29): The Future of an Illusion, SE vol 21, pp 1-56
Chaplan/Tomlinson

Session 13: (12/6): Civilization and its Discontents, SE vol 21, pp 57-146
Tutter/Tomlinson Letter to Einstein, "Why War?" SE vol 22, pp 295-215