

READING (WITH) PSYCHOANALYSIS



MA Option
Semester 1, 2023/24

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Module summary

This module is an introduction to psychoanalytic theory and to its deployment as a critical strategy in the reading of cultural texts. We study a range of key ideas developed by the founder of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, as well as by other clinicians and thinkers who followed in his wake. We also seek to illustrate and explore these ideas through interpretative readings of works of literature and film.

Teaching

10 x 2-hour seminars

Opportunity for formative feedback

1 x 2000-word unassessed essay, mid-semester
Due Friday November 17 (via email to tutor)

Assessment

1 x 4000 word essay, to be submitted in January
Due Monday January 15 at noon (via Minerva)

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WEEKLY TOPICS

S.E. = *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, trans. James Strachey (London: Hogarth 1953–1974), 24 vols.

WEEK 1: A CLEAVING IN THE MIND (FREUD AND DICKINSON)

1. Sigmund Freud (1923), 'A Short Account of Psychoanalysis', *S.E.* 19, 191–209.
2. Sigmund Freud (1912), 'A Note on the Unconscious in Psychoanalysis', *S.E.* 12, 255–266.
3. Sigmund Freud (1938), 'Some Elementary Lessons in Psychoanalysis', *S.E.* 23, 279–286.
4. Emily Dickinson, 'One need not be a chamber to be haunted' and 'I felt a cleaving in my mind', in *The Poems of Emily Dickinson*, ed. R.W. Franklin, Cambridge Mass.: Harvard UP, 2005.
5. Adam Phillips, chapter 1 of *Becoming Freud: The Making of a Psychoanalyst*, New Haven: Yale 2014, 1–28.

WEEK 2: DREAM PRODUCTION AND INTERPRETATION (FREUD AND PHILLIPS)

1. Sigmund Freud, *On Dreams* (1901), *S.E.* 5, 629–685.
2. Adam Phillips, 'Dreams' chapter 1 of *Terrors and Experts*, London: Faber, 1995, 64–76.

WEEK 3: SEXUALITY AND DESIRE (FREUD)

1. Sigmund Freud, *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* (1905), *S.E.* 7, 125–243.
2. Philippe Van Haute and Herman Westerink, 'Sexuality and its Object in Freud's 1905 Edition of *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*' (2016), *International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 97:3, 563–589.

WEEK 4: THE EGO AND NARCISSISM (FREUD AND SPIVAK)

1. Sigmund Freud, 'On Narcissism', *S.E.* 14, 67–102.
2. Jean Laplanche and Jean-Bertrand Pontalis, entry for 'Narcissism', in *The Language of Psychoanalysis* (1967), trans. Donald Nicholson-Smith, London: Karnac, 1973, 255–257.
3. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak 'Echo' (1993), *New Literary History*, 24:1, 17–43.
4. Ovid, Book III, lines 453–658 of *The Metamorphoses*, trans. Charles Martin, New York: WW Norton, 2010.

WEEK 5: THE EGO AS OTHER I (LACAN AND FREUD)

1. Jacques Lacan, 'The Mirror Stage as Formative of the I Function as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience' (1949), in *Écrits*, trans. Bruce Fink, New York: Norton, 2006, 75–81.
2. Callum Neill, chapter 3 of *Jacques Lacan: The Basics*, London: Routledge, 2023.
3. Sigmund Freud, 'The Uncanny', *S.E.* 17, 217–256.

WEEK 6: THE EGO AS OTHER II (FREUD, LACAN, AND THE STUDENT OF PRAGUE)

1. Stellan Rye (dir.), *The Student of Prague* (1913).

WEEK 7: READING WEEK / NO SEMINAR

** Formative essay due on Friday this week: 2000 words **

WEEK 8: LOSS AND MOURNING I (FREUD AND GREEN)

1. Sigmund Freud, 'Mourning & Melancholia' (1917), *S.E.* 14, 237–258.
2. André Green, 'The Dead Mother' (1983), trans. Katherine Aubertin, in *On Private Madness*, London: Karnac, 1986, 142–173.

WEEK 9: LOSS AND MOURNING II (FREUD, GREEN, AND THE BABADOOK)

1. Jennifer Kent (dir.) *The Babadook* (2014).

WEEK 10: TRANSITIONAL PHENOMENA AND OBJECT USE I (WINNICOTT)

1. D.W. Winnicott, 'Transitional Objects and Transitional Phenomena' (1953), in *Playing and Reality*, London: Routledge, 2005, 1–34.
2. D.W. Winnicott, 'The Use of an Object and Relating Through Identifications' (1969), in *Playing and Reality*, London: Routledge, 2005, 115–27.
3. Barbara Johnson, 'Using People: Kant with Winnicott', *Persons and Things*, Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard, 2008, 94–108.

WEEK 11: TRANSITIONAL PHENOMENA AND OBJECT USE II (WINNICOTT, KLEIN, AND AICKMAN)

1. Robert Aickman, 'The Inner Room', *The Wine-Dark Sea*, London: Faber, 2014, 285–329.
2. Melanie Klein, 'Notes on Some Schizoid Mechanisms' (1946), in *The Selected Melanie Klein*, ed. Juliet Mitchell, New York: Free Press, 1986, 175–200.