

Philosophy 526-640
Fall 2016

Stephen P. Steinberg, Ph.D.
Lecturer in Philosophy

***Philosophy and Psychoanalysis:
Freud and the Interpretation of Culture***

More than a century after Sigmund Freud transformed -- for better or worse -- our understanding of what it means to be human, Freudian psychoanalysis still exerts a profound influence in our culture. This seminar course is an exploration of the philosophical issues raised by Freudian psychoanalysis as a theory of mind and culture. After a close reading of Freud's theoretical writings on the nature of the mind and human behavior, we will explore why Freud's theories -- despite more than a century of criticism -- remain highly influential as a framework for the interpretation of art, literature, religion, society, politics, and history. Readings from Freud's "meta-psychological," cultural, and social writings, Paul Ricoeur's *Freud and Philosophy*, and other contemporary authors in philosophy, psychoanalysis, and other fields.

Seminar: No previous knowledge of psychoanalysis, psychology, or philosophy required. This course counts towards the **Minor in Psychoanalytic Studies** in the College of Arts and Sciences. **Undergraduates must obtain the permission of the instructor.**

Time: Mondays, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Tentative Topical Outline

PART I: INTRODUCTION

- **Introduction and Overview of the Course:
What is Psychoanalysis?**

PART II: READING FREUD

- **Metapsychology I:
The Hypothesis of the Unconscious**
- **Metapsychology II:
The Dynamic Structures of the Mind (Ego/Id/Superego)**
- **Metapsychology III:
The Instinct Theory**
- **Interpreting Human Behavior**

PART III: INTERPRETING CULTURE

- **Psychoanalysis as a Theory of Culture I: Society**
- **Psychoanalysis as a Theory of Culture II: Religion**
- **Psychoanalysis as a Theory of Culture III: History**
- **Psychoanalysis as a Theory of Culture IV: Art and Literature**

PART IV: INTERPRETING FREUD

- **The Scientific Status of Psychoanalysis**
- **Interpreting Psychoanalysis: Humanism or Hermeneutics?**
- **Psychoanalysis as a Theory of Interpretation I:
The Dispossession of Consciousness**
- **Psychoanalysis as a Theory of Interpretation II:
Psychoanalysis as a Mixed Discourse**
- **Psychoanalysis as a Theory of Interpretation III:
Archeology and Teleology in Philosophical Anthropology**