



Study abroad.

## **SYLLABUS**

### **FREUD, THEN AND NOW: INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

**Associate Professor Daniel Coleman**

**dcoleman@pdx.edu**

**Contact Hrs: 40 per Quarter/45 per Semester**

**Language of Instruction: English**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA**

#### Course content

This course provides a foundation in two enduring dimensions of Freud's thought, ego-psychology and object relations theory. A critical understanding of Freudian theory is developed through connections with philosophy, literature, film, science and art. The intellectual and cultural themes are examined in the context of Vienna and Europe from the late-nineteenth century to the present time. Experiential elements of the course will challenge students to use themselves as a laboratory to test Freudian hypotheses about the unconscious, defense mechanisms, and personality.

#### Course objectives

At completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate competency in foundational concepts of ego-psychology and object-relations theory.
2. Articulate the connection of psychoanalytic theory to understanding specific topics in philosophy, literature, film, science or art.
3. Identify major points in the debate on the scientific status of psychoanalysis.
4. Discuss the relationship of political, economic, and cultural context on intellectual and creative works.
5. Critically evaluate the potential of psychoanalytic theory to increase self-understanding.

#### Suggested excursions

For at least some excursions, local experts will be sought who could assist with guiding the group. For example, through contacts in the psychoanalytic community in Munich and in the US, I will try to identify a local expert who could assist with a tour of psychoanalytic points of interest in Vienna.

Freud Museum- (Trip to be shared with Stromberger course). This trip brings alive Freud's daily life and the trauma of the rise of Nazism and the Freuds' exile to London.

The Jewish Museum and Judenplatz- These sites will help student's appreciate the pre-war Jewish community and culture in Vienna of which Freud was a part.

Art Museums: Kunsthistorisches and Belvedere- These two museums will provide exposure to the art that Freud himself viewed and influenced his awareness of art and history (primarily the Kunsthistorisches). In addition, art by Freud's Viennese contemporaries will be emphasized (Klimt, Schiele) that show the interest in emotion and expression of the time.

The Prater and Vienna Tunnel Tour- These sites tie in with the The Third Man. The Ferris Wheel at the Prater is the setting for the famous scene where Harry Lime articulates his psychopathic philosophy of life.

Hall of busts at the Universitat Wien. Minor trip, to be combined with nearby Freud Museum or other trip- Includes busts of Popper, Doppler and Boltzmann. Interestingly, because Freud never had a university position, he is not included in this hall of luminaries. Also allows students to see the campus of a European university.

St Stephan's Cathedral. This visit to the Cathedral will take place in the context of class coverage of Freud's analysis of the psychological functions of religion. Students may be asked to write a short paper analyzing the cathedral using ideas from class.

#### Instructional methodology

This course includes lecture, mini-lecture, computer-aided instruction, video, seminar-style discussion, and work in small groups.

#### Method of evaluation/grading

There will be several short written assignments (1-2 pages) that are reflection oriented and are graded pass/fail. At approximately mid-term, a five-page essay paper is due that is based in the readings for the course. At the end of the term, a ten-page research paper is due.

#### Course readings/texts

Gay, P. (1988). Freud: A Life for Our Time. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Greene, G. (1988). The Third Man. London: Faber.

Yalom, I. (1992). When Nietzsche Wept. New York: Basic Books.

#### Proposed weekly schedule.

##### Weeks 1 and 2. Freud's Life and the Essentials of Psychoanalysis

This section of the course presents a brief look at Freud, his life and times. Core theory, centering on ego-psychology and object relations, provides a foundation for the later psychoanalytic exploration of art, philosophy, and science. Experiential exercises to explore the unconscious and evaluate defense mechanisms will ground the theory in personal experience.

Selections from Gay, P. (1988). Freud: A Life for Our Time. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Schamess, G. (1996). Ego psychology. In J. Berzoff, L. M. Flanagan & P. Hertz (Eds.), *Inside out and outside in* (pp. 67-101). Northvale, NJ: Jason Aronson.

Pate, J. E., G. O. Gabbard, et al. (2003). "Adult Baby Syndrome." American Journal of Psychiatry **160**(11): 1932-1936.

Excursions: Freud Museum and the Jewish Museum.

Weeks 3-6. Freud and Art and Archaeology

The Art and Archaeology section covers Freud's interest in art and antiquities, and the application of psychoanalytic theory to understanding art and artists. Emphasis is placed on artists with a Vienna connection, such as Klimt and Schiele, and art with a strong psychoanalytic influence such as surrealism. The perspective that art involves the conscious and unconscious expression of the inner life is experientially explored with projective drawings and psychoanalytic theory of dreams.

Selections from Gay, P. (1988). Freud: A Life for Our Time. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Excerpt from Oster, G. D., & Gould, P. (2004). Using drawings in assessment and therapy: a guide for mental health professionals, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. New York: Brunner/Mazel.

Excerpt from Alonso, C.A., & Wellington, A. (2002). Dreams and Creativity: Collaborative Psychoanalytic Work. Journal of American Academy of Psychoanalysis, 30:573-582.

Alonso, C.A., & Eckhardt, M. H. (2005). Epilogue: Creativity and Polysemy—On the Limits of Pathography, Psychobiography and Art Criticism. Journal of American Academy of Psychoanalysis, 33: 235-237.

Yalom excerpt from The Gift of Therapy on dreams.

Freud excerpt from "Creative Writers and Daydreaming"

Freud excerpt "Dynamics of the Transference"

Freud, S. (1920). Dream Psychology: Psychoanalysis for Beginners. (M.D. Eder, Trans). New York: James McCann. Downloaded full-text from [www.gutenberg.net](http://www.gutenberg.net).

Excursions: Kunsthistorisches Museum, Belvedere Palace.

Week 7. Understanding Evil

This one-week segment presents the psychoanalytic perspective on humans who exploit or harm others, without apparent conscience. Greene's character of Harry Lime is examined as a character study in psychopathic traits. The discussion is set in the context of World War II and attempts to understand the horrific events of the war.

Graham Greene, The Third Man

McWilliams, N. (1994). Psychopathic Personalities, in Psychoanalytic diagnosis: Understanding personality structure in the clinical process. New York: The Guilford Press.

Martin, John Levi (2001). "The Authoritarian Personality, 50 Years Later: What Questions Are There for Political Psychology?". Political Psychology **22** (1): 1-26.

Excursions: The Prater and the Vienna Tunnel Tour.

Weeks 8-9. Freud and Philosophy and Religion

Philosophical themes in Freud's work are analyzed from several perspectives: using Irvin Yalom's novel When Nietzsche Wept, that imagines Freud treating Nietzsche; Freud's controversial position on religion; and, as a segue into the next section, an exploration of postmodernism and social constructionism.

Selections from Gay, P. (1988). Freud: A Life for Our Time. New York: W. W. Norton & Company.

Yalom, When Nietzsche Wept.

Excerpt from The Future of an Illusion, Freud.

Rempel, M. H. (1997). Understanding Freud's Philosophy of Religion. Canadian Journal of Psychoanalysis, 5: 215-242.

Wakefield, J. C. (1995). When an irresistible epistemology meets an immovable ontology. *Social Work Research*, 19(1), 9-17.

Excursion: St Stephan's Cathedral.

Weeks 10-12. Freud and Science

Freud tried to place psychoanalysis within the natural sciences, and passages of Freud on genetic contribution and biological dimensions of mental disorders could be written today by a psychiatric researcher. However, he also used an essentially interpretive and subjective paradigm of self-reflection to develop many of his ideas. This section covers Freud's conception of science, critics who focus on science and psychoanalysis such as Popper and Crews, and reviews current evidence for psychoanalytic theoretical propositions and the efficacy or effectiveness evidence for psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic therapy.

Excerpt from Karl Popper, "Philosophy of Science: A Personal Report," in British Philosophy in the Mid-Century: A Cambridge Symposium, ed. C. A. Mace (1957), 155-91; reprinted in Karl Popper, Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge (1963; 2d ed., 1965), 33-65.

Kreisler, Harry (1999). Frederick Crews Interview. Institute of International Studies, UC Berkeley. Retrieved on 2007-03-19. <http://globetrotter.berkeley.edu/people/Crews/crews-con3.html>

Excerpt from Westen, D. (1999). The Scientific Status of Unconscious Processes: Is Freud Really Dead? Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association, 47: 1061-1106.

Leichsenring, F., Rabung, S., & Leibing, E. (2004). The Efficacy of Short-term Psychodynamic Psychotherapy in Specific Psychiatric Disorders: A Meta-analysis. Archives of General Psychiatry, 61. 1208-1216.