

Preliminary syllabus¹ for Psychoanalysis 101: Freud & Lacan

DON KULICK & ELINOR HÅLLÉN

Spring Term 2019

Fridays 9.30-12 pm (except for final class meeting, which will be on a Wednesday)

This course will present an overview of psychoanalytic theory as it was formulated by Sigmund Freud and later modified and elaborated by Jacques Lacan. We will discuss the ways in which the theories developed by Freud and Lacan have relevance and weight outside purely therapeutic contexts, and how psychoanalytic concepts such as the unconscious, parapraxes, repression, disavowal, and the Imaginary/Symbolic/Real distinction may be helpful for scholars working in the social scientists and humanities.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Active class participation and presentations.
2. Critical/reaction papers posted on the course site. The papers should be about one page in length, at 14 pt. line spacing, Times New Roman font. They may deal with any questions the readings raise for you in relation to the authors' method or argument; connections to other readings; disparities among the readings; implications of the readings for important issues that concern you, and the like.

A guiding rule of engagement in this class is: be generous. Neither Freud nor Lacan were stupid, nor are the commentators whose work we read. All the authors probably have considered at some length most of the questions or objections you may raise, given that the questions could reasonably have been raised in their day. With that in mind, engage with the texts in the spirit of dialogue and generosity, not opposition and attack. We put tremendous stock in exegesis and will stress this throughout the class, because in order to engage critically with a text, you need to have really understood what it says. So make sure that you work out the various authors' arguments clearly before you engage in any kind of critique.

To facilitate discussion, the reaction papers must be posted by noon on the Thursday before the material is to be discussed in class. Everyone should take 30 minutes before class to read through the papers that have been posted there. These papers will not be graded but they obviously should make it evident that you have read the relevant literature.

3. A final paper that uses the literature to discuss a topic that compels you and that you would like to delve into in some detail. The paper should primarily be exegetical and must range over a number of the arguments developed in the literature we read during

¹ Subject to some revision before the course starts in May

the course. While the topic of the paper is up to you, and hopefully will be relevant to whatever your topic/field of study is, the paper should not primarily be about your work. It should be an exploration of a topic in which you engage with and explain the course literature. You will be graded on how well you do that, and on how well you incorporate the various course texts and put them in dialogue with one another.

The paper is due by Friday 12 June at noon. Prepare two hard copies of the paper. Place one in Don's mailbox in the Anthropology Department, and the other in Elinor's mailbox in the Philosophy Department. In addition, email me and Elinor the paper as an attachment to don.kulick@antro.uu.se and Elinor.Hallen@filosofi.uu.se.

Length: no more than 10 pages, excluding title page and bibliography (Times New Roman 12 pt. font, double spaced, 1 inch margins on all sides). Do not use footnotes. Do not forget to number the pages.

REQUIRED READINGS

Scanned copies of the readings will be made available on the class website.

Read the readings in the order they are listed in this syllabus.

Week 1 Freudian beginnings, 3 May

Aremidoros of Daldis, Dream Analysis, Book One, chapters 78-80. In *The Constraints of Desire: the Anthropology of Sex and Gender in Ancient Greece*, John J. Winkler. New York: Routledge, 210-16.

Freud, Sigmund 1914 [1901]. *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life*. *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, translated and edited by James Strachey, London: WW Norton and Company.

Read chapter 1, "The Forgetting of Proper Names" and chapter 5, "Slips of the Tongue".

Freud, Sigmund 1916 [1905]. *Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious*. *The Standard Edition*.

Read chapter 2, "The Technique of Jokes".

Freud, Sigmund 1925. "Negation". *The Standard Edition*. Vol. 19, pp. 235-240.

Week 2 The unconscious, repression and Oedipus, 10 May

Freud, Sigmund 1915. "Repression", *The Standard Edition*. Vol. 14, pp. 146-58.

Freud, Sigmund 1915. "The Unconscious", *The Standard Edition*. Vol. 14, pp. 161-204.

Freud, Sigmund 1932. Extract from Lecture 31, "Dissection of the Psychological Personality" in *New Introductory Lectures on Psycho-Analysis*, *The Standard Edition*. Vol. 22, 69-79.

Freud, Sigmund, "Mourning and melancholia", *The Standard Edition*. Vol. 14, pp. 237-258.

Billig, Michael 1997. The dialogic unconscious: psychoanalysis, discursive psychology and the nature of repression. *British Journal of Social Psychology* 36: 139-159.

Freud, Sigmund 1925. "Some psychological consequences of the anatomical distinction between the sexes, *The Standard Edition. Vol. 19*, pp. 241-260.

Freud, Sigmund 1924. "The dissolution of the Oedipus complex". *The Standard Edition*, Vol. 19, pp. 173-182.

Week 3 The Freudian case study, 17 May

Freud, Sigmund 1909. *Notes Upon a Case of Obsessional Neurosis. Vol. 10*, pp. 153-250.

Week 4 Lacan in a nutshell, 24 May

Saussure, Ferdinand de 1983 [1916]. *Course in General Linguistics*, read Chapter III-V "The Object of Study" (8-23) and "Part One, Chapters I-II" (65-78)

Selections from Lacan. *Écrits*, the new edition, translated by Bruce Fink, WW Norton, 2006.
Read:

1949. The mirror stage as formative of the function of the I as revealed in psychoanalytic experience (75-81)

1957. The instance of the letter in the unconscious or reason since Freud (412-444), + EA Poe's short story "The Purloined letter" (available online, 14 pages).

1958. The signification of the phallus (575-584)

1960. The subversion of the subject and the dialectic of desire in the Freudian unconscious (671-702)

Week 5 What use are Freud and Lacan today? 29 May (OBS this is a Wednesday)

Butler, Judith 1990. *Gender Trouble: feminism and the subversion of identity*. Routledge.

Read Chapter 2, "Prohibition, psychoanalysis and the production of the heterosexual matrix", 35-78.

More literature here to be determined.