

Reading Freud
LIT 364-TH
Summer 2014

When: M/W/F 1-3:45, May 21- June 25
Where: Bunting 480

Professor: Firmin DeBrabander
Office: Bunting 411
Office phone: 410 225 2462
Office Hours: by appointment. Generally, I will be in my office 12-1 before class days, and I can also meet with you after class if you like.

Course Description: In this course, we will look at significant works of one of the most important writers and thinkers of recent history: Sigmund Freud. In particular, we will take a chronological approach to his works, viewing the early writings on his psychoanalytic theory, and his later changes and additions to that theory. We will also consider several fascinating- and controversial- attempts Freud made to apply psychoanalytic thinking beyond the confines of the individual psyche, to religion, history, politics, art, and culture at large.

As to the title, “ Reading Freud” —while we will not be reading him or his theories in the context of other literary texts, we will be reading him carefully from a variety of vantage points, and in relation to a variety of disciplines. That is, we will consider the merit and significance of his arguments politically, morally, philosophically, scientifically, and culturally; we will ‘ read’ them from those perspectives.

Required Text (available at MICA bookstore):

The Freud Reader, ed. Peter Gay, Norton & Company Publishers

Requirements:

There will be 1) a Mid-term exam held in class on June 4. I will provide more details on that exam as the date approaches. 2) A Short Essay is due in class June 13. It will be about 3 pages in length, in response to prompts that I will provide you all a week beforehand. 3) A Final Research paper of 8-12 pages in length is due in our last class meeting, June 25. I will provide the parameters for these papers, but the precise topics are up to you—with my assistance of course. You will have individual conferences with me on June 20, in my office, Bunting 411, where we can discuss your topics and research, and address any questions you may have at that time. As part of your Final Research paper, you will present on your research and topic in our last class meeting. Nothing formal is expected—it will be an informal affair, with coffee and donuts, etc., and everyone in class will take turns sharing what they learned, and what they wrote about—and this may lead to some nice discussions. Paper presentations should be about 5-10 minutes each.

4) Class participation is an important component of your grade in this class. This is NOT a lecture course; you are required to do the assigned readings, and come to class prepared to discuss them. You may not sit back and be a passive learner in this class; it is a seminar course, and discussion based. I expect you to be engaged in the class discussions. Occasionally, I will open class by asking you to compose a brief written reflection on the reading assignment. I will provide questions prompts for these. These written reflections are primarily intended to get your intellectual juices flowing, but also indicate to me that you are doing the readings—and doing them closely.

Grade distribution:

Midterm--	20%
Short Paper--	20%
Class Participation (incl. written reflections)--	20%
Final paper ---	40%

Attendance Policy:

As we only meet 15 times, it is crucially important that you attend all classes. For two or more unexcused absences, I will deduct 5 points each from your final grade. If you will be absent due to illness or family emergency, I can excuse you from class **if** you provide written notice.

Institutional Policies:

Plagiarism: MICA will not tolerate plagiarism, which is defined as using someone else's words or ideas without acknowledgment. Please note that only **three contiguous** borrowed and unreferenced words constitute plagiarism. Submitting work containing plagiarism is grounds for **failure** of an assignment, or if serious enough, failure of the course, and will be reported to the Chair of the Language, Literature and Culture department. Repeat offenses will be brought to the attention of Academic dean.

To be responsible when summarizing, paraphrasing, or quoting, include a citation like:

“ I read in yesterday's New York Times that...”

“ As Simone de Beauvoir famously asserts: ‘ One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman.’”

“ My roommate Pete noticed that...”

Document your citations in a bibliography or Works Cited page at the end of your paper and follow standard guidelines such as MLA or Chicago manual style. Familiarize yourself with these guidelines in Diana Hacker's A Pocket Style Manual, and always check with your instructor or one of the friendly tutors in the Writing Center (410) 225-2418. The Writing Center also has copies of the Hacker.

Classroom: Health and Safety Guidelines

Health and Safety

It is the responsibility of faculty and students to practice health and safety guidelines relevant to their individual activities, processes, and to review MICA's Emergency Action Plan and attend EHS training. It is each faculty member's responsibility to coordinate with the EHS Office to ensure that all risks associated with their class activities are identified and to assure that their respective classroom procedures mirror the EHS and Academic Department guidelines. Each of these policies and procedures must be followed by all students and faculty. Most importantly, faculty are to act in accordance with all safety compliance, state and federal, as employees of this college and are expected to act as examples of how to create art in a way to minimize risk, and reduce harm to themselves and the environment. Faculty must identify, within each art making process, and require personal protection equipment use, by each student for each class, when applicable. Students are required to purchase personal protection equipment appropriate to their major. Those students who do not have the proper personal protection equipment will not be permitted to attend class until safe measures and personal protection is in place.

Classroom: ADA Compliance

Learning Resource Center ADA Compliance Statement

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact the Learning Resource Center at 410-225-2416, in Bunting 458, to establish eligibility and coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to:

<http://www.mica.edu/LRC>

5/21- Introduction

5/23- Read “ Fragment of an Analysis of a Case of Hysteria (Dora)” (pgs. 177-239)

5/26- *NO CLASS; Memorial Day: go to cookout.*

5/28- Rd. from “ Three Essays on Sexuality” and “ Character and Anal Erotism” (pgs. 239-272 and 285-297)

5/30- Rd. “ From the History of an Infantile Neurosis (Wolf Man)” and “ Creative Writers and Day-Dreaming” (pgs. 400-426 and 436-443)

6/2- Rd. “ Leonardo DaVinci and a Memory of his Childhood” (pgs. 443-481)

6/4- *Midterm Exam (in class)*

6/6- Rd. “ Obsessive Actions and Religious Practices” and “ Totem and Taboo” (pgs. 429-436 and 481-514)

6/9- Rd. “ The Ego and the Id” (pgs. 628-661)

6/11- Rd. “ The Future of an Illusion” (pgs. 685-722)

6/13- *Short Papers due*; in class: discussion of previous readings; also introduction of final paper topics and visit to library to review research databases

6/16- Rd. “ Civilization and its Discontents” (pgs. 722-772)

6/18- *Movie in class*

6/20- *Individual Paper conferences in Bunting 411*

6/23- Rd. Freud on Humor (handout); opportunity for more individual meetings to discuss research papers in progress

6/25- Final Papers due in class; presentations on final papers.