Psychoanalysis and Cultural-Studies

Fall Semester 2017

Classroom: #6

Time: Wednesday 10.00-13.00

Professor:
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BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

To study in some detail a select band of the seminars offered by the major post-Freudian psychoanalytic thinker, teacher and practitioner, Jacques Lacan (1901-81), and some outstanding Lacan-criticísm. We shall also engage Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) and some important post-Lacanian thinkers with special reference to Slavoj Žižek (1949-) and to Julia Kristeva (1940-) in order to use theoretical psychoanalysis as a powerful critical tool to diagnose both individual and social reality, and individual artworks.
ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:

Requirements:
--Reading: there is not an over-abundance of matter to be read for the class; therefore, that which is assigned deserves your careful attention

--Two essays a midterm of 2500 words and a final essay of 3000 words; topics will be given two weeks in advance, but you can also make your own creative choice of topic area that must have the professor’s approval in advance; regrettably, late papers will not be accepted.

--Attendance at the weekly sessions to discuss the guided readings (one absence allowed, beyond that your grade will be lowered a full letter grade for each additional excused or unexcused absence). Your mental participation and over-all effect on the quality of the class inform this grade as much as how much you contribute to seminar discussions; arriving more than ten minutes late for class or leaving for more than ten minutes for any part of the class session will result in an absence for that day. There will be two ten minute breaks during each week’s session.

--Oral presentations by the students in the class, which may be seen as work in progress toward one of the two writing assignments.

Grading Policy:
Participation/attendance in the class sessions: 30%
Midterm essay: 25%
Final essay: 35%
In-class presentation: 10%

READINGS

Extracts from a select band of the following critical and theoretical texts will be available in a course reader, available online, or will be discussed by the instructor:


--Alexandre Leupin, Lacan Today: Psychoanalysis, Science, Religion (Other Press, 204).* Two copies of the text available in CERGE-EI library


--Erik S. Roraback, one or more of the following texts:


____. “The Unconscious, Athletic Identity, & a Whole Galaxy on Stage; or, the 1984 French Open Final, McEnroe vs. Lendl” a paper given at a colloquium on “Identities” on 24 September 2010, Metropolitan University, Prague, Czech Republic. Part of a forthcoming book.


--Slavoj Žižek, Absolute Recoil: Towards a New Foundation of Dialectical Materialism (Verso, 2014).

____. Antigone (Bloomsbury, 2016).

____. Disparities (Bloomsbury, 2016).

____. The Fragile Absolute; or, Why is the Christian Legacy Worth Fighting For? (Verso, 2000).

____. Interrogating the Real (Continuum, 2005).


____. Living in the End Times (Verso, 2010).

____. The Puppet and the Dwarf: The Perverse Core of Christianity (MIT, 2003).

____. The Ticklish Subject: The Absent Centre of Political Ontology (Verso, 2008).

--Slavoj Žižek and Boris Gunjević, God in Pain: Inversions of Apocalypse (Verso, 2012).

Weekly schedule and readings:

Week 1 Orientation, etc.

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Week 2 General Introductions

27 ix Recommended to watch on your own outside of class time: “Psychotherapy: Sigmund Freud”, “Psychotherapy: Anna Freud”, “Psychotherapy: Donald Winnicott”, “Psychotherapy: Melanie Klein” and “Psychotherapy: John Bowlby” from The School of Life series

Week 3 FREUD I: Peter Gay “Sigmund Freud: A Brief Life” pp. ix-xxiii

4 x Sigmund Freud, On Dreams pp. 1-32 (online)

Sigmund Freud, On Dreams pp. 33-76 (online)

Week 4 FREUD II:


FREUD III: Sigmund Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents pp. 1-35 + Introduction by Leo Bersani pp. vii-xxii (online; also a hard copy in CERGE EI library)

Week 5 FREUD III: Sigmund Freud, Civilization and Its Discontents pp. 46-82
Week 6:
18 x
LACAN I Watch DVD video Rendez-Vous Chez Lacan English version 51 minutes
25 x
Discuss Rendez-Vous Chez Lacan
Michel de Certeau, “An Ethics of Speech” pp. 47-64 from Heterologies: Discourse on the Other (online)

Week 7:
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Mid-term essays due

Week 8
AFTER LACAN I Julia Kristeva, Intimate Revolt: The Powers and Limits of Psychoanalysis, Volume 1 (selections online read pp. 1-31)
Recommended reading during or after the life of the course Lacan Seminar 11
The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis (online)

Week 9
AFTER LACAN II Julia Kristeva, Intimate Revolt: The Powers and Limits of Psychoanalysis, Volume 1 (continued selections online, revisit again pp. 1-31)
Watch an example of Lacan teaching online and discuss as a class

Week 10
LACAN IV Alexandre Leupin, Lacan Today: Psychoanalysis, Science, Religion (online and hard copy in CERGE EI library)
Chapter Three: “The Master, the Academic, the Psychoanalyst, and the Hysteric: Four Discourses” pp. 67-85
Chapter Four: “There Is No Sexual Rapport” pp. 87-103
Conclusion pp. 105-28
Optional reading: Chapter Two: “Epistemology” pp. 30-66, and Chapter Five: “God is Real” pp. 105-23

Week 11
ŽIŽEK I: Slavoj Žižek, Interrogating the Real (selections online, Editor’s Intro. pp. 1-7 and Author’s Preface pp. 8-17, Author’s Afterword pp. 328-55 and Glossary pp. 356-74)
Watch a Žižek lecture online and discuss as a class

Week 12
James Mellard, Beyond Lacan (in hard copy of reader and online, read chapter 8 pp. 211-54)
Watch a Žižek lecture online and discuss as a class

CONCLUSIONS

Week 13
Final essay due, which takes the place of the Final Exam