Psychoanalysis and Cultural-Studies

Fall Semester 2019

Classroom: TBA

Time: Wednesday 10.00–13.00

Professor:
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BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

In this course we shall engage 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-criticism. 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%

Academic Integrity: plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are not tolerated

UPCES Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy
The UPCES program in Prague promotes a diverse learning environment where the dignity, worth, and differences of each individual are valued and respected. Discrimination and harassment, whether based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or other legally protected characteristic, are repugnant and completely inconsistent with our objectives. Retaliation against individuals for raising good faith claims of harassment and/or discrimination is prohibited.

UPCES Diversity Policy
UPCES fully embraces diversity and strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for students from all backgrounds. Prague is a wonderfully diverse community and UPCES is no different. All students should feel at home while studying abroad and UPCES will do its utmost to make sure that becomes a reality. Although unique challenges may arise, we believe that students from all walks of life will encounter wonderful opportunities for enrichment as they explore a new culture while studying abroad.

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 in class:

—Erik S. Roraback, one or more of the following texts:
  — *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 Ticklish Subject: The Absent Centre of Political Ontology* (Verso, 2008).

**Weekly schedule and readings:**

**Week 1** Orientation, etc.

**Week 2**

General Introductions
Recomended 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
Sigmund Freud, *On Dreams* pp. 1–32 (online)
Sigmund Freud, *On Dreams* pp. 33–76 (online)
Watch a video on Freud

**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 (online; also a hard copy in CERGE EI library)

**Week 6**

**LACAN I** Watch DVD video *Rendez-Vous Chez Lacan*  English version 51 minutes
Discuss *Rendez-Vous Chez Lacan*
Michel de Certeau, “An Ethics of Speech” pp. 47–64 from *Heterologies: Discourse on the Other* (online)
Week 7: Mid-term essays due
LACAN II Alexandre Leupin, Lacan Today: Psychoanalysis, Science, Religion (online and hard copy in CERGE EI library)
Introduction xiii–xxxvi, Chapter 1: “The Structure of the Subject” pp. 1–29
LACAN II: Malcolm Bowie, Lacan (selections i.e. Chapter One: Freud and Lacan pp. 1–6 and Concluding Remarks pp. 197–203 both online)

Week 8
AFTER LACAN I Julia Kristeva, Intimate Revolt: The Powers and Limits of Psychoanalysis, Volume I (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 I (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

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