



PS 346 PSYCHOANALYSIS AS PSYCHODYNAMIC THERAPY AND SOCIAL THEORY IN CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

IES Abroad Vienna

DESCRIPTION:

Is psychoanalysis still relevant today – as a scientific approach within contemporary psychology, and as clinical psychotherapy? How did psychoanalysis evolve and shape shift since Freud's initial 'discovery' of the unconscious? What can we gain from psychoanalysis for the understanding of contemporary culture, including individual suffering and social developments? The overarching goal of the course is to help students explore the relevance of psychoanalysis and its offshoots, such as psychodynamic psychotherapy, to tackle some of the issues that concern contemporary culture. For this purpose, we will examine relevant literature, including both classics and recent publications, and scrutinize current material. In the spirit of Freud, our aim is to comprehend the interplay between clinical and cultural aspects, exploring their relationship to each other.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: This course assumes students have taken at least one introductory course in psychology and are generally familiar with the basic concepts of Freudian psychology. A vivid interest in psychoanalytic literature and questions and a willingness to read classical and contemporary texts is expected.

ADDITIONAL COST: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- Lectures
- Discussions
- Groupwork exercises
- Video demonstrations
- Excursions

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Course participation – 10%
- Midterm assignment (reflection paper) – 20%
- Midterm Exam – 30%
- Final Term paper – 40%

Course Participation

Course participation encompasses attendance, preparation of sessions (such as reading obligatory literature), and active engagement in class activities, including plenary discussions and group work exercises.

Midterm assignment – reflection paper

For the reflection paper midterm exam, spanning roughly 2 pages (or 750 words), students will draw upon the literature covered in sessions 1-4 to reflect on the intersection of psychoanalysis as a clinical therapy and cultural theory. Each student will craft a guided question based on their personal interests, reading engagement, and learning experiences throughout the course.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam, conducted in-class within a 30-minute timeframe, requires students to select one question out of three provided, focusing on a key concept from psychoanalysis discussed in earlier sessions. Students may refer to print-outs of literature and notes, but internet and AI resources are prohibited during the examination. The midterm exam will be conducted in session 8.

Final term paper

For the final term paper, spanning 4-5 pages or a maximum of 1800 words, students will synthesize their learning journey by applying theoretical knowledge to practical contexts. This involves analyzing one aspect of a movie, social movement, political speech, or historical event through a psychoanalytical lens. Good academic practices, including adherence to formal aspects, citations, and avoidance of plagiarism, are strictly mandated.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Demonstrate comprehension of foundational psychoanalytic approaches as both clinical psychotherapy and cultural theory.
- Develop a sensibility for the historical and cultural context in which psychoanalysis has developed, and its significance for contemporary psychodynamic theory and therapy.
- Recognize, apprehend and retain key psychoanalytical terms and concepts at the juncture of clinical therapy and cultural theory
- Reflect and assess the advantages and disadvantages of employing psychoanalytic theories in the examination of contemporary culture, including the transferability of clinical concepts to social phenomena
- Tentatively apply psychoanalytic terms and concepts to analyze contemporary social and cultural phenomena

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

IES Abroad Vienna requires attendance at all class sessions. Attendance will be taken every class. Students must attend at least 60% of their class sessions to qualify for a passing grade, regardless of whether their absences have been excused or not. Students are highly encouraged to communicate absences as soon as possible to their professors and for excused absences using the processes described in the absence policy. Please refer to the IES Abroad Vienna Absence Policy for a more precise overview of all attendance policy and an overview of possible grade penalties.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

At IES Abroad Vienna, we hold ourselves to the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity. Any form of academic dishonesty undermines the principles of trust and fairness essential to a thriving learning community. As such, plagiarism and cheating are considered serious violations of our code of conduct, and students found engaging in such activities will face swift and severe consequences, ranging from a failing grade on an assignment, to an academic review and possible expulsion from the program.

USE OF AI:

The use of AI for assignments is not permitted. AI is solely allowed as a research tool, with explicit acknowledgment and reflection on its specific use and application.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments and Readings
Week 1	Introduction & Foundations Session 1. Getting to know each other: Content & setting of our seminar Session 2. An uncanny discovery: Introduction to Freud and Psychoanalysis	READINGS • Freud, S. (1916). Introductory lectures to psychoanalysis, Lecture 1. (pp. 15-35). • Gay, P. (1998). <i>Freud: A life for our time</i>. WW Norton & Company. (Introduction) • Storr, A. (2001). Chapter 1 "Life and character" (pp. 1-17) & Chapter 2 "From trauma to phantasy" (pp. 17-28)

Week 2	Foundations (cont.) Session 3. Then and now: Psychoanalysis as clinical psychotherapy Session 4. Beyond the couch: Psychoanalysis as a social science & cultural theory	READINGS - Shedler, J. (2022). That was then, this is now: Psychoanalytic psychotherapy for the rest of us. (pp. 405-437). - Storr, A. (2001). Chapter 11 "Psychoanalysis Today" (pp. 132-141) - Rank, Otto ([1924] 1996). Psychoanalysis as a cultural factor (p.85-95) - Kaye, H. (2018). "Preface" (pp. vii-ix) & Chapter 1, "Was Freud a medical scientist or social theorist?" (pp. 1-14) Midterm assignment: reflection paper
Week 3	Key Concepts Session 5. Under pressure: the structural model (Ego-id-superego) Session 6. No sharp contrast: Individual and social psychology	READINGS - Storr, A. (2001). Chapter 5 "Ego, superego and Id," (pp. 55-68) - Freud, S. ([1921] 1955). <i>Group psychology and the analysis of the ego</i>. (Chapters 1-4)
Week 4	Concepts (cont.) Session 7. Seductive attraction: libido, identification, narcissism and aggression in (large) group dynamics Session 8. Beyond Freud: Kleinian approaches	READINGS - Freud, S. ([1921] 1955). <i>Group psychology and the analysis of the ego</i>. (Chapters 5-8) - Kernberg, O. (2003). Sanctioned social violence: A psychoanalytic view-Part I. (pp. 683-698.) - Kernberg, O. (2003). Sanctioned social violence: A psychoanalytic view. Part II (pp. 953-968). Midterm exam
Week 5	Applications: Cases and Examples Session 9. For a higher cause: analyzing fanatic/frenetic group dynamics Session 10. Greatest among all regular men: (neo-)authoritarian leaders and (neo-)fascist propaganda	READINGS - Fuchsman, K., & Castelleo, M. (2020). The anatomy of narcissistic leadership: Interview with Otto Kernberg (pp. 24-33). - Lunbeck, E. (2020). The allure of Trump's narcissism (pp. 34-40) - Adorno, T. W. (1951). Freudian theory and the pattern of fascist propaganda. (pp. 118-137). FILMS: - Gansel, D. (Director). (2008). <i>The Wave</i> [Film]. Constantin Film. - Trump-Speech (2022). [YouTube Footage]

Week 6	Applications (cont.) & wrap-up Session 11. "We/others": Understanding psychodynamics of racism Session 12. Wrap up and outlook	- Bass, A. (2021). Murderous racism as normal psychosis 1. (pp. 158-181). FILMS: - I am not your Negro (2016) Assignment: Final term paper (concept sketch)

COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Freud museum

REQUIRED AND RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Adorno, T. W. (1951). Freudian theory and the pattern of fascist propaganda. In A. Arato & E. Gebhardt (Eds.), *The essential Frankfurt school reader* (pp. 118-137). Continuum International Publishing Group. New York, NY.
- Bass, A. (2021). Murderous racism as normal psychosis 1. In Moss, D., & Zeavin, L. (Eds.). (2021). *Hating, Abhorring and Wishing to Destroy: Psychoanalytic Essays on the Contemporary Moment*. (pp. 158-181). Routledge.
- Freud, S. ([1921] 1955). *Group psychology and the analysis of the ego*. In J. Strachey (Ed.), *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 18). Hogarth Press.
- Freud, S. ([1916] 1955). Introductory lectures to psychoanalysis, Lecture 1. In J. Strachey (Ed.), *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud* (Vol. 15, pp. 15-35). Hogarth Press.
- Fuchsman, K., & Castelloe, M. (2020). The anatomy of narcissistic leadership: Interview with Otto Kernberg. In MacCoby, M. & Fuchsman, K. (Eds.) *Psychoanalytic and Historical Perspectives on the Leadership of Donald Trump* (pp. 24-33). Routledge.
- Gay, P. (1998). *Freud: A life for our time*. WW Norton & Company.
- Kaye, H. L. (2018). *Freud as a social and cultural theorist: On human nature and the civilizing process*. London: Routledge.
- Kernberg, O. F. (2003a). Sanctioned social violence: A psychoanalytic view-Part I. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 84(3), 683-698.
- Kernberg, O. F. (2003b). Sanctioned social violence: A psychoanalytic view. Part II. *The International Journal of Psychoanalysis*, 84(4), 953-968.
- Lunbeck, E. (2020). The allure of Trump's narcissism. In MacCoby, M. & Fuchsman, K. (Eds.) *Psychoanalytic and Historical Perspectives on the Leadership of Donald Trump* (pp. 34-40). Routledge.
- Rank, Otto. Psychoanalysis as a cultural factor (p.85-95) In: *A Psychology of Difference. The American Lectures*. Selected, edited and introduced by Robert Kramer. With a foreword by Rollo May. Princeton, University Press New Jersey. 1996
- Shedler, J. (2022). That was then, this is now: Psychoanalytic psychotherapy for the rest of us. *Contemporary Psychoanalysis*, 58(2-3), 405-437.
- Storr, A. (2001). *Freud: A very short introduction*. OUP Oxford.

FILMS

We will watch sequences from various movies and documentaries, including:

- Gansel, D. (Director). (2008). *The Wave* [Film]. Constantin Film.
- Peck, R. (Director). (2016). *I Am Not Your Negro* [Documentary]. Magnolia Pictures.
- Alvarez, K. (Director). (2015). *The Stanford Prison Experiment* [Film]. IFC Films.



- Former President Trump speaks at 'Save America' rally, Texas. (2022).
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvlcJDCYJh0&t=2909s>