CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title: Psychoanalysis and Art

Course code: PSYC 3004 PRAG

Programs offering course: Central European Studies, Communication, New Media, and Journalism

Language of instruction: English

U.S. semester credits: 3

Contact hours: 45

Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

What is Art? What emotions or sensations do you feel when you create? What is the relationship between art, dreams, mourning, phantasy, symbolization, subjectivity, identity, sexuality, and the unconscious? This course seeks to introduce the area of overlap between psychoanalysis and art, including the mutual influences, borrowings, and inspirations between these two supposedly separate domains. It includes a look at the psychodynamics of the creative process and what motivates us to do art. It looks at the aesthetic experience, how psychoanalysis can help us understand the powerful phenomenon of being confronted with a work of art, art taken in its broadest sense. This leads us to study developments in psychoanalytic aesthetics, explored with various examples from painting, literature, and film. The course also looks at the therapeutic aspect of art and at the contemporary clinical practice of art therapy, including experiential art therapy workshops. The course covers the following main areas: 1. The psychoanalysis of the creative process, what is going on psychodynamically when we create. 2. The aesthetic experience, how we understand the powerful experience of being confronted with a work of art. 3. Psychoanalytic aesthetics and criticism (including film theory). 4. The therapeutic aspects of art and the artistic aspects of therapy and psychoanalysis. 6. Art therapy. The areas of art which will be covered during the course focus on Czech art and art from the surrounding region and will include: 1. Jokes and humor. 2. Dreams and art. 3. Fairy tales and myth. 4. Surrealism. 5. Tragedy, mourning, depression, and creativity. 6. Play, laughter, and comedy. 7. Franz Kafka and literature. 8. Jan Svankmajer. 9. Psychoanalytic criticism (including films). 10. Horror and the uncanny. 11. Other examples of historical and contemporary art from various era's and genres.
Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- apply main psychoanalytic concepts to explain and interpret different aspects of art (including the creative process, aesthetic experience, art, literature, film, myth, and fairy tales); analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the studied material;
- compare and contrast between the psychoanalytical theories, outlining the limits and controversies individual psychoanalytical theories imply when describing the same phenomena;
- demonstrate and defend their individual critical evaluation of art and aesthetics and critically review other fellow students' positions.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

The course will consist of lectures, close-reading, discussion, class trips, activities and student presentations.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Midterm Exam 20%
2. Reflection Paper 15%
3. Presentation 15%
4. Final Essay 30%
5. Class Participation 20%

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Midterm Exam

In-class exam. Students will select 3 mini-essay questions from a choice of four or five topics related to the material covered in the first half of the course.

Mid-term Exam will be administered on October 29.
Reflection Paper

A short analysis (750 words) of an artifact (a text, film, video clip, etc.) of your choice in relation to the topics discussed in class and/or assigned reading.

Reflection Paper is due on November 30.

Presentation

Over the semester, one formal presentation is required. Its aim is to share your research and facilitate discussion by provoking group dialogue and/or debate.

In groups of two or three psychoanalyse a film, documentary or other audio-visual media (e.g. website, radio broadcast), collectively interpret it through interactive commentary, and raise at least three questions for group discussion.

An outline of the presentation is to be submitted to the instructor at least 24 hours prior to its delivery. The outline should contain:

- Title of the presentation and names of presenters.
- Brief summary of the topic and any media that will be used (provide online links if any).
- How you relate this media to psychoanalytic themes/concepts/theories discussed in class or discovered through your own research.
- What similar and contrasting opinions emerged through your discussion of the media, on what points or lines of thought you converge and diverge, why you think it is interesting and insightful for the psychoanalysis of society (both individually and collectively).
- 3 questions for group discussion.

Final Essay

A final essay (2250 – 2500 words) is due by Thursday, December 20, 11:59 p.m. The essay can be on a topic and question of your choice. You can turn an aspect of your presentation or reflection paper into an essay. The essay will be graded on the basis of these basic requirements: (a) applying knowledge and ideas relevant to our classes, interpreting a socio-cultural phenomenon through psychoanalysis; (b) taking an independent position and developing your own analysis (not merely survey or
restating views already taken by others) supported by reasons/evidence; (c) consideration of alternative views and examination of objections or counter-evidence to your main claim(s)/conclusion(s); (d) discussion of your view in relation to previous research and psychoanalytic interpretations; (e) reference to two or more of the articles discussed in class and showing evidence of your own independent research. Please submit your essay through Canvas.

Class Participation

CIEE Prague Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences are treated equally regardless of reason for any affected CIEE course. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursions or events, as well as Internship.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

Missing classes will lead to the following penalties:

90-minute semester classes:

180-minute semester classes:
Persistent absenteeism (students approaching 20% of the total course hours missed, or violating the attendance policy in more than one class) will result in a written warning, a notification to the student’s home school, and possibly a dismissal from the program.

Missing more than 20% of the total class hours will lead to a course failure, and potential program dismissal. This is a CIEE rule that applies to all CIEE courses and is in line with the Participant Contract that each CIEE student signs before arriving on-site.

Late arrival to class will be considered a partial (up to 15 minutes late) or full (15 or more minutes late) absence. Three partial absences due to late arrivals will be regarded as one full class absence.

Students must notify their professor and Program Coordinators (PC) beforehand if they are going to miss class for any reason and are responsible for any material covered in class in their absence.

If missing a class during which a test, exam, the student’s presentation or other graded class assignments are administered, make-up assignment will only be allowed in approved circumstances, such as serious medical issues. In this case, the student must submit a local doctor’s note within 24 hours of his/her absence to the PC, who will decide whether the student qualifies for a make-up assignment. Doctor’s notes may be submitted via e-mail or phone (a scan or a photograph are acceptable), however the student must ensure that the note is delivered to the PC.

Should a truly extraordinary situation arise, the student must contact the PC immediately concerning permission for a make-up assignment. Make-up assignments are not granted automatically! The PC decides the course of action for all absence cases that are not straightforward. Always contact the PC with any inquiry about potential absence(s) and the nature thereof.

Personal travel (including flight delays and cancelled flights), handling passport and other document replacements, interviews, volunteering and other similar situations are not considered justifiable reasons for missing class or getting permission for make-up assignments.
For class conflicts (irregularities in the class schedule, including field trips, make-up classes and other instances), always contact the Academic Assistant to decide the appropriate course of action.

Course attendance is recorded on individual Canvas Course Sites. Students are responsible for checking their attendance regularly to ensure the correctness of the records. In case of discrepancies, students are required to contact the Academic Assistant within one week of the discrepancy date to have it corrected. Later claims will not be considered.

CIEE staff does not directly manage absences at FAMU and ECES, but they have similar attendance policies and attendance is monitored there. Grade penalties may result from excessive absences.

CIEE Academic Honesty Policy

CIEE subscribes to standard U.S. norms requiring that students exhibit the highest standards regarding academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment or exam will not be tolerated and may result in a student failing the course or being expelled from the program. Standards of honesty and norms governing originality of work differ significantly from country to country. We expect students to adhere to both the American norms and the local norms, and in the case of conflict between the two, the more stringent of the two will preside. Three important principles are considered when defining and demanding academic honesty. These are related to the fundamental tenet that one should not present the work of another person as one’s own.

The first principle is that final examinations, quizzes and other tests must be done without assistance from another person, without looking at or otherwise consulting the work of another person, and without access to notes, books, or other pertinent information (unless the professor has explicitly announced that a particular test is to be taken on an “open book” basis).

The second principle applies specifically to course work: the same written paper may not be submitted in two classes. Nor may a paper for which you have already received credit at your home institution be submitted to satisfy a paper requirement while studying overseas.
The third principle is that any use of the work of another person must be documented in any written papers, oral presentations, or other assignments carried out in connection with a course. This usually is done when quoting directly from another’s work or including information told to you by another person. The general rule is that if you have to look something up, or if you learned it recently either by reading or hearing something, you have to document it.

The penalty ranges from an F grade on the assignment, failure in the course to dismissal from the program. The Academic Director is consulted and involved in decision making in every case of a possible violation of academic honesty.

**Attendance**

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences will result in a lower participation grade for any affected CIEE course. Due to the intensive schedules for short-term programs, absences that constitute more than 10% of the total course will result in a written warning.

Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

For CIEE classes, excessively tardy (over 15 minutes late) students must be marked absent. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as to Internship, Service Learning, or required field placement. Students who miss class for personal travel, including unforeseen delays that arise as a result of personal travel, will be marked as absent. No make-up or re-sit opportunity will be provided.

Attendance policies also apply to any required class excursion, with the exception that some class excursions cannot accommodate any tardiness, and students risk being marked as absent if they fail to be present at the appointed time.

Absences will lead to the following penalties:
N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

### Weekly Schedule

#### Week 1

**Class**  
Introduction to the course.

The outline of the course and mutual expectations. Getting to know each other.

Background to Freudian psychoanalysis.


**Reading:**

Sartre (2013)

Freud (1955)

#### Week 2

**Class**  
Freudian Key Concepts and Theories

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of Total Course Hours Missed</th>
<th>Minimum Penalty</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 – 20%</td>
<td>Participation graded as per class requirements; grade penalty &amp; <strong>written warning</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Automatic <strong>course failure</strong>, and possible expulsion</td>
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Reading:

Freud (1955)

Week 3
Class Psychoanalysis and Exemplary Works of Art


Reading:

Sophocles (1912)

Week 4
Class Psychoanalysis and Creativity

Application of Freudian concepts in discussion of creativity, dreams, jokes, and surrealism. Free association, jokes, slips, and the unconscious.

Reading:

Freud (1966)

Week 5
Class Psychoanalysis: A Jungian Perspective

Reading:

Jung (1964)

Week 6
Class Midterm Exam

An in-class exam.

Field trip

Andy Warhol and Salvador Dalí exhibitions

Week 7
Class Psychoanalysis and Daydreaming

Freud on creative writers and wish-fulfillment. Psychodynamics of creativity: phantasy and sublimation.

Reading:

Freud (1985)

The Therapeutic Power of Art

Art as a means of dealing with personal trauma. Petr Ginz, Arnošt Lustig. The ‘Scapegoat complex’. Art from the concentration camps.

Week 8
Class Guest Speaker:

Olga Marlin: “Psychoanalysis of Communism.”

Psychoanalysis and Film I

Screening:

Three Colors: Red

Week 9
Class         Psychoanalysis and Film II


Screening:

Eyes Wide Shut

Reading:

Schnitzler (1971)

Week 10
Class         The Uncanny in Kafka and Švankmajer

Exploring unique worlds created by the writer Franz Kafka and Jan Švankmajer, a Czech surrealist, film maker, sculptor, and animator.

Screening:

Faust

Reading:

Kafka (1998)

Field Trip

Kafka Museum

Reflection Paper due by Thursday midnight.

Week 11
Class Reactions to Freudian Theory


Reading:

Wittgenstein (1966)

Thursday, December 6: CIEE Prague Academic Conference

Presentation outline due by Thursday midnight.

Week 12
Class Applied psychoanalysis: Group presentations I

Group presentations and discussion.

Applied psychoanalysis: Group presentations II

Group presentations and discussion.

Week 13
Class Final Exam Week

Applied psychoanalysis: Group presentations III

Group presentations and discussion.

Applied psychoanalysis: Group presentations IV; Conclusions

Group presentations and discussion.

Final paper due by Thursday midnight.

Course Materials

Readings
Primary reading

Primary readings will be available in the course-reader (printed version available from CIEE reception; electronic version available via Canvas).


Secondary reading


