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: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

This course examines the influence of psychoanalysis and art on each other. It primarily focuses on dream psychology, psychology of the creative process, and aesthetic experience. Students explore basic conceptions of psychoanalytic psychology, including the unconscious, the formation of dreams, and conditionality of love. The psychoanalytic theory is evidenced with examples from visual art, literature, and film, some of which are explored through field trips to current exhibitions of Czech and international art, offering a first-hand experience. In addition to theoretical study of psychoanalysis and its application on art and artistic process, including the psychoanalysis of the creative process, the aesthetic experience, and psychoanalytic aesthetics and criticism (including film theory), students also employ the theories and techniques related to the creative process to critically reflect on a work of art or to produce one of their own, accompanied by a reflection on their own creative process. The areas of art covered during the course include dreams and art, jokes and humor, surrealism, and the uncanny.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- apply main psychoanalytic concepts to explain and interpret different aspects of art;
- use basic psychoanalytic procedures and techniques in their own creative process;
- methodically work with their aesthetic experience;
- demonstrate and defend their individual critical evaluation of art and aesthetics and critically review their peers’ 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**

Assessment of students’ participation in class is an inherent component of the course grade. Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Students are required to actively, meaningfully and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions and all types of in-class activities throughout the duration of the class.

Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed, in advance of each class session. This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Students are responsible for following the course content and are expected to ask clarification questions if they cannot follow the instructor’s or other students’ line of thought or argumentation.

The use of electronic devices is only allowed for computer-based in-class tests, assignments and other tasks specifically assigned by the course instructor. Students are expected to take notes by hand unless the student is entitled to the use of computer due to his/her academic accommodations. In such cases the student is required to submit an official letter issued by his/her home institution specifying the extent of academic accommodations.

Class participation also includes students’ active participation in Canvas discussions and other additional tasks related to the course content as specified by the instructor.

**Attendance**
Regular class attendance is required throughout the program.

If you will miss a class for any reason, notify the Program Coordinator and your instructor beforehand via Canvas. You are responsible for any materials covered in class during your absence, and except in the specific cases listed below, credit will not be granted for missed assessments.

Excessive absences will result in a notification letter, and finally a warning letter, sent to you and your home school, based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of course hours missed</th>
<th>Number of CIEE classes</th>
<th>Minimum penalty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>One to Three 90-min. classes; or One 180-min. class</td>
<td>No penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% - 20%</td>
<td>Four 90-min. classes</td>
<td>Written notification* to the student, followed by a warning letter to the student and home school; 3% reduction in the final grade</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Five 90-min. classes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Two 180-min. classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Six 90-min. classes; or Three 180-min. classes</td>
<td>Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion with notification to the home school</td>
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* The notification letters are intended to ensure that you are well advised in advance of any potential for failure or dismissal, so that you can take steps to avoid this.

As the table shows, missing more than 20% of any class (e.g., due to undocumented illness, travel delays, flight cancellations, over-sleeping, etc.) results in automatic failure of the course.

If you miss an assessment in class due to an absence, you will be able to make it up in the following instances:

- You provide a relevant doctor's note from a local medical professional to your Program Coordinator within 24 hours of your absence (a scan or photograph sent via e-mail are acceptable)
- A CIEE staff member verifies that you were too ill to attend class.
- You provide evidence of a family emergency to your Program Coordinator.
- You have an approved absence related to the observance of a religious holiday from the Academic Director based on a request submitted before you arrived onsite.

Please note: Absences incurred due to documented illness, documented family emergency or the observance of a religious holiday approved before arrival onsite do not count towards the total of absences. Students may self-certify one absence due to illness without providing a doctor's note as long as they notify the Program Coordinator within 24 hours of their absence by e-mail or a text message.

Other attendance-related policies

If you transfer from one CIEE class to another during the Add/Drop period, you will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of the new class provided you were marked present for the first session(s) of the original class.

If you are over 15 minutes late for a class, the instructor is required to mark you absent.

In case of class conflicts (irregularities in the class schedule, including field trips and make-up classes), always contact the Academic Department to decide the appropriate course of action.

Please remember to track your attendance on the Canvas Course Sites and report any errors in the record to the Academic Department within one week of the discrepancy date, as later claims may not be considered.

These attendance rules also apply to any required co-curricular excursion, activity, or event, and to for-credit internships.

CIEE staff does not manage absences at partner institutions providing direct enrollment classes (FAMU, ECES and FSV), but they have similar attendance policies and attendance is monitored there. Grade penalties may result from excessive absences.

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


**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:**
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*


