Course title: Psychoanalysis and Society
Course code: PSYC 3005 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 explores the relationship between psyche and society, discussing social, cultural, and historical issues through the lens of psychoanalysis. The social is needed to contextualize the psyche but equally any explanation which leaves out a deep nuanced study of human subjectivity is impoverished and unable to account for the richness of the reality investigated. Throughout the course, students consider how the psychology of the individual – and the individual’s mental health or illness – consistently relates to different aspects of the social. The course explores the connections between psychoanalysis and education, religion, nationalism, war, politics, family, sex, consumerism, art and film. It aims to stimulate curiosity, questioning, dialog, independent research and thinking. Students are encouraged to reflect on issues covered and develop their own perspective through research and dialog with others.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- apply definitions and main psychoanalytic concepts to explain and interpret different political and cultural phenomena;
- compare and contrast psychoanalytic concepts/theories and discuss their limitations;
- engage with and reflect critically on different perspectives for explaining and understanding mental illness;
- analyze, synthesize, and evaluate required readings and course material in discussion, presentations, and written assignments.

Course Prerequisites

None

Methods of Instruction

Lecture, class discussion, group activities.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Presentation 15%
2. Midterm Exam 20%
3. Reflection Paper 15%
4. Final Essay 30%
5. Class Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

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 the student relates this media to psychoanalytic themes/concepts/theories discussed in class or discovered through his/her own research.
- What similar and contrasting opinions emerged through the student’s 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.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam will assess students’ understanding of the covered material and ability to apply theoretical knowledge when interpreting works of art. Students are expected to demonstrate a solid grasp of the theoretical issues and make a good case to support their argument.

The midterm in-class exam will consist of three mini-essay questions from a choice of four or five topics related to the material covered in the first half of the course.

Reflection Paper

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

Final Essay

A final essay (2250 – 2500) is due Class 2 of the Final Week. The essay can be on a topic and question of students’ choice. Students 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 students’ 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 students’ main claim(s)/conclusion(s); (d) discussion of students’ 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 students’ own independent research. Essays will be submitted via Canvas.

Class Participation

Assessment of students’ participation in class is an inherent component of the course grade. 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.

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. If missing a class, the student is expected to catch up on the class content and to submit well-reflected and in-depth contributions to Canvas discussions on the particular topic or reflections to the instructor to ensure that his/her absence from the class will not significantly affect his/her participation grade.

Students will receive a partial participation grade every three weeks.

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>
</tr>
</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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Five 90-min. classes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two 180-min classes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<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>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* 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 enrolment 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:**
Freud, S. (1925)

**Week 2**
Class: Theoretical Aspects of Freudian Psychoanalysis

Key concepts in psychoanalysis: the structure of the psychical apparatus. Id, Ego, Super-ego. Eros and Thanatos.

**Reading:**
Freud, S. (1925)

**Week 3**
Class: Psychoanalysis of Civilization I

Analysis of Freud’s *Civilization and Its Discontents*. Freud on religion

**Reading:**
Freud, S. (1962)

**Week 4**
Class: Psychoanalysis of Civilization II

Analysis of Freud’s *Civilization and Its Discontents*. Eros and Thanatos

**Freud, Einstein, and Jung on War.**

**Reading:**
Freud, S./Einstein (1962)

**Week 5**
Class: Psychoanalysis of authoritarian society I


**Psychoanalysis of authoritarian society II**
Bruno Bettelheim's experiences in the concentration camps.

**Reading:**
Bettelheim, B. (1943)

**Week 6**
Class: Midterm Exam

**Field Trip**
Week 7
Class: Psychoanalysis of Groups

Close-reading of Freud’s “Group Psychology and Analysis of the Ego”. Principles of group formation from Le Bon’s Psychology of Crowds and MacDougall’s The Group Mind.

Reading

Freud, S. (1975)

Week 8
Class: Psychoanalysis of Communism

Guest speaker: Olga Marlin

Politics, Psychoanalysis & Art

Nazi propaganda I: The Fate of the Avant-Garde in Nazi Germany. The Scapegoat complex.

Reading

Hitler’s Speech at the Opening of the House of German Art in Munich (July 18, 1937).

Week 9
Class: Psychoanalysis and Propaganda

Nazi propaganda II: The mythology of the Third Reich.

Screening

Leni Riefenstahl’s Triumph of the Will.

Happiness-Machines

Edward Bernays: propaganda and advertising.

Screening

The Century of the Self.

Week 10
Class: Contemporary Interpretations of Psychoanalysis


Reading

Fromm, E. The Sane Society.

Reflection Paper due by Class 1

Contemporary Interpretations of Psychoanalysis II

R.D. Laing and phenomenological-existential psychoanalysis. Inter-generational trauma. Psychoanalysis and survivors.

Reading

Laing, R. (1967).

Week 11
Class: The Asylum and the Society

The history of Irish mental institutions: documentary and discussion.

Presentation outline due for Group Presentations 1
Applied Psychoanalysis: Group Presentations 1

Group presentations and discussion

Presentation outline due for Group Presentations 2

Week 12

Class: Applied Psychoanalysis: Group Presentations 2

Group presentations and discussion

Presentation outline due for Group Presentations 3

Applied Psychoanalysis: Group Presentations 3

Group presentations and discussion

Week 13

Class: Final Exam Week

Discussion summarizing group presentations, their findings, concepts and relevance to course topics.

End-of-course discussion and course evaluation

Final Paper due by Class 2

Course Materials

Readings

Primary readings


Further readings


