

Fall/Winter 2018-2019

AP/EN 3020 6.0A (Y)

PSYCHOANALYSIS AND APPROACHES TO LITERATURE

Course Director:

Elena Basile

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Office Location and Hours: Bethune 309, Tuesday 10:00-11:00 am or after class

Delivery Format:

Seminar

Time:

Tuesday 11:30 – 2:30 pm, Stong 214

Description:

This course is an introduction to the study of psychoanalysis in the context of literary and cultural studies. Its purpose is to encourage students to approach literary texts through the lens offered by psychoanalysis and psychoanalytically informed cultural theory. Far from being confined to the private relation between therapist and patient, Freud's discovery of the unconscious at the turn of the 20th century has had far reaching implications on how today we understand the psychic dynamics of culture, particularly in relation to questions of identity and desire. The course will provide a general introduction to the thought of Sigmund Freud, Melanie Klein, Jacques Lacan and others, and will look at how their theories apply to the reading of a wide range of literary texts, including some 19th century classics and contemporary fiction. Throughout the year we will read excerpts from a number of psychoanalytically informed cultural theorists and we will use their insights to help us address questions of sexuality, race, postcoloniality and the economies of desire in the age of late capital.

Category:

A

Historical Requirement:

N/A

Requirements:

Participation 5% In class and online collaboration on wikis before exams
4 Journal Entries 20% 2 in the Fall and 2 in Winter (up to 5 points per entry)
First Essay 15% (6 to 8 pages) Due on November 9, 2018
Mid-Term Exam 15% TBA
Oral Presentation 10% Sign-up dates: Oct 16-Nov 27 and Jan. 15-March 26
Second Essay 20% (8-10 pages) Due on March 12, 2019
Final Exam 15% TBA

Reading List:

The Language of Psychoanalysis , by Laplanche and Pontalis
Sigmund Freud *The Interpretation of Dreams; Beyond the Pleasure Principle*
Sophocles *Oedipus the King*
Oscar Wilde *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Jamaica Kincaid *My Brother*
Leopold Von Sacher-Masoch *Venus In Furs*
Angela Carter *The Bloody Chamber*
Tayeb Salih *Season of Migration to the North*
Maxine Hong Kingston *The Woman Warrior*
Nicole Brossard *Mauve Desert*
Rachel Zolf *Masque*
J.M. Coetzee *Disgrace*

Please Note:

The books listed above and a Course Kit with the mandatory theoretical readings are available at the York Bookstore. Some readings will be available online. Optional readings are also on reserve in the library.

Open To:

Year 3, 4