

Evolution of Psychoanalytic Concepts I: Introduction to Freud

D. Thurn / Fall 2019

Syllabus

It is not a good thing to work on a case scientifically while treatment is still proceeding – to piece together its structure, to try to foretell its further progress, and to get a picture from time to time of the current state of affairs, as scientific interest would demand. Cases which are devoted from the first to scientific purposes and are treated accordingly suffer in their outcome; while the most successful cases are those in which one proceeds, as it were, without any purpose in view, allows oneself to be taken by surprise by any new turn in them, and always meets them with an open mind, free from any presuppositions.

Sigmund Freud, "Recommendations to Physicians Practising Psycho-Analysis" (1912)

In psychology, we can only describe things by the help of analogies. There is nothing peculiar in this; it is the case elsewhere as well. But we have constantly to keep changing these analogies, for none of them lasts us long enough.

Sigmund Freud, *The Question of Lay Analysis* (1926)

They [Marx and Freud] cleared a space for the introduction of elements other than their own, which, nevertheless, remain within the field of discourse they initiated. In saying that Freud founded psychoanalysis, we do not simply mean that the concept of libido or the technique of dream analysis reappear in the writings of Karl Abraham or Melanie Klein, but that he made possible a certain number of differences with respect to his books, concepts, and hypotheses, which all arise out of psychoanalytic discourse.

Michel Foucault, "What is an Author?" (1969)

*. . . one who'd lived among enemies so long;
if often he was wrong and, at times, absurd,
to us he is no more a person
now but a whole climate of opinion
under whom we conduct our different lives . . .*

W. H. Auden, "In Memory of Sigmund Freud" (1939)

Course Description

This course will trace the movement of Freud's thinking as he struggles to address theoretical and clinical problems that arise within several broad areas of inquiry, including trauma, dreams, sexuality, object relations, and culture. We will explore Freud's contributions in three major phases of his career, each organized around a specific model of the mind, and consider their implications for psychoanalysis as a theory of the de-centered subject.

We will treat psychoanalysis as both a theoretical discourse and a reflexive clinical procedure which assumes a radical alterity at the heart of human subjectivity and relationship. As such, the course will provide an opportunity to examine what we might call "the vicissitudes of the other" in Freud's thought as it unfolds in the space marked out by the conflicting claims of mind and body, inside and outside, imagination and reality, determinism and chance, singularity and universality, and self and other.

Each of the three phases in Freud's thinking as it appears in our readings will feature a significant intellectual and clinical encounter: with cases of hysteria, which will lead Freud, under the influence of Charcot, to break with the assumptions of German materialist physiology, to propose a bold new notion of psychic causality, and to lay the groundwork for a radical theory of sexuality; with the mystery of dreams, which will produce not only an interpretive discipline for addressing the productions of the unconscious, but an entire theory of psychic structure and activity; and with melancholia, which will instigate the creation of a new theory of the divided mind, and the (re-)emergence of a theory of object relations based more fully on the claims of external reality.

Supplementary Reading [Rec.]

General Reference

J. Laplanche & J.-B. Pontalis, The Language of Psycho-Analysis. Trans. Donald Nicholson-Smith (Norton, 1973).

Introductions

Sigmund Freud, Five Lectures on Psycho-Analysis. SE, 11:7-55.

Stephen A. Mitchell & Margaret J. Black, Freud and Beyond: A History of Modern Psychoanalytic Thought (Basic Books, 1995), Ch. 1, "Sigmund Freud and the Classical Psychoanalytic Tradition," pp. 1-22.

Pamela Thurschwell, Sigmund Freud, 2nd Edition (Routledge, 2009).

Richard Wollheim, Freud, 2nd Edition (Fontana, 1991).

Jay R. Greenberg & Stephen A. Mitchell, Object Relations in Psychoanalytic Theory (Harvard, 1983), Ch. 2, "Sigmund Freud: The Drive/Structure Model," pp. 21-49, and Ch. 3, "Sigmund Freud: The Strategy of Accommodation," pp. 50-78.

Jean-Michel Quinodoz, Reading Freud: A Chronological Exploration of Freud's Writings (Routledge, 2005).

Bruce Fink, A Clinical Introduction to Freud: Techniques for Everyday Practice (Norton, 2017).

Intellectual Contexts

George Makari, Revolution in Mind: The Creation of Psychoanalysis (Harper, 2008).

Biography

Peter Gay, Freud: A Life for Our Time (Anchor Books, 1989).

Louis Breger, Freud: Darkness in the Midst of Vision (John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2000).

Adam Phillips, Becoming Freud: The Making of a Psychoanalyst (Yale, 2014).

Sexuality / Gender / Race

Mari Jo Buhle, Feminism and Its Discontents: A Century of Struggle with Psychoanalysis (Harvard University Press, 1998).

Tim Dean and Christopher Lane, eds., Homosexuality and Psychoanalysis (University of Chicago Press, 2001).

Celia Brickman, Race in Psychoanalysis: Aboriginal Populations of the Mind (Routledge, 2018).

Christopher Lane, ed., The Psychoanalysis of Race (Columbia, 1998).

Schedule

9/10. Class 1. Introduction: Reading Freud

Freud, S. (1893). Charcot. S.E. 3: 11-23.

9/17. Class 2. Beginnings: Clinical Encounters

Breuer, J. and S. Freud. (1895). Studies on Hysteria. Cases of Frau Emmy von N. (S.E. 2: 48-59, 67-70 [footnote 1], 85-105); Miss Lucy R. (S.E. 2: 106-25); Fraulein Elisabeth von R. (S.E. 2: 135-81)

9/24. Class 3. Seduction, Trauma, and Psychic Causation

Freud, S. (1894). The Neuro-Psychoses of Defense. S.E. 3: 45-61.

Freud, S. (1896). The Aetiology of Hysteria. S.E. 3: 191-221.

Breuer, J. and Freud, S. (1893). On the Psychical Mechanism of Hysterical Phenomena: Preliminary Communication. S.E. 2: 3-17. [Rec.]

10/1. Class 4. The Secret of Dreams

Freud, S. (1900). The Interpretation of Dreams. Ch. 2, The Method of Interpreting Dreams: An Analysis of a Specimen Dream (S.E. 4: 96-121); Ch. 3, A Dream is the Fulfilment of a Wish (S.E. 4: 122- 33); Ch. 5, The Material and Sources of Dreams (sel.). (S.E. 4: 163-64; 189-204; 216-19)

No Class October 8 (Yom Kippur)

10/15. Class 5. The Dream-Work and the Psychic Apparatus

Freud, S. (1900). The Interpretation of Dreams. Ch. 6, The Dream-Work (sel.). (S.E. 4: 277-84, 292-97, 304: last par. [condensation]; 305-09 [displacement]; 310-30, 337-38 [means of representation]; 339-342 [considerations of representability]; 488-93, 498-501, 506-08 [secondary revision])

Ch. 7. S.E. 4: 509-621. [Rec.]

10/22. Class 6. Infantile Sexuality and Drive Theory

Freud, S. (1905). Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality. Parts I & II. S.E. 7: 135-206.

Freud, S. (1915). Instincts and Their Vicissitudes. S.E. 14: 109-140. [Rec.]

10/29. Class 7. A Case Study in Infantile Sexuality: Little Hans

Freud, S. (1909). Analysis of a Phobia in a Five-Year-Old Boy. S.E. 10: 5-149.

Freud, S. (1915). Repression. S.E. 14: 141-158. [Rec.]

Freud, S. (1915). The Unconscious. S.E. 14: 159-215. [Rec.]

11/5. Class 8: The Oedipus Complex

Freud, S. (1925). Some Psychological Consequences of the Anatomical Distinction Between the Sexes. S.E. 19: 241-258.

Freud, S. (1924). The Dissolution of the Oedipus Complex. S.E. 19: 171-179. [Rec.]

Freud, S. (1931). Female Sexuality. S.E. 21: 221-43. [Rec.]

Rajunov, Micah, and Duane, Scott, eds. (2019). Nonbinary Memoirs of Gender and Identity (Columbia University Press). [Rec.]

11/12. Class 9. Character, Love, and Sexuality

Freud, S. (1908). Character and Anal Erotism. S.E. 9: 169-175.

Freud, S. 1916). Some Character-Types Met with in Psycho-Analytic Work. S.E. 14: 311-333.

Freud, S. (1910). A Special Type of Choice of Object Made by Men (Contributions to the Psychology of Love I). S.E. 11:165-75.

Freud, S. (1912). On the Universal Tendency to Debasement in the Sphere of Love. (Contributions to the Psychology of Love II). S.E. 11: 179-90.

Freud, S. (1918). The Taboo of Virginity. (Contributions to the Psychology of Love III). S.E. 11: 193-208. [Rec.]

11/19. Class 10. The Institution of Psychoanalysis

Freud, S. (1914). On the History of the Psychoanalytic Movement. S.E. 14: 7-66.

Thurn, D. (2019). [Freud, Rhizome]. Review of Cold War Freud: Psychoanalysis in an Age of Catastrophes by Dagmar Herzog (Cambridge University Press, 2017). Contemporary Psychoanalysis, forthcoming.

Freud, S. (1914). Remembering, Repeating, and Working-Through. S.E. 12: 147-56. [Rec.]

No Class November 26 (Thanksgiving)

12/3. Class 11. Identification and the Splitting of the Ego

Freud, S. (1917). Mourning and Melancholia. S.E.: 243-258.

12/10. Class 12. Identification and the Formation of Groups

Freud, S. (1921). Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego. S.E. 18: 69-143.

12/17. Class 13. The Structural Model of the Mind

Freud, S. (1923). The Ego and the Id. S.E. 19: 12-59.

Winter Break

1/7. Class 14. The Uncanny

Freud, S. (1909). The Uncanny. S.E. 17: 217-252.

Freud, S. (1916-17). Introductory Lectures on Psycho-Analysis. Lecture XXV. Anxiety. S.E. 16-392-411. [Rec.]

Freud, S. (1933). New Introductory Lectures on Psycho-Analysis. Lecture XXXII. Anxiety and Instinctual Life. S.E. 22: 81-95. [Rec.]

Freud, S. (1926). Inhibitions, Symptoms and Anxiety. S.E. 20: 75-174. [Rec.]

1/14. Class 15: Memory and Construction in Analysis

Freud, S. (1937). Constructions in Analysis. S.E. 23: 257-269.

Freud, S. (1918). From the History of an Infantile Neurosis. Ch. 5: The Dream and the Primal Scene. S.E. 17: 29-47.

Freud, S. (1899). Screen Memories. S.E. 3: 303-322.

Freud, S. (1936). A Disturbance of Memory on the Acropolis. S.E. 22: 239-248. [Rec.]