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Hum. 365/Psych. 365  
Fall, 2010  
Tu., Th. 11:00-12:20  
Room 111 East Pyne

## FREUD ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF THE MIND

**Course Description.** An inquiry into the basic nature of the human mind, as understood by Sigmund Freud. For Freud, our basic psychological nature has to do with what impels human thought and behavior. What processes in our minds make us think and act? What is it to think and to act? Why, as a species, do we think and act, when we might have done something else? The aims of the course are both to track Freud's attempt to identify the irreducible, primitive principles of mental life and to reflect on and critique them.

### **Reading**

By S. Freud:

Five lectures on psychoanalysis (1909)  
General psychological theory: "Formulations regarding two principles of mental functioning" (1911); "On narcissism" (1914); "Instincts and their vicissitudes" (1915); "Repression" (1915); "The unconscious" (1915); "Mourning and melancholia" (1917); "The economic problem in masochism" (1924); "Negation" (1925)  
Totem and taboo: Chapter 2, "Taboo and emotional ambivalence" (1913)  
Beyond the pleasure principle (1920)  
The ego and the id (1923)  
Civilization and its discontents (1930)  
An outline of psychoanalysis (1940)

Additional readings to be announced.

All readings are available at the Labyrinth Books and on reserve in Firestone Library.

NOTE: LAPTOPS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN THIS CLASS

Course Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Topic</u>
0	9/16		Introduction
1	9/21	<u>Five lectures on psycho-analysis</u> (1909), Lectures 1-3	Freud's thesis of determinism: all behavior (including thought and feeling) has an explanation.
	9/23	<u>Five lectures</u> , Lectures 4-5	
2	9/28	"Formulations regarding the two principles in mental functioning" (1911) ( <u>Gen. psych. theory</u> )  Excerpt from <u>Interpretation of dreams</u> , 604-606 (1900)(handout)	Freud's attempt to identify those basic principles to which human impulses, and hence all thought and behavior, reduce. Here, the pleasure and reality principles.
	9/30	<u>Totem and taboo</u> , Ch. 2, "Taboo and emotional ambivalence" (1913)	At what moment did the civilized mind begin?
3	10/5	"On narcissism" (1914)	An extra differentiation in human development.
	10/7	"Instincts and their vicissitudes" (1915);	How the basic principles\instincts translate into derivative instincts and into thought and behavior.
4	10/12	"Repression" (1915); "Negation" (1925)	
	10/14	"The Unconscious" (1915)	
5	10/19	"Mourning and melancholia" (1917)	
	10/19	<b>FIRST PAPER due</b>	
	10/21	<u>Beyond the pleasure principle</u> (1920), Chs. 1-3	"repetition compulsion," constancy principle, introduction of the death v. life instincts
6	10/26	<u>Beyond the pleasure principle</u> , Chs., 4-7	

(6) 10/28 **MIDTERM EXERCISE due in class; attendance mandatory**

FALL BREAK

- 7 11/9 The ego and the id (1923) Preface & Chs. 1-3 Playing out of the life/death instincts for self, mind, and morality.
- 11/11 The ego and the id, Chs. 4-5
- 8 11/16 "The economic problem in masochism" (1924); review end of "Negation" (1925)
- 11/18 Civilization and its discontents (1930), Ch. 1
- 9 11/23 Civilization and its discontents, Chs. 2-3
- 11/25 THANKSGIVING BREAK
- 10 11/30 Civilization and its discontents, Chs. 4-6
- 12/2 Civilization and its discontents, Chs. 7-8
- 11 12/7 TBA Special Topic TBA
- 12/9 .. ..
- 12 12/14 S. Freud, An outline of psychoanalysis (1940) (emphasize Chs. 2,8,9) Reprise: What are the essential constitutive features of human mental life?
- 12/16 **FINAL EXERCISE due in class; attendance mandatory**

ReadingPd 1/6/11, *Thursday* (not Deans Date!), **SECOND PAPER DUE** 4:30 in SS mailbox in Green Hall (plus back-up email copy)