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Global Freud (Fall 2013)

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CLARK UNIVERSITY
Global Freud
Fall 2013

German 220

Classtime: Tuesday/Thursday 4:15-5:30

Professor Robert Tobin

Office: Estabrook 309

Office Hours: Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday 11-12

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Undergraduate Teaching Assistant: Ilana Weiss

In 1909, Sigmund Freud and psychoanalysis went global. At the behest of Clark's president G. Stanley Hall, Freud travelled with Carl Jung and Sandor Ferenczi from Vienna, capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, to speak at Clark University. Clark is the only university in the Americas at which Freud ever lectured and the only university in the world to have given Freud an honorary degree. Freud's visit to Clark took place at the cusp of his career—ten years before his visit he was known only to a small group in Vienna while ten years after his visit he was known throughout the world. What aspects of his ideas took the world by storm and what elements of his thinking are still valuable? How global is this model? This class will analyze Freud's ideas from an interdisciplinary perspective, with special emphasis on literature, psychology, cultural studies, gender and sexuality studies.

This course fits into the LEEP initiative in that:

- Students will be drawing on their own expertise to teach each other and learn as they do so. Students who know German will report back on questions of language and technology; concentrators in women's and gender studies will bring up issues related to their area of speciality; psychologists and natural scientists will educate the seminar about some of the empirical issues surrounding psychoanalysis. Our undergraduate teaching assistant, Ilana Weiss, a psychology and comparative literature (German) double major, will help facilitate this exchange. This is truly bringing effective practice into liberal education.
- Students will help in the development of new knowledge about Freud, by working with scholars currently publishing on the subject, including Michael Roth, President of Wesleyan University. Students will study President Roth's on Freud and on liberal education, in order to ask how Freud's thinking, with its historical connections to Clark University, can provide insights in the future of education today. They will take advantage of recent publications coming from Clark's
- Students will reach out to local resources, such as the archives of Goddard Library and the Office of Medical History and Archives at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, to find out what sort of historical sources are available in Worcester about Freud. They will also have an opportunity to talk to professionals at the Boston Psychoanalytic Society and Institute.

GRADING**Overview:**

Seminar Participation	30
Small Group Participation	15
Small Group Assignments	15
Final Paper	30
Blog	10

Grade Structure for Papers:

A: An "A" paper will have a clear and original thesis. It will be well written, with a lively sophisticated style. Arguments will be comprehensive and buttressed by strong evidence. They will take into account obvious objections. There will be virtually no errors in grammar, punctuation or spelling.

B: A "B" paper will have a clear thesis and be solidly written.

C: A "C" paper will lack a clear thesis. Many arguments will not follow from the evidence given, or will be asserted, rather than proven. There will be errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

D: A "D" paper will have a topic, but no thesis. Many arguments will lack structure and not be to the point. Others will not follow from the evidence given or will be asserted, rather than proven. There will be numerous errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

F: An "F" paper will scarcely have a topic. Arguments will lack structure and not be to the point. There will be numerous errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Grade Structure for Participation:

A: advances the discussion; contributes complex insights; will be articulate and engaging; and enhances and encourages the participation of others.

B: expresses text-based, substantial ideas; stays with the topic and continues the discussion; actively volunteers; asks good questions; shows genuine effort; but might fluctuate between "A" and "C" behavior.

C: shows acquaintance with the text if called on; tends to offer personal opinions without textual references; does not advance discussion; actively listens, but does not participate.

D: continued refusal to participate in discussion; exhibits signs of disengagement, such as sleeping, zoning out, or non-attendance; and reveals no evidence of having done the reading.

F: "D" behavior carried to the extreme.

Grade Structure for Blogging:

A: original, clever links, well-written, snappy commentary, useful information; frequent, insightful, in-depth comments, cleverly and amusingly written

B: useful information, clear and lucidly presented; clear, thoughtful responses to entries

C: just the most basic information, showing little original thought; response tends to rely heavily on the entries of others, without adding much original

D: incorrect information or some important information lacking; very cursory, not well-thought out, response, very curt response (such as "I agree" or "right on")

F: little or no information provided; no response, flaming.

Three Final Notes:

Attendance: Attendance is vital for a seminar class. More than three absences may result in the lowering of your final grade by a whole letter.

Lateness: Late papers complicate the grading process. Therefore, I will take off a half grade for each day of lateness. I leave the calculation up to you whether the extra work you put into a paper will be worth the grade erosion caused by lateness.

Disabilities: If you have a disability, please contact me early in the semester so that we can make reasonable accommodations.

DAY BY DAY

Aug. 27	Introduction
Aug. 29	Clark Lectures
Sept. 3	Clark Lectures (Split)
Sept. 5	Roth Readings on Freud
Sept. 10	Roth Readings on Liberal Education
Sept. 12	Michael Roth, President, Wesleyan University, "The Freudian and Liberal Education"
Sept. 17	3 Essays
Sept. 19	3 Essays (Split)
Sept. 24	Plato's Symposium
Sept. 26	Plato's Symposium
Oct. 1	Freud and Human Rights
Oct. 3	Class cancelled: Professor Tobin at German Studies conference
Oct. 8	The Uncanny (Split)
Oct. 10	The Sandman (Split)
Oct. 15	Fall Break
Oct. 17	Totem and Tabu
Oct. 22	Totem and Tabu (Split)
Oct. 24	Almodovar, <u>The Skin I Live In</u>
Oct. 28	"Almodovar in/and Latin America" Guest lecture by Paul Julian Smith, 5 pm, Higgins Lounge, Dana Commons
Oct. 29	Satsume, <u>Kokoro</u>
Oct. 31	Satsume, <u>Kokoro</u>
Nov. 5	Satsume, <u>Kokoro</u>
Nov. 7	Wolf Man (Split)
Nov. 12	"'Cultural' Sexual Morality"
Nov. 14	Class Cancelled: Professor Tobin at conference on human rights in Switzerland
Nov. 19	Dora
Nov. 21	Dora (Split)
Nov. 26	Claude Cahun, Heroines
Nov. 28	Thanksgiving
Dec. 3	Rubinfeld, <u>Interpretation of Murder</u>
Dec. 5	Rubinfeld, <u>Interpretation of Murder</u>