

Course: Year I. Freud Section 2.
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Institute: SFCP
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Course Description and Bibliography for Freud 2

Welcome to the Institute. I am looking forward to reading and learning Freud with you. There is real pleasure in carefully reading Freud; hopefully, we can experience it together. To that end, I will be assigning fewer readings with the intention of mining more from the material we engage.

Freud can be roughly divided into three time periods and a constellation of themes. The time period we will be delving into is the prolific decade between 1910 and 1920. During this period, Freud wrote on the topics of sexuality, the unconscious, the repetition compulsion, depression, narcissism, masochism, the use and function of unconscious fantasy, transference, and a series of papers on technique.

We will read some of his work from this time period. I am hoping to tackle the topics of narcissism, the unconscious, depression and the repetition compulsion. We will take a brief foray into thinking about culture and the unconscious when reading his monograph on the unconscious along with a brief excerpt from the first Chapter in the Ego and the Id. Some observations Freud made on the unconscious are being linked, in recent psychoanalytic publications, to “the experience of living in a culture”.

1. Weeks 1 and 2: “On Narcissism: An Introduction”

The Language of Psychoanalysis by Pontalis and Laplanche (1973).
Excerpt on the ego.

Freud, S. (1914). On Narcissism: An Introduction

Freud makes a serious revision in this paper to the concept ego. Earlier, he thought of the ego as a mass of unconscious ideas. Now the ego becomes the product of identifications, an idea that brings it closer to being shaped by interactions from the inter-human world. One more serious revision to the concept ego occurs in 1920. You will be introduced to it in the section.

2. Weeks 3 and 4: The Unconscious

Freud, S. (1915). The Unconscious.

Freud, S. (1923). Ego and the Id. Please read chapter 1 titled Consciousness and Unconsciousness and pay close attention to the last page in that chapter where he introduces observations on a “third unconscious”.

3. Week 5: Depression

Freud, S. (1917). Mourning and Melancholia.

Dajani, K (2015). Excerpt from a paper on Cultural Dislocation that uses Mourning and Melancholia to understand the impact of loss of “place” on ego development and function.

4. Weeks 6 and 7: The Compulsion to Repeat

Freud, S. (1920): Beyond the Pleasure Principle.

Sedat, J. (2005): 1919-1921. “Beyond the Pleasure Principle” and the repetition compulsion. In S. Fairfield (Trans.), Freud pp.61-71. New York: Other Press.