

GWS 645

Psychoanalysis and Cultural Theory:
Race, Sex & Psyche

Fall 2013
Mondays, 5:00 – 7:30 pm
Biological Sciences East, room 314

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Course Description:

The seminar will provide an in-depth introduction to psychoanalysis and its utilization in cultural theory. The first half of the seminar will be devoted to reading the work of Sigmund Freud. We will then explore the uptake of Freudian psychoanalysis within cultural studies of race, gender, sexuality and nation. Particular attention will be paid to the work of Frantz Fanon and his critical interlocutors.

Course Texts: Only these editions/translations are acceptable.

- The following works by Sigmund Freud:
 - *The Interpretation of Dreams*, trans. James Strachey (Basic Books, 2010).
 - *General Psychological Theory: Papers on Metapsychology* (Simon & Schuster, 2008).
 - *Three Case Histories: The Wolf Man, the Rat Man, and the Psychotic Doctor Schreber* (Simon & Schuster, 1996).
 - *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*, trans. James Strachey (W. W. Norton & Co., 1990).
 - *The Ego and the Id*, trans. Joan Riviere (W. W. Norton & Co., 1990).
 - *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* (Basic Books, 2000).
 - *Sexuality and the Psychology of Love* (Simon & Schuster, 1997).
- Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin/White Masks*, trans. Richard Philcox (New York: Grove Press, 2008).

Recommended additional text:

- Jean Laplanche and J. B. Pontalis, *The Language of Psycho-Analysis*, trans. Donald Nicholson-Smith (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1974).
- Alan Read, ed., *The Fact of Blackness: Franz Fanon and Visual Representation* (Seattle: Bay Press, 1996).

Graded Requirements:

- You are expected to **attend and participate actively** in every seminar discussion.
- You are expected to **read all assigned material** prior to every seminar meeting.
- For each week's readings, you are to submit at least **one discussion question** on a reading or readings at least 24 hours prior to the seminar meeting (no later than 6pm Sunday). Instructions for electronic submission will be provided. These questions will form the basis for our seminar discussion, so each person should also review all questions prior to the seminar meeting.
- Individually, or in pairs, you are to **organize the discussion questions** in preparation for one of the seminar meetings. You should bring printed copies to the meeting.
- You are to submit at least 8 short, annotative, **reflection papers** (at least 1000 words) on the seminar reading and discussion; at least 2 must address readings after October 28. These short papers should be printed and submitted to me at the beginning of the *following seminar meeting* (i.e., you will write your reflection paper after the seminar discussion).
- At the end of the semester, you are to submit a **final course portfolio**, consisting of at least 5 of your short reflection papers, plus an original cover essay of approximately 2000 words. Reflection papers may be revised to incorporate my comments and suggestions. The cover essay should be a synthetic introduction to your reflection papers, addressing the key problematics you have pursued and key concepts and questions that you have drawn from the course materials. The course portfolio should be submitted electronically to the D2L dropbox by 9:00 pm on Wednesday, December 18.

Reading Schedule:

Reading Freud

The Psychic Apparatus I

- Aug 26 • *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1900), ch. 2-3 (pp. 121-157)
- Sept 2 • *No Class Meeting – Labor Day*
- Sept 9 • *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1900), chs. 4-6 (pp. 159-511)
- Sept 16 • *The Interpretation of Dreams*, ch. 7 (pp. 513-615)
- *General Psychological Theory:*
 - Formulations Regarding the Two Principles of Mental Functioning (1911)
 - A Note on the Unconscious in Psychoanalysis (1912)
 - The Unconscious (1915)
 - Repression (1915)
 - Metapsychological Supplement to the Theory of Dreams (1916)

Fantasy and the Drives

- Sept 23 • From the History of an Infantile Neurosis [the “Wolf Man”] (1918) in *Three Case Histories*
- Sept 30 • *General Psychological Theory*:
 - On Narcissism (1914)
 - Instincts and their Vicissitudes (1915)
 - Mourning and Melancholia (1917)
 - The Libido Theory (1923)

The Psychic Apparatus II

- Oct 7 • *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* (1920)
 - *The Ego and the Id* (1923)

Sexuality/Perversion

- Oct 14 • *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality* (1905)
- Oct 21 • *Sexuality and the Psychology of Love*:
 - Psychogenesis of a Case of Homosexuality in a Woman (1920)
 - The Dissolution of the Oedipus Complex (1924)
 - Some Psychological Consequences of the Anatomical Distinction between the Sexes (1925)
 - Female Sexuality (1931)
- Oct 28 • *Sexuality and the Psychology of Love*:
 - A Child is Being Beaten (1919)
 - On the Economic Problem of Masochism (1924), in *General Psychological Theory*
 - Fetishism (1927)
 - Splitting of the Ego in the Process of Defense (1938)

Psychoanalysis of Race, Gender & Sexuality

- Nov 4 • Teresa de Lauretis, “American Freud”
 - Christopher Lane, “The Psychoanalysis of Race: An Introduction”
 - Audre Lorde, “The Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism”
 - Audre Lorde, “Eye to Eye: Black Women, Hatred, and Anger”
- Nov 11 • Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks*

- Nov 18
- Mary Ann Doane, "Dark Continents"
 - Luz Calvo, "Racial Fantasies and the Primal Scene of Miscegenation"
 - Vicky Lebeau, "Children of Violence"
- Nov 25
- Kobena Mercer, "Decolonisation and Disappointment"
 - Lee Edelman, "The Part for the (W)hole"
 - David Marriott, "Bonding over Phobia"
- Dec 2
- Stuart Hall, "The After-Life of Frantz Fanon"
 - Shannon Sullivan, "Ethical Slippages, Shattered Horizons"
 - Greg Thomas, "PROUD FLESH Inter/Views: Sylvia Wynter"
- Dec 9
- Hortense Spillers, "Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe"

Wednesday, December 18 — Course Portfolio due at 9:00 pm

Course texts:

- Luz Calvo, "Racial fantasies and the primal scene of miscegenation," *International Journal of Psychoanalysis* 89 (2008): 55-70.
- Teresa de Lauretis, "American Freud," *Amerikastudien* 41.2 (1996): 163-79.
- Mary Ann Doane, "Dark Continents: Epistemologies of Racial and Sexual Difference in Psychoanalysis and Cinema," in her *Femmes Fatales: Feminism, Film Theory, Psychoanalysis*, New York: Routledge, 1991, pp. 209-248, 293-298.
- Lee Edelman, "The Part for the (W)hole: Baldwin, Homophobia, and the Fantasmatics of Race," in his *Homographesis: Essays in Gay Literary and Cultural Theory*, New York: Routledge, 1994, pp. 42-75, 249-55.
- Stuart Hall, "The After-Life of Frantz Fanon: Why Fanon? Why Now? Why Black Skin, White Masks?" in *The Fact of Blackness: Franz Fanon and Visual Representation*, ed. Alan Read, Seattle: Bay Press, 1996, pp. 12-37.
- Christopher Lane, "The Psychoanalysis of Race: An Introduction," in *The Psychoanalysis of Race*, ed. Christopher Lane, New York: Columbia, 1998, pp. 1-37.
- Vicky Lebeau, "Children of Violence," in *Frantz Fanon's Black Skin, White Masks: New Interdisciplinary Essays*, ed. Max Silverman, New York: Manchester University Press, 2005, pp. 128-145.
- Audre Lorde, "The Uses of Anger: Women Responding to Racism," in her *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*, Berkeley: Crossing Press, 1984, pp. 124-133.
- Audre Lorde, "Eye to Eye: Black Women, Hatred, and Anger," in her *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*, Berkeley: Crossing Press, 1984, pp. 145-175.
- David Marriott, "Bonding over Phobia," in *The Psychoanalysis of Race*, ed. Christopher Lane, New York: Columbia, 1998, pp. 417-430.
- Kobena Mercer, "Decolonisation and Disappointment: Reading Fanon's Sexual Politic," in *The Fact of Blackness: Franz Fanon and Visual Representation*, ed. Alan Read, Seattle: Bay Press, 1996, pp. 114-131.
- Hortense J. Spillers, "Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe: An American Grammar Book," *Diacritics* 17.2 (Summer 1987): 64-81.
- Shannon Sullivan, "Ethical Slippages, Shattered Horizons, and the Zebra Striping of the Unconscious: Fanon on Social, Bodily, and Psychological Space," *Philosophy & Geography* 7:1 (February 2004): 9-24.
- Greg Thomas, "PROUD FLESH Inter/Views: Sylvia Wynter," *PROUD FLESH: A New Afrikan Journal of Culture, Politics & Consciousness*, Issue 4 (2006). Accessed 10/16/2008, from <http://www.proudfleshjournal.com/issue4/wynter.html>.

Selected Additional Readings: also available on D2L

- Elizabeth Abel, "Race, Class and Psychoanalysis? Opening Questions," in *Feminist Social Thought*, ed. Diana Tietjens Meyers, New York: Routledge, 1997, pp. 181-198.
- Homi Bhabha, "The Other Question: The stereotype and colonial discourse," in *The Sexual Subject: A Screen reader in sexuality*, ed. Mandy Merck, London: Routledge, 1992, pp. 312-31.
- Rey Chow, "The Politics of Admittance: Female sexual agency, miscegenation, and the formation of community in Frantz Fanon," in *Frantz Fanon: Critical Perspectives*, ed. Anthony C. Alessandrini, New York: Routledge, 1999, pp. 34-56.
- Teresa de Lauretis, "Freud, Sexuality, and Perversion," in *Politics, Theory, and Contemporary Culture*, ed. Mark Poster, New York: Columbia, 1993, pp. 111-30.
- Teresa de Lauretis, "Basic Instincts: An Illustrated Guide to Freud's Theory of Drives," in her *Freud's Drive: Psychoanalysis, literature and film*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, pp. 20-38, 155-56.
- David L. Eng & Shinhee Han, "A Dialogue on Racial Melancholia," in *Loss: The Politics of Mourning*, ed. David L. Eng & David Kazanjian, Berkeley & Los Angeles: California, 2003, pp. 343-71.
- Vicky Lebeau, "Psychopolitics: Frantz Fanon's *Black Skin, White Masks*," in *Psychopolitics and Cultural Desires*, ed. Jan Campbell & Janet Harbord, London: UCL Press, 1998, pp. 113-123.
- David Marriott, "'I'm gonna borrow me a Kodak': Photography and Lynching," in his *On Black Men*, New York: Columbia, 2000, pp. 1-22.
- David Marriott, "Racial Fetishism," *Qui Parle* 18.2 (Spring/Summer 2010): 215-48.
- Kobena Mercer, "Busy in the Ruins of Wretched Fantasia," in *Frantz Fanon: Critical Perspectives*, ed. Anthony C. Alessandrini, New York: Routledge, 1999, pp. 195-218.
- Laura Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema," in *Feminism and Film Theory*, ed. Constance Penley, New York: Routledge, 1988, pp. 57-79.
- Robert F. Reid-Pharr, "Dinge," from his *Black Gay Man*, New York: New York University Press, 2001, pp. 85-98.
- Marlon Riggs (dir.), "Tongues Untied," San Francisco: Frameline, 1989.
- T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting, "Anti-black Femininity and Mixed-race Identity: Engaging Fanon to read Capécia," in *Fanon: A Critical Reader*, ed. Lewis R. Gordon, T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting, & Renée T. White, Malden, MA: Blackwell, 1996, pp. 155-162.
- Hortense J. Spillers, "'All the Things You Could Be Now, if Sigmund Freud's Wife was Your Mother': Psychoanalysis and Race," *boundary2* 23.3 (Autumn 1996): 75-141.
- Jean Walton, "Re-Placing Race in (White) Psychoanalytic Discourse: Founding Narratives of Feminism," *Critical Inquiry* 21.4 (Summer 1995): 775-804.