

E N G L I S H 3 1 3 1
PSYCHOANALYSIS, DREAM, AND CINEMATIC NARRATIVE
Instructor: Dr. Ellen Strain • Fall Quarter, 1998

Class Hours: MWF 12:05-12:55, Skiles 368
Mandatory Film Screenings: W 4-6, Skiles 368

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Course Description

In this class, instruction in critical reading and writing skills will be connected to the study of psychoanalysis and psychiatry as depicted in cinema and as applied in the analysis of filmic narrative. Through the reading of Sigmund Freud's writings and critiques of his work by contemporary feminists, the broad contours of Freud's theories and the reception of those theories in different historical periods will be studied. The class will also ponder the nature of psychoanalysis' appeal for three historically-distinct audiences: (1) Freud's contemporaries; (2) filmmakers and film audiences in the 1940s; (3) film theorists of the 1980s. Particular emphasis will fall on issues at the intersection of film and psychoanalysis – narrative, symbolism, and spectacle – with particular focus on the psychoanalytic notions of hysteria, dream, and countertransference.

Required Reading

The following book and course reader is available from the Engineers Bookstore:

- Sigmund Freud, *Dora*
- Tania Modleski, *The Women Who Knew Too Much*
- Deutelbaum and Poague, *A Hitchcock Reader* (HR)
- Course Reader (CR)

Additional articles are on electronic reserve (ER)

Course Requirements.

The course grade will be based on three writing assignments and participation in class discussions. Each writing assignment is of a different length and focuses on a different writing style. The grade breakdown is as follows:

- 10% PARTICIPATION. Students are expected to attend every class and to come prepared to discuss the readings and apply them to the films screened in class.
- 20% TAKE HOME MIDTERM. Comprehension of material presented during the first four weeks will be tested in the form of a take home midterm due October 21.
- 20% IN CLASS MIDTERM. Comprehension of material presented during weeks 5-8 will be tested by way of an in-class midterm on November 16.
- 20% TAKE HOME FINAL. A non-comprehensive, take home final will test students' comprehension of the last three weeks of course content.
- 30% RESEARCH PAPER. Students may choose an instructor-presented option or choose their own topic for an analytical paper related to the topics of the course.

For graduating seniors, each midterm will be worth 30% in lieu of taking the final exam.

FOUNDATIONS: FREUD, DORA, AND DREAM

Week One

Wednesday
September 23
Introduction to the Course.
No reading due.
Screening: *Spellbound* (107 min.)

Friday
September 25
Lecture/Discussion: Contextualizing Freud.
Start Freud's *Dora*.

Week Two

Monday
September 28
Lecture/Discussion: Dreamwork.
Finish *Dora*.

Wednesday
September 30
Lecture/Discussion: *Dora*.
Reading due: Bernheimer "Introduction: Part One" (CR) and Slavney, "Anna and Her Sisters" (CR)
Screening: *Freud: The Secret Passion* (139 min.)

Friday
October 2
Lecture/Discussion: Interpretations of Freud.
Reading due: Maria Ramas, "Freud's *Dora*, *Dora's Hysteria*" (ER)

Week Three

Monday
October 5
Lecture/Discussion: Feminist Uses of Freud
Reading due: Braidotti, "In the footsteps of Anna and *Dora*" (CR)

PSYCHIATRY AND DREAM ON SCREEN

Wednesday
October 7
Lecture/Discussion: Stereotyping Psychiatry.
Reading due: Gabbard, "Typology, Mythology, Ideology" (CR)
Screening: *The Dark Mirror* (85 min.)

Friday
October 9
Lecture/Discussion: The On-Screen Cure
Reading due: Mary Anne Doane, "Clinical Eyes" (ER)

Week Four

Monday
October 12
Lecture/Discussion: Psychiatrist as Villain.
Reading due: Gabbard, "Countertransference in the Movies" (CR)
Take home midterm passed out.

Wednesday
October 14
Begin Screening in Class: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (129 min.)
Screening: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *Sherlock, Jr.* (56 min.)

Friday
October 16
Lecture/Discussion: Film as Dream
Reading due: Eberwein, "Manifest Dream Screens" (CR)

PSYCHOANALYZING THE GAZE IN HITCHCOCK'S FILMS

Week Five

Monday
October 19 Lecture/Discussion: Feminist Psychoanalytic Film Theory.
Reading due: Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (CR)

Wednesday
October 21 Lecture/Discussion: Responding to Mulvey.
Reading due: Introduction to Modleski's book
MIDTERMS DUE
Screening: *Vertigo* (128 min.)

Friday
October 23 Lecture/Discussion: Film Interpreted as Dream
Reading due: Palombo, "Hitchcock's VERTIGO" (ER)

Week Six

Monday
October 26 Lecture/Discussion: The Feminine Threat in Hitchcock
Reading due: Modleski, "Femininity by Design"

Wednesday
October 27 Lecture/Discussion: Further Interpretation of *Vertigo*
Reading due: Keane, "A Closer Look at Scopophilia" (HR)
Screening: *Rear Window* (113 min.)

Friday
October 30 Lecture/Discussion: Robin Wood on Hitchcock.
Reading due: Wood, "Male Desire, Male Anxiety" (HR)

Week Seven

Monday
November 2 Lecture/Discussion: Analyzing *Rear Window*
Reading due: Stam and Pearson, "Hitchcock's *Rear Window*" (HR)
Paper topics handed out.

Wednesday
November 4 Lecture/Discussion: *Rear Window* Continued
Reading due: Modleski on *Rear Window*
Screening: *Psycho*

PSYCHO AND THE HORROR GENRE

Friday
November 6 No class meeting. Instructor out of town.
View *Body Double* or *Dressed to Kill* on your own.

Week Eight

Monday
November 9 Lecture/Discussion: Horror Comes Home
Reading due: Bellour, "Psychosis, Neurosis, Perversion" (HR)

Wednesday
November 11 Lecture/Discussion: *Psycho* and Female Sexuality
Reading due: Klinger, "The Institutionalization of Female Sexuality" (HR)
Screening: *Peeping Tom* (86 min.)

Friday
November 13 Lecture/Discussion: The Gaze within the Horror Genre
Reading due: Clover, "The Eye of Horror" (ER)

Week Nine

Monday
November 16 In-class Midterm
No readings due.

LOOSE ENDS: NARCISSISM AND HYSTERIA

Wednesday
November 18 Lecture/Discussion: Diagnosing Rupert Pupkin.
Reading due: Gabbard, “Narcissism in the Cinema II” (CR)
Screening: *King of Comedy* (101 min.)

Friday
November 20 Lecture/Discussion: Oedipal TV
Reading due: Houston, “KING OF COMEDY: Crisis of Substitution” (CR)
Description of paper topic due for instructor approval.

Week Ten

Monday
November 23 In-class screening: *Murder!* (92 min.)
No readings due.

Wednesday
November 25 In-class screening continued: *Murder!*
No out of class screening.

Friday
November 27 HOLIDAY
No class due to Thanksgiving.

Week Eleven

Monday
November 30 Lecture/Discussion: Hitchcock Continued
Reading due: Modleski, “Male Hysteria and the Order of Things”
PAPERS DUE

Wednesday
December 2 Lecture/Discussion: More *Murder!*
Reading Due: Rothman, “Theater, Authorship, and the Camera” (HR)
Screening: *Dead Ringers* (115 min.)

Friday
December 4 Lecture/Discussion: More Crazy Twins
Reading Due: Creed, “Phallic Panic: male hysteria & *Dead Ringers*” (CR)
Take home final passed out

*** TAKE HOME FINAL DUE TO MY OFFICE (SKILES 301) DECEMBER 9 BY 4:30 PM.***