Religion 255  
Depth Psychologies and Religious Ethics

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Fall, 2011  
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This course invites you to look at your own dreams, loves, conflicts, moral beliefs and religious practices, and those of people around you, from the perspective of unconscious passions. Drawing on the clinical findings of Freud, Jung, Fromm, Erikson and contemporary psychoanalysts, the course investigates how these clinicians explored the unconscious mind and how it influences our behavior. The guidance these depth psychological theories and modes of self-exploration offer regarding how to live and what to believe are considered alongside their findings about typical psychic disorders.

Evaluation: Grades will be based on (1) two in-class examinations on Oct 4 and Nov 8; (2) the final examination; (3) a 5 page written dream interpretation due Oct. 25; (4) class participation, reflection papers and unannounced in-class written assignments. Text messaging, in addition to being rude, dilutes your attention and that of your classmates from class participation and will lower your final grade.

**Reserve Articles available on Blackboard** – Several articles used in this class are available online under REL 255 on Blackboard.

**Class Schedule and Reading Assignments**

Aug. 30  
Introduction

Sept. 1  
**Sigmund Freud and the Foundations of Psychoanalysis**

Freud, Sigmund. *Interpretation of Dreams*, ch. 2.

Sept. 6  
**Psychoanalytic Interpretation**

Freud, Sigmund. *Interpretation of Dreams*, ch 2 (review) & 6, Sections A (pp. 311-319), B (pp. 340-344) E (pp. 385-395) and I (pp. 526-531)
Read the whole of Ch 2---the assigned sections from Ch 6 do not cover the whole of the sections. Section A of Ch 6 includes the Introduction and section A up to ii A Lovely Dream; Read all of B, Read Section E up until “A Hat as a symbol of a Man,” and Read I up until “in selecting examples of dream-interpretation I have so far as possible avoided dreams...
Sept. 8  Psychoanalytic Theory


Sept. 13  Freud’s Analysis of Religion


Sept 15  Freud on Determinism and Responsibility

Wallwork, E. Psychoanalysis and Ethics, ch. 3, pp. 49-58; ch. 4, pp. 75-100.

Sept. 20  Freud on Morality and Ethics

Freud, S. Civilization and Its Discontents, chs. 2 and 5. “Rabbinic Commentary on the Love Commandment” and “Christian Commentary on the Love Commandment.”

Sept. 22  C.G. Jung: On the Unconscious


Sept. 27  C.G. Jung: On Religion

Storr, Essential Jung, pp. 87-102, 118-127, 229-249.

Sept. 29  No Class. Rosh Hashanah.

Oct. 4   First Exam

Oct. 6   A Jungian Ethic

Neumann, Erich, Depth Psychology and a New Ethic, chs 4-5, pp. 76-135.

Fromm, Erich Psychoanalysis and Religion, Ch 1.
Oct.  11  Erich Fromm: Post Freudian Humanistic Psychology
          Fromm, Erich Psychoanalysis and Religion

Oct.  13  Fromm on Character and Religion
          Fromm, Erich Psychoanalysis and Religion,

Oct.  18  Frommian Ethics
          Fromm, Erich. The Art of Loving, ch. 2, parts 2-2, 3d (p.38-63)

Oct.  20  Paul Tillich: Theological Existentialism and Psychoanalysis
          Johnson and Wallwork, Critical Issues in Modern Religion, 2nd edition,
          pp. 364-378.

Oct.  25  Dream Papers Due

Tillichian Ethics
          Tillich, “Being and Love,” in Tillich, Paul, Love, Power and Justice, ch2
          (pp.18-34)

Oct.  27  Erik Erikson: Psychoanalytic Ego Psychology
          Wallwork, “Erik Erikson,” in Johnson and Wallwork, Critical Issues in

Nov.  1   Erikson on Psychosocial Development

Nov.  3   Erikson on Religion

Nov.  8   Second Exam

Nov. 10  Erikson’s Religious and Ethical Ideals
Nov. 15  Erikson on Gandhi


Nov. 17  Film: “Professor Erik Erikson, Part II”

Nov. 22-24  Thanksgiving

Nov. 29  Religious Groups

Freud, S. *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*, chs 4-8 and 12

Dec. 1  Religious Gurus


Dec. 6  “Illusion” in Contemporary Psychoanalysis


Dec. 8  Psychoanalysis and Religion Today


Dec. 16  Final Exam  12/16 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., CH 101 (classroom)

Textbooks Available for Purchase


Neumann, Erich, *Depth Psychology and a New Ethic 06-131777-2* [I don’t think this is in print any more.]

Academic Integrity Statement: The Syracuse University Academic Integrity Policy holds students accountable for the integrity of the work they submit. Students should be familiar with the Policy and know that it is their responsibility to learn about instructor and general academic expectations with regard to proper citation of sources in written work. The policy also governs the integrity of work submitted in exams and assignments as well as the veracity of signatures on attendance sheets and other verifications of participation in class activities. Serious sanctions can result from academic dishonesty of any sort. For more information and the complete policy, see http://academicintegrity.syr.edu.

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