

Rel 255: Depth Psychology and Religious Ethics
T/R 2:00-3:20 Sims 237

Instructor: Terry Reeder

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Office Hours: Thursdays 3:30-4:30 in Sims 237 or gladly by appointment.

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 various aspects of unconsciously motivated conduct. The main criticisms that depth psychological theorists have directed at conventional religion and morality are considered alongside the guidance these same theorists offer regarding how to live and what to believe.

Evaluation: Grades will be based on (1) two in-class examinations on Feb **28** and **April 20** (20 @ 40% total); (2) the final examination on Tuesday **May 9, 10:15-12:15**. (20%); (3) a 5-page written dream interpretation due **Feb 23** (15%); (4) a short presentation on a key class theorist (5%); (5) class participation, reflection papers and unannounced in-class written assignments (20%). Text messaging, in addition to being rude, dilutes your attention from class participation and will lower your final grade.

Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

T Jan. 17 Introduction and overview

R Jan. 19 What are religious ethics? What is depth psychology?

Sigmund Freud and the Foundations of Psychoanalysis

Reading: "Rabbinic Commentary on the Love Commandment" and "Christian Commentary on the Love Commandment."

T Jan 24 **Psychoanalytic Theories**

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

R Jan.26 **Freud's Analysis of Religion**

Presentations: Sigmund Freud, Anna Freud

Freud, Sigmund. *Interpretation of Dreams*, ch. 6, Sections A, B, E and I.

T Jan. 31 Video and Discussion

Reading: Wallwork, E. *Psychoanalysis and Ethics*, ch. 3, pp. 49-58.

R Feb. 2 **Freud on Determinism and Responsibility**

Reading: Wallwork, E. *Psychoanalysis and Ethics*, ch. 4, pp. 75-100.

T Feb. 7 **Freud on Morality and Ethics**

Reading: Freud, S. *Civilization and Its Discontents*, ch. 2.

R Feb. 9 Freud on Morality and Ethics, con't.

Reading: Freud, S. *Civilization and Its Discontents*, ch. 5.

T Feb. 14 **C.G. Jung: On the Unconscious**

Readings: Jung folder, including "The Golden Rule in Light of New Insights"

Presentations: C.G. Jung

R Feb.16 **C.G. Jung: On Religion**

Reading: Neumann, Erich, *Depth Psychology and a New Ethic*, ch. 4, pp. 76-99.

T Feb. 21 **A Jungian Ethic**

Reading: Neumann, Eric, *Depth Psychology and a New Ethic*, ch. 5, pp. 100-135.

R Feb 23 Jung con't.

Due: Dream Paper

T Feb 28 **First Exam**

R March 2 **Fromm on Character and Religion**

Reading: Excerpts, Fromm, Erich *Psychoanalysis and Religion*

Presentations: Erich Fromm

T March 7 **Frommian Ethics**

Reading: Fromm, Erich. *The Art of Loving*, ch. 2, parts 2-2, 3d (p.38-63)

R March 9 Fromm Video

March 13-17 Spring Break

T March 21 **Paul Tillich: Theological Existentialism and Psychoanalysis**

Reading: Tillich, "Being and Love," in Tillich, Paul, *Love, Power and Justice*, ch.2 (pp.18-34)

Presentations: Paul Tillich

R March 23 **Tillichian Ethics**

T March 28 **Erik Erikson: Psychoanalytic Ego Psychology**

Reading: TBA

Presentations: Erik Erikson

R March 30 **Erikson on Psychosocial Development**

Reading: Erickson handouts

T April 4 **Erikson on Religion and Gandhi**

- Reading: Erik Erikson, *Gandhi's Truth*, Part III, ch. 1, pp. 229-254.
- R April 6 **Erikson's Religious and Ethical Ideals**
Reading: TBA
- T April 11 Film: "Professor Erik Erikson, Part II"
- R April 13 **Religious Groups**
Reading: Freud, S. *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego*, chs. 4-8 and 12
- T April 18 **Religious Gurus**
S. Kakar, "The Guru as Healer," in S. Kakar, *Analyst and Mystic*, ch. 2, pp. 35-54.
- R April 20 **Second Exam**
- T April 25 **"Illusion" in Contemporary Psychoanalysis**
Reading: Meissner, W.W. "Religion in Psychoanalytic Perspective," in his *Psychoanalysis and Religious Experience*, ch.7, pp. 160-184.
- R April 27 **Psychoanalysis and Religion Today**
Reading: Ernest and Anne Wallwork, "Psychoanalysis and Religion: Current Status of a Historical Antagonism," in Joseph Smith and Susan Handelman, ed, *Psychoanalysis and Religion*, ch. 9, pp. 160-169.
- T May 2 Review
- T May 9 FINAL 10:15-12:15 Room TBA

See Blackboard for readings. *Interpretation of Dreams* by Sigmund Freud is this edition: Wordsworth Classics of World Literature, 1997. Translation by A.A. Brill. ISBN 978-1-85326-484-9.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

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/>.

Of special concern is plagiarism. Plagiarism is stealing, both from the person who created the work and from the plagiarizer's education. Anytime a person uses another's words as their own OR cuts and pastes, EVEN in a PowerPoint, they are plagiarizing. If you need help with citations I am glad to help you, as is the Writing Center

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

If you have academic accommodations I encourage you to use them to the fullest to support your learning. Syracuse University and I value diversity, and will work with you to provide access to services that accommodate your learning. For more information see the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at <http://disabilityservices.syr.edu> or contact odssched@syr.edu or (315) 443-4498.

All students can and will benefit from the services of the Writing Center. For more information see <http://wc.syr.edu/>.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

SU's religious observances policy is found at

http://supolicies.syr.edu/emp_ben/religious_observance.htm. Observances must be registered by Feb 2, 2016 to count as excused absences. This policy recognizes the diversity of faiths in the campus community and protects the rights of the community to observe holy days according to their tradition.

DUE DATES AND LATE WORK

Assignments are due when they are due. If you have extenuating circumstances, talk to me in advance and we will attempt to work something out. Do not, however, ask for an extension at the last minute and expect it to be granted. Late work that is accepted will have a point reduction.

ETIQUETTE

- **Communicate**
- Texting and surfing the web are not only disrespectful; they inevitably dilute you and your classmates' attention from the class. Expect at a minimum to lose participation points for these activities.
- Listening to others carefully is expected, required, and key to learning.
- I am excited to be doing this work with you!! I will hold myself to the same standards that I ask of you. If I can do anything to improve your learning experience, please let me know.

Rel 255: Religion and Social Ethics was created and developed by Dr. Ernest Wallwork, Professor of Religion at Syracuse University.