



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Freuds Italian Children: From Edoardo Weiss to Alberto Moravia - 45134

Last update 04-10-2021

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Romance Studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Chiara Caradonna

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Coordinator Office Hours: Tuesday, 5-6 pm

Teaching Staff:

Dr. chiara Caradonna

Course/Module description:

Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis has exerted a revolutionary impact on the way we understand ourselves, our actions and desires. Since the publication of seminal works such as *The Interpretation of Dreams* (1899) or *Beyond the Pleasure Principle* (1920) we have become familiar with the significance and meaning of dreams, while concepts like the unconscious, repression, sublimation and the Oedipus complex have made their way into our daily vocabulary. Literature and literary criticism too have been heavily influenced by psychoanalysis, inspired by its discoveries and have taken over some of its methods. Psychoanalysis reached Italy in the 1920es, and it is in the northern city of Trieste that its Italian fortune began. Since then, some of Italy's most famous writers have, more or less enthusiastically, more or less critically, engaged with the findings of this new discipline of the soul, and have asked themselves: how does literature position itself in relation to psychoanalysis? Are there similarities between psychoanalytic and literary practice? Is the writer at times also an analyst, and vice versa? And does literature cure ailments of the soul, or does it rather encourage us to investigate its hidden corners, realizing that there is no such thing as a "normal behavior"?

Course/Module aims:

In this course, students will acquaint themselves with key concepts of Freudian psychoanalysis through Freud's main writings on different psychoanalytic topics. These readings will provide the grounds for a thorough engagement with some key works of modern Italian literature that have taken up psychoanalysis, from Italo Svevo's *"Zeno's Conscience"* (1923) to Alberto Moravia's *"Agostino"* (1945), with a final look at Federico Fellini's autobiographical film *"Amarcord"* (1973). The aim is double: we will try to understand the way in which writers (and a film director) appropriated psychoanalysis, and we will see how psychoanalytic concepts can be used in order to analyze literary works.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Students will be well acquainted with key concepts of Freudian psychoanalysis. They will be able to identify their presence in literary works and to employ them for the analysis of literary texts. Moreover, students will gain a significant overview of fundamental Italian literary works of the 20th Century that have been influenced by psychoanalysis.

Attendance requirements(%):

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Close readings at home and in class, presentations and discussions in class.

Course/Module Content:

1) 12/10

Introduction

2) 19/10

What is Psychoanalysis? Sigmund Freud explains

Short Outline of Psychoanalysis/Kurzer Abriß der Psychoanalyse (1924), Vol. XIX The Ego and the Id and Other Works (1923–1925), The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud

3) 26/10

*Some key psychoanalytic concepts: the Ego, the Id, the Unconscious
(The Ego and the Id/Das Ich und das Es, 1923, Part 1, Bd. 13)*

4) 2/11

The relation between analyst and patient, and some skepticism toward psychoanalysis: Italo Svevo, Zeno's Conscience/La coscienza di Zeno (1923), Cap. 1-3, 8

+ Sigmund Freud, Ratschläge für den Arzt bei der psychotherapeutischen Behandlung (1912)

5) 9/11

Mothers and Sons: The Oedipus Complex – The Ego and the Id/Das Ich und das Es, Part 2, Bd. 13

6) 16/11

Real and fake folly, dissociation on stage: Luigi Pirandello, Enrico IV/Henry IV (1921)

7) 23/11

Desires and Perversions: Excerpts from Three essays on the Theory of Sexuality/Drei Abhandlungen zur Sexualtheorie (1905)

8) 30/11

Early Traumas and Lasting Conflicts in Poetry and Prose: Umberto Saba, Ernesto (1953), and poems from Il Canzoniere

9) 7/12

Enduring and inflicting Pain: Carlo Emilio Gadda, The Awareness of Pain/La cognizione del dolore (1938-41)

10) 14/12

Middle Class Desires and the Pain of Adolescence: Alberto Moravia, Agostino (1945)

11) 21/12

What dreams tells us, or hide from us: Sigmund Freud, The Interpretation of Dreams/Die Traumdeutung (1899) + Über den Traum/On Dream

12) 28/12

A Child's World, and the Power of Dreams: Elsa Morante, L'isola di Arturo (1957)

13) 4/1

Remembering, dreaming: Federico Fellini, Amarcord (1973)

14) 11/1

Concluding Discussion

Required Reading:

Excerpts from:

Sigmund Freud, The Interpretation of Dreams (1899)

—, *Three essays on the Theory of Sexuality/Drei Abhandlungen zur Sexualtheorie (1905)*

—, *The Ego and the Id, 1923*

—, *Short Outline of Psychoanalysis (1924)*

Carlo Emilio Gadda, The Awareness of Pain(1938-41)

Elsa Morante, L'isola di Arturo (1957)

Alberto Moravia, Agostino (1945)

Luigi Pirandello, Henry IV (1921)

Umberto Saba, Ernesto (1953)

Italo Svevo, Zeno's Conscience(1923)

Federico Fellini, Amarcord (1973)

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 80 %

Presentation 20 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information: