

## HUMA 730. Freud: Sex, Power, Ethics (Spring 2007)

---

Professor: C. Peebles

Meeting times: TR, 9:40-11, Murkland G18

Office hours: TR, 12:00-2:00, Murkland G19 (catherine.peebles@unh.edu; 862.3638)

This course is an advanced introductory seminar. “Advanced,” in that it assumes students accept the challenge of doing advanced level reading, studying, participating, and writing; “introductory” because it assumes no prior familiarity with the writings of Sigmund Freud or Freud scholars. Most important, it is a “seminar” in format: a small group meeting regularly for a semester, each of us contributing to the discussions. Every seminar participant (including the professor) will present frequently on sections of our readings, while the rest of the group joins in with questions, comments, and extensions of the presenter’s work. In this way, we shall all be actively engaged with every text we read, even as each student chooses to focus especially carefully on one or two works for her seminar paper. A student’s final grade will be an average of the scores he earns on: regular participation; seminar presentations; two in-class essay exams; an abstract of the final paper (one page, plus bibliography with at least four secondary sources); an updated abstract (two pages, plus an annotated bibliography with at least six secondary sources); and the final seminar paper. The breakdown of the grading is as follows:

Regular participation .....	25%
Seminar presentations .....	15%
First essay exam .....	7.5%
Abstract and preliminary bibliography .....	10%
Updated abstract and annotated bibliography .....	12.5%
Second essay exam .....	10%
Final seminar paper .....	20%

Please note that this breakdown reflects the priorities of a seminar. The exams, taken together, count for less than 20% of a student’s grade, while elements related to **a student’s contributions to the seminar meetings** (seminar presentations and regular participation, which will likely include additional short presentations, on, for example, an article you are reading for your research paper) **account for 40% – nearly half – of the final grade**. The remaining portion – more than 40% – is related to the major project of the semester: the seminar paper.

The most important work you will do for the seminar, because it is the foundation for all the rest, is *reading closely*. Please be sure to read in an attentive position (upright, at a desk, for example – not reclining on a couch) with pen or pencil in hand, and notebook and good dictionary at your side. Mark important passages in the book; copy down important quotations and write down your questions, interpretations, thoughts in your notebook (being sure to note the page number, so that you can reference your readings easily from your notes). Look up words whose meanings you don’t know, and write the definition(s) in your notes and/or in the book margins. Most important, when you do not understand a passage, *make note of it*, including in your notes just what it is you can’t follow. We will often use these “problem passages” as our points of entry into the text in our seminar sessions. Remember: there is no substitute for reading closely.

Reading List (in the order of our timetable)

*Works marked "Bb" are available for printing out on Blackboard. You must, of course, print them out – it is impossible to read at an advanced level from a computer screen. Other works are available at the Durham Book Exchange, on Main Street in Durham.*

Freud, Sigmund. *The Interpretation of Dreams*. Ed. and trans. James Strachey. New York: Avon Books, 1998.

---. "Female Sexuality." In *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*. Vol. 21, 1931: 221-243. **(Bb)**

---. "Femininity." In *New Introductory Lectures on Psycho-analysis. SE*. Vol. 22, 1933: 112-135. **(Bb)**

---. *Beyond the Pleasure Principle. SE*. Vol. 18, 1920: 1-64.

---. "The Economic Problem of Masochism." *SE*. Vol. 19, 1924: 155-170. **(Bb)**

---. *Civilization and Its Discontents. SE*. Vol. 21, 1930: 57-145.

Irigaray, Luce. *This Sex Which Is Not One*. Trans. Catherine Porter. Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 1985. (Selected chapters on **Bb**)

Felman, Shoshana. "Competing Pregnancies: The Dream from which Psychoanalysis Proceeds." In *What Does a Woman Want? Reading and Sexual Difference*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins UP, 1993: 68-120. **(Bb)**

Faulkner, Joanne. "Freud's Concept of the Death Drive and its Relation to the Superego." *Minerva*. Vol. 9, November 2005: 153-176. <http://www.ul.ie/~philos/vol9/Freud.html> **(Bb)**

## Seminar Timetable

---

T	Jan. 16	Introduction	
R	Jan. 18	<i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> , prefaces and first chapter (xxiii-127)	
			<b>Sign up for presentation dates</b>
T	Jan. 23	<i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> , chapters 2 & 3 (128-166)	<b>Presentation</b>
R	Jan. 25	<i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> , chapters 2 & 3 (128-166)	<b>Presentation</b>
T	Jan. 30	<i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> , chapters 4 & 5 (167-310)	<b>Presentation</b>
R	Feb. 1	<i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> , chapters 4 & 5 (167-310)	<b>Presentation</b>
T	Feb. 6	<i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> , chapter 6 (311-546)	<b>Presentation</b>
R	Feb. 8	<i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> , chapter 6 (311-546)	<b>Presentation</b>
T	Feb. 14	<i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> , chapter 7 (547-664)	<b>Presentation</b>
R	Feb. 15	<i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> , chapter 7 (547-664)	<b>Presentation</b>
T	Feb. 20	Recapitulation and review	
R	Feb. 22	<b>First essay exam, in-class</b>	
T	Feb. 27	“Female Sexuality” (vol. 21, 1931)	
R	Mar. 1	“Femininity” (vol. 22, 1933)	
T	Mar. 6	Luce Irigaray, <i>This Sex Which Is Not One</i> (23-85: “This Sex Which Is Not One,” “Psychoanalytic Theory: Another Look,” and “The Power of Discourse and the Subordination of the Feminine”)	<b>Presentation</b>
R	Mar. 8	Luce Irigaray, <i>This Sex Which Is Not One</i> (23-85: “This Sex Which Is Not One,” “Psychoanalytic Theory: Another Look,” and “The Power of Discourse and the Subordination of the Feminine”)	
			<b>Abstract and preliminary bibliography due</b>
T	Mar. 13	<b>No Class: Spring Break</b>	
R	Mar. 15	<b>No Class: Spring Break</b>	
T	Mar. 20	Shoshana Felman, <i>What Does A Woman Want? Reading and Sexual Difference</i> (68-120: “Competing Pregnancies: The Dream from which Psychoanalysis Proceeds”)	
R	Mar. 22	Shoshana Felman, <i>What Does A Woman Want? Reading and Sexual Difference</i> (68-120: “Competing Pregnancies: The Dream from which Psychoanalysis Proceeds”)	<b>Presentation</b>

**Seminar Timetable (continued)**

---

T	Mar. 27	<i>Beyond the Pleasure Principle</i> (1920)	<b>Presentation</b>
R	Mar. 29	<i>Beyond the Pleasure Principle</i> (1920)	<b>Presentation</b>
T	Apr. 3	<i>Beyond the Pleasure Principle</i> (1920), “The economic problem of masochism” (vol. 19,1924)	<b>Presentation</b>
R	Apr. 5	<i>Beyond the Pleasure Principle</i> (1920), “The economic problem of masochism” (vol. 19,1924)	<b>Presentation</b>
T	Apr. 10	<i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> (vol. 21, 1930)	<b>Presentation</b>
R	Apr. 12	<i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> (vol. 21, 1930)	<b>Presentation</b>
			<b>Updated abstract and annotated bibliography due</b>
T	Apr. 17	<i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> (vol. 21, 1930) Faulkner, Joanne. “Freud’s Concept of the Death Drive and its Relation to the Superego.” <i>Minerva</i> . Vol. 9, November 2005: 153 – 76. <a href="http://www.ul.ie/~philos/vol9/Freud.html">http://www.ul.ie/~philos/vol9/Freud.html</a>	<b>Presentation</b>
R	Apr. 19	<i>Civilization and Its Discontents</i> (vol. 21, 1930) Faulkner, Joanne. “Freud’s Concept of the Death Drive and its Relation to the Superego.” <i>Minerva</i> . Vol. 9, November 2005: 153 – 76. <a href="http://www.ul.ie/~philos/vol9/Freud.html">http://www.ul.ie/~philos/vol9/Freud.html</a>	<b>Presentation</b>
T	Apr. 24	Recapitulation and Review	
		<b>Presentations of research</b> (4 oral summaries of final papers: 10 minutes)	
R	Apr. 26	Second essay exam	
T	May 1	<b>Presentations of research</b> (3 oral summaries of final papers: 10 minutes)	
R	May 3	<b>Presentations of research</b> (3 oral summaries of final papers: 10 minutes)	
			<b>Final seminar paper due</b>