



Instructor: Mari Ruti

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Course Number: ENG384H5S

Course Title: Literature and Psychoanalysis

Course description: An introduction to psychoanalysis for students of literature, this course considers major psychoanalytic ideas through close readings of selected texts by Freud and related thinkers. The course also considers applications of Freud by examining a selection of literary texts and films that engage psychoanalytic theory. Themes of special interest include the uncanny, identity formation, the repetition compulsion, the return of the repressed, love, loss, mourning, melancholia, fetishism, the “male gaze,” the “mirror stage” (Lacan), trauma, abjection, mortification, creativity, and sublimation. We will also pay particular attention to the textual unconscious, and the symptomatic residue that this unconscious generates. We will be doing deconstructive reading with a Freudian twist, looking for what sticks out, signifies in excess, glides from view, resists containment, does not fit, or seems to fit too well in the texts and films under scrutiny. In the process, we will also learn what a sophisticated grasp on Freudian theory can contribute to our understanding of everyday life, particularly to what is difficult or painful about this life.

Continued...

Required Reading:

Sigmund Freud, *New Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*

Sigmund Freud, *The Uncanny*

E. T. A. Hoffmann, *The Tales of Hoffmann*

David Henry Hwang, *M Butterfly*

Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

Coursepack of essays and book chapters

First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:

Freud, Hoffmann, Hwang

Method of Instruction:

Lecture and discussion

Method of Evaluation:

2 in-class tests: 25%

5-7 page paper: 40%

class participation: 10%