

Professor Jean-Michel Rabaté
University of Pennsylvania
spring 2019

ENGL/CINE/COML 094
Introduction to Psychoanalysis: Literature and Film

This class will introduce students to the links between psychoanalysis and film. Psychoanalysis and film were developed at the same time, and the cross-references are numerous and fascinating. We will take Sigmund Freud's works on the arts as a point of departure, studying Freud's dynamic readings of the unconscious as a kind of filmic interpretation. Chosen films will offer examples with which one can test, verify, or question the points of insertion of psychoanalytic concepts such as hysteria, transference, paranoia, and the Oedipus complex. Using films across different genres, from comedy to horror to documentaries, we will consider the function of deferred action, fantasy, sublimation, the uncanny, trauma, and perversion. Despite recent controversies, psychoanalytic approaches to film provide exciting and dynamic methods of interpretation.

We will use PEP-Web to read Freud's texts. The films will be available at the library. We will also discuss two novels: Thomas Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot 49* and Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*.

Work requirements:
eleven film journals of two pages each and a final essay of ten pages.

Schedule of classes:

- 1/17 Survey: Introduction to Literature, Film, and Psychoanalysis
- 1/22 Freud's *Moses and Monotheism* via Michelangelo and *The Tables of the Law*
- 1/24 Freud's *Moses* and films on the Ten Commandments
- 1/29 Freud's *Dora*; hysteria in *Augustine* (dir. Alice Winocour, 2012)
due: film journal 1, on *A Dangerous Method*
- 1/31 *A Dangerous Method* (dir. David Cronenberg, 2011)
film journal 1 discussion
- 2/5 class canceled
- 2/7 class canceled
- 2/12 Freud's trip to the U.S.; the issue of dissociation of personality
due: film journal 2, on *Split*
- 2/14 *Split* (dir. M. Night Shyamalan, 2016)

- discussion: film journal 2
- 2/19 Freud's *Ratman*
due: film journal 3, on *The Wolfpack*
- 2/21 *The Wolfpack* (dir. Crystal Moselle, 2015)
discussion: film journal 3
- 2/26 Freud's *Schreber Case*
due: film journal 4, on *Black Swan*
- 2/28 *Black Swan* (dir. Darren Aronofsky, 2010)
discussion: film journal 4
- 3/5 Freud's *Wolfman*
- 3/7 Freud's "Analysis of a Phobia in a Five-Year-Old Boy"
due: film journal 5, on *Dogtooth*
- Spring break**
- 3/12 *Dogtooth* (dir. Yorgos Lanthimos, 2009)
discussion: film journal 5
- 3/14 *Jaws* (dir. Steven Spielberg, 1975); animal phobias in horror movies (*The Fly*).
- 3/19 Freud's "A Child is Being Beaten" and "Screen Memories"
due: film journal 6, on *Vertigo*
- 3/21 *Vertigo* (dir. Alfred Hitchcock, 1958)
discussion: film journal 6
- 3/26 Freud's "Creative Writers and Day-dreaming" and "Family Romances"
due: film journal 7, on *Psycho*
- 3/28 *Psycho* (dir. Alfred Hitchcock, 1960)
discussion: film journal 7
- 4/2 Freud's *The Uncanny* and *The Sixth Sense* (dir. M. Night Shyamalan, 1999)
due: film journal 8, on *Pet Sematary*
- 4/4 *Pet Sematary* (dir. Mary Lambert, 1989)
discussion: film journal 8
- 4/9 Freud's *The Uncanny*
due: film journal 9, on *The Babadook*
- 4/11 *The Babadook* (dir. Jennifer Kent, 2014)
discussion: film journal 9

- 4/16 Thomas Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot 49*
due: film journal 10, on *Inherent Vice*
- 4/18 *Inherent Vice* (dir. Paul Thomas Anderson, 2014)
discussion: film journal 10
- 4/23 the debate about trauma: Freud, Caruth, Leys, and Trezise
due: film journal 11, on *Life of Pi* and *Beatrice and Virgil* (2010)
due: abstracts of final essays; discussion
- 4/25 Yann Martel's *The Life of Pi* (2001), *The Life of Pi* (dir. Ang Lee, 2012), *The Birds* (dir. Alfred Hitchcock, 1963), and *The Birds II: Land's End* (dir. Rick Rosenthal as Alan Smithee, 1994)
discussion: film journal 11
- 4/30 *The Birds* interpreted by Lawrence Rickels and Slavoj Žižek
- 5/2 (make-up class) synthesis on psychoanalysis and film
due: final essay