

GRMN 5260-401, COML5260401, GSWS5260401

The Trouble with Freud: Psychoanalysis, Literature, Culture

Liliane Weissberg

Spring Semester 2025

Tuesdays, 1:45-3:44pm, Van Pelt Library 627

For professionals in the field of mental care, Freud's work is often regarded as outmoded, if not problematic psychologists view his work as non-scientific, dependent on theses that cannot be confirmed by experiments. In the realm of literary and cultural theory, however, Freud's work seems to have relevance still, and is cited often. How do we understand the gap between a medical/scientific reading of Freud's work, and a humanist one? Where do we locate Freud's relevance today? The graduate course will concentrate on Freud's descriptions of psychoanalytic theory and practice, as well as his writings on literature and culture.

Essays for discussion and further readings are posted on canvas. Freud's *Interpretation of Dreams* is easily available in the library and as paperback copy.

Syllabus

Tuesday, January 21	Introduction: Freud in His Time, Freud Today
Tuesday, January 28	Hysteria (texts for discussion marked with * on canvas)
Tuesday, February 4	Joseph Breuer/[Sigmund Freud], "Anna O." (case study; essay on canvas)
Tuesday, February 11	Freud, <i>Interpretation of Dreams</i> (excerpts)
Tuesday, February 18	Freud, "Dora" (case study; essay on canvas)
Tuesday, February 25	Human Development (texts for discussion marked with * on canvas)
Tuesday, March 4	Sex and Gender (texts for discussion marked with * on canvas)
Tuesday, March 11:	Spring Break

Tuesday, March 18	Class Issues (texts for discussion marked with * on canvas)
Tuesday, March 25	Cultural Differences (texts for discussion marked with * on canvas)
Tuesday, April 1	The Question of Religion (texts for discussion marked with * on canvas)
Tuesday, April 8	Object Relational Theory (texts for discussion marked with * on canvas)
Tuesday, April 15	Lacan and After (texts for discussion marked with * on canvas)
Tuesday, April 22	Behavioral Studies; Psychodynamic Theory (texts for discussion marked with * on canvas)
Tuesday, April 29	Psychoanalytic Training: Teachers and Patients (texts for discussion marked with * on canvas)

Seminar Requirements:

Regular attendance and participation in class discussion, one research paper (ca. 15-20 pages).

Liliane Weissberg's Office Hours:

Wednesdays, 3:30- 4:30 pm, Williams Hall 747, and by appointment
lweissbe@sas.upenn.edu