

CHID/HIST 314

Freud & the Psychoanalytic Revolution in Historical Perspective



The aim of the course is to develop an understanding of Freudian Psychoanalysis as a way of thinking about the self and its relations with and to others. During the first half of the course we will examine the construction and transformation of Freudian theory in the context of the crisis of liberal culture in central Europe between 1870 and 1939. Attention will be paid to parallel developments in literature, the arts, philosophy and social theory in order to situate Freud in the culture of “modernism”. The second half of the course will focus on the transformation of Freudian theory after World War I and the divergent receptions of psychoanalysis among Freud's followers and critics. The “heresies” of Adler and Jung, and the movements they spawned will be examined. One of the threads we will try to draw through all of this material is that of the gendered self -- of the construction of masculine and feminine identities. But we will also examine questions of class, ethnicity, religion and national political culture as they relate to the creation and reception of Freudian conceptions of self formation.