
SEXUALITY, AGGRESSION, & GUILT in Fall 2019 (GS2051)

Course Code	GS2051	Professor(s)	George Allyn
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-L12
Class Schedule	TF: 15:20-16:40 in G-002	Office Hours	Tuesdays & Fridays 13h45-15h10
Credits	4	Email	gallyn@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	689

Course Description

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Can the psychoanalytic theory of the pleasure principle help us to understand the purpose of life? Is sexual love the prototype of all happiness? Why is there an antagonism between civilization and human nature? Is man really an aggressive beast? Where does human aggression come from? How do the demands of morality and culture end up making man neurotic? Is it in fact a question of psycho-sexual economics? Is man really a bisexual primate? Are human sexuality and civilization really incompatible? Is civilized man inevitably a "guilty-man"? To what extent is repression really necessary?

Once Freud's analysis of these questions has been examined in detail, then Herbert Marcuse's Marxist revision of the psychoanalytic *problématique* will be undertaken. The psychoanalytic diagnoses of contemporary western society as not merely sick but pathogenic will be considered by way of secondary sources. The concepts of alienation, surplus repression, re-erotisation of the body and repressive desublimation will be presented as "tools" of psychoanalytic criticism.

Students are expected neither to believe in nor agree with either the moral and political theories presented or the psychological critiques made of them. Students are expected only to understand the theories and critiques presented.

Course Learning Outcomes

To enable students to think critically about human nature and about the price paid for being/becoming civilized

to examine the possibilities of failed civilizing on certain individuals
and to encourage students to ask questions rather than imposing ready-made answers
psychology and psycho-analysis are to be approached as a methodology rather than as a
dogma or an alternative to religion

General Education

GENERAL EDUCATION: This course does not fulfill any General Education requirement.

Course Outline

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- | | |
|------|--|
| I. | Civilization and Culture, definition and an attempt at a psychological approach to the subject. |
| II. | The force of religion considered psychologically: Taboo, Law and Repression.

Religion as Illusion ("Illusion" and "Delusion" differentiated). |
| III. | Religion as a collective neurosis and therefore as an alternative to individual neurosis. Mysticism, the oceanic feeling and the infantile ego.

God and the father complex. |
| IV. | The question of the purpose of life and the psychoanalytic formulation of the Pleasure Principle. Limitations to human happiness. |
| V. | The neurotic as <i>artiste manqué</i> , the artist as <i>névrosé réussi</i> : perversion, creativity and morality. The concept of sublimation. |
| VI. | Erotic love and the search for happiness: "erotic" vs. "neurotic" solutions in the face |

of civilized sexual morality.

- VII. Neurosis as the result of overcivilization and/or an excess of morality (i.e., too much repression).
- VIII. Beauty, cleanliness and order examined from a psychological point of view.

The psychological bases of cultural and moral ideals. The ideal differentiated from and contrasted with the idealized. The concept of sublimation re-examined.
- IX. Love, the family and *eros*: infantile sexuality, the bisexual disposition and repression. Question: are civilized (moral) ideals “illusions” in the same way as religion?
- X. - XII. Civilized man as guilty man. The nature of the moral conscience (conceived psychoanalytically), and the neutralization/transformation of human destructiveness.
- XIII. Marcuse's distinction of basic repression from surplus repression and of the performance principle from the so-called reality principle.
- XIV. General review.

EXAMS:

There will be a mid-term and a final. Both will be in essay form, as well as quizzes.

Students must take the final on the expected date: **Friday, December 13, 2019 - 15:30**

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students will not be allowed to use Laptops and iPads during class,

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

GRADING:

A student cannot get a grade for the course lower than what (s)he receives for the final. Should the final be the lower, then it will count 70-75%, except when extenuating circumstances can justify otherwise. Class participation will count for 5%.

Other
