Course Number: AP/EN 3020 6.0A

Title: PSYCHOANALYSIS AND APPROACHES TO LITERATURE

Instructor: Elena Basile
Email: ebasile@yorku.ca

Description:
This course is an introduction to the study of psychoanalysis in the context of literary and cultural studies. Its purpose is to encourage students to approach literary texts through the lens offered by psychoanalysis and psychoanalytically informed cultural theory. Far from being confined to the private relation between therapist and patient, Freud’s discovery of the unconscious at the turn of the 20th century has had far reaching implications on how today we understand the psychic dynamics of culture, particularly in relation to questions of identity and desire. The course will provide a general introduction to the thought of Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan, and will look at how their theories apply to the reading of a wide range of literary texts, including some 19th century classics and contemporary fiction. Throughout the year we will read excerpts from a number of psychoanalytically informed cultural theorists (Cheng, Deleuze and Guattari, Kristeva, and Zizek, among others), and we will use their insights to help us address questions of sexuality, race, postcoloniality and the economies of desire in the age of late capital.

Course Requirements:
- Participation 10% In class and online informed discussion
- First Essay 15% (6 to 8 pages) Due on October 30, 2012
- MidTerm Exam 20% TBA
- Presentation 10% Any time during the year.
- Second Essay 25% (10 to 12 pages) Due on March 12, 2012
- Final Exam 20% TBA

Texts (Tentative):
- Sigmund Freud Interpreting Dreams
- Sophocles Oedipus the King
- Oscar Wilde The Picture of Dorian Gray
- Jamaica Kincaid My Brother
- Leopold Von Sacher-Masoch Venus In Furs
- Angela Carter The Bloody Chamber
- Tayeb Salih Season of Migration to the North
- Maxine Hong Kingston The Woman Warrior
Nicole Brossard Mauve Desert
Rachel Zolf Masque
J.M. Coetzee Disgrace

Please Note:
The books listed above and a Course Kit with the mandatory theoretical readings are available at the York Bookstore. Some readings will be available online. Optional readings are also on reserve in the library.

**Open To:**

Spaces are reserved for 2nd and 3rd year EN/PRWR/ENPR/CRWR Honours students until July 16th