

PHL 557: Topics in Continental Philosophy: Freudian Legacies

Fall 2014

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Course Objectives: Is there such a thing as an accident in psychoanalysis or does everything have psychical meaning? This seminar will begin by showing that there was always, from the very beginning, a radical thinking of the accident in Freud. We will begin with early Freud and his thinking of the accident in the late 1890's looking not at the erogenous body but at the traumatized body. We will turn, then, to *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*, where, in the wake of World War I, we get a fully developed thinking of the accident (if we have time, we might even look at some 1915 texts on the war neuroses). We will look at how the notion of *Nachträglichkeit* is taken up by contemporary French psychoanalytic theory on the one hand (Lacan, Laplanche), and by continental philosophy on the other (Derrida, among others) and why, for example, someone like Catherine Malabou avoids it in her thinking of the "traumatic event." We will also spend some time on the anti-psychiatry movement in order to understand Michel Foucault's interesting but symptomatic disavowal of Freud and psychoanalysis in his work (we will look in particular at *Psychiatric Power* and *History of Sexuality I*).

Course Requirements: Seminar participants are expected to keep up with the readings and come prepared to discuss them in seminar. In addition, each student will be responsible for a seminar presentation. The seminar presentation, approximately 5 pages, should be a discussion of the assigned reading (including a clear exposition of its argument). How that discussion is presented is the presenter's prerogative. **NB:** The seminar presentation must be distributed via email attachment to all seminar participants at least one day (Tuesday by 3:00pm) in advance of the seminar so that all participants are able to read it prior to the meeting. In addition, all students will be expected to write a 10-page paper (it is perfectly acceptable for this paper to be an extension of the presentation).

Texts

Caruth, C. (1996). *Unclaimed Experience*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Derrida, J. (1987). "My Chances / *Mes chances*: A Rendezvous with Some Epicurean

Sterophonies." Trans. Irene Harvey and Avital Ronell. In *Psyche: Inventions of the Other I*. Ed. Peggy Kamuf and Elizabeth Rottenberg. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007.

- Derrida, J. (2003). "Autoimmunity: Real and Symbolic Suicides—a Conversation with Jacques Derrida." Trans. Pascale-Anne Brault and Michael Naas. In *Philosophy in a Time of Terror*. ed. Giovanna Borradori, 85-136. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Foucault, M. (2003). *Psychiatric Power: Lectures at the Collège de France 1973-1974*. Trans. Graham Burchell. New York: Picador, 2006.
- Freud, S. (1893). "Report on my Studies in Paris and Berlin." Standard Edition 3: 5-15. London: Hogarth Press, 1962.
- Freud, S. (1893). "Some Points for a Comparative Study of Organic and Hysterical Motor Paralyses." Standard Edition 1: 155-73. London: Hogarth Press, 1962.
- Freud, S. (1893). "Charcot." Standard Edition 3: 11-23. London: Hogarth Press, 1962.
- Freud, S. (1893). "On the Psychological Mechanism of Hysterical Phenomena: A Lecture." Standard Edition 3: 27-39. London: Hogarth Press, 1962.
- Freud, S. (1894). "The Neuro-Psychoses of Defense." Standard Edition 3: 45-61. London: Hogarth Press, 1962.
- Freud, S. (1895). "Studies on Hysteria." Standard Edition 2: 3-305. London: Hogarth Press, 1955.
- Freud, S. (1896). "Heredity and the Aetiology of the Neuroses." Standard Edition 3: 143-156. London: Hogarth Press, 1962.
- Freud, S. (1896). "The Aetiology of Hysteria." Standard Edition 3: 191-221. London: Hogarth Press, 1962.
- Freud, S. (1923). "Beyond the Pleasure Principle." Standard Edition 18: 7-64. London: Hogarth Press, 1955.
- Freud, S. (1925). "An Autobiographical Study." Standard Edition 20: 7-71. London: Hogarth Press, 1955.
- Lacan, J. (1975) *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan: Book 1, Freud's Papers on Technique, 1953-1954*. Trans. John Forrester. New York: Norton, 1988.
- Laplanche, J. (1985). *Life and Death in Psychoanalysis*. Trans. Jeffrey Mehlman. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Laplanche, J. (1993). "Notes on Afterwardsness." In *Seduction, Translation and the Drives*. Trans. Martin Stanton, 212-223. London: Institute of Contemporary Arts Editions.
- Malabou, C. (2009). *Ontology of the Accident*. Trans. Carolyn Shread. Cambridge: Polity, 2012.

VERY PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE OF READINGS

- Sept. 10 **Introduction**
Readings: 1) **Freud**, “Report on my Studies in Paris and Berlin”; “Charcot”; “An Autobiographical Study” (sections I and II)
2) **Foucault**, *Psychiatric Power* (final session)
- Sept. 17 **The Accident and the Question of Spatial Unlocatability**
Readings: 1) **Freud**, “Some Points for a Comparative Study of Organic and Hysterical Motor Paralyses”; “Preliminary Communication” (from *Studies on Hysteria*); “The Neuro-Psychoses of Defense”
Recommended: 1) **Malabou**, *Ontology of the Accident*; **Solms and Solms**, *Clinical Studies in Neuropsychoanalysis*, chapter 8 [handout]
- Sept. 24 **The Accident and the Question of Temporal Unlocatability I (Sexuality)**
Readings: 1) **Freud**, “Emma”; “Katharina”; 2) **Laplanche**, *Life and Death in Psychoanalysis*, chapters 1 and 2
- Oct. 1 **Sexuality and Metapsychology I**
Readings: 1) **Freud**, “On Narcissism,” “Instincts and their Vicissitudes”; 2) **Laplanche**, “An interview with Cathy Caruth”; “2) **Lacan**, “The Mirror Stage”
- Oct.8 **Sexuality and Metapsychology II**
Readings: **Freud**, “Repression,” “The Unconscious,” “Mourning and Melancholia”
- Oct. 15 **The Accident and the Question of Temporal Unlocatability II (Trama)**
Readings: 1) **Freud**, *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*
- Oct. 22 **The Accident and the Question of Temporal Unlocatability III**
Readings: 1) **Freud**, *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*
- Oct. 29 **(De)Structuring the Accident**
Readings: 1) **Derrida**, “Autoimmunity”; 2) **Malabou**, *Ontology of the Accident*;
- Nov. 5
- Nov. 12

