

THE EMERGENCE OF THE UNCONSCIOUS FROM ANCIENT HEALING TO PSYCHOANALYSIS

K20.1188

Spring Semester 2009

Gallatin School -527

New York University

Professor Lee Robbins

Lr33@nyu.edu

Office hours: Tues. 11-12 and Fri. 10:30-1130, room #417

“The assumption that the human psyche possesses layers that lie *below* consciousness is not likely to arouse opposition. But that here could just as well be layers lying *above* consciousness seems to be a surmise which borders on a *crimen laesae majestatis humanae*. In my experience the conscious mind can claim only a relatively central position and accept the fact that the unconscious psyche transcends and surrounds it on all sides. Unconscious contents connect it *backwards* with physiological states on the one hand and archetypal data on the other. But it is extended *forwards* by intuitions which are determined partly by archetypal and partly by subliminal perceptions depending on the relativity of time and space in the unconscious.”

C.G. Jung, *Collected Works*, 12, par. 175

Description and Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to present historical and clinical material that implicates the existence of a phenomenon called the unconscious. You will learn that the unconscious is an ancient idea that is not the domain of modern depth psychology but has its roots in ancient religion, philosophy and archaic methods of healing. Thus, as we study theories of the unconscious from antiquity through the postmodern era, I hope you will also have an experience of the unconscious for there is no other subject where theory and practice are so intimately tied together and influence each other.

Course Requirements

Required Readings:

Henri Ellenberger *The Discovery of the Unconscious*

Peter Gay *The Freud Reader*

Freud New *Introductory Lectures On Psychoanalysis*

Jung *Memories Dreams Reflections*

James Hillman *The Myth of Analysis*

Augustine *Confessions*

SB=Source Book

H=Handouts

Assignments and Assessment:

Two in class written reflections—25%

Two response papers—20%

Class presentation-individual, dyad or group—15%

Creative Project based on your understanding of Freud and/or Jung's unconscious—30%

Attendance and Participation—10%

Written Work:

All written work should be submitted on time. Late work submitted without written documentation of a medical or personal emergency will automatically be penalized. Written work must be typed or word-processed, double-spaced with 1" margins. You may **not email** your papers. Written work will be assessed according to the following scale.

A=Outstanding work distinguished by a high degree of originality, clarity, detail and depth of analysis. Secondly, "A" work is also well written, without obvious grammatical and spelling errors, and well organized.

B=Above average work which is original, clear and well conceived. Secondly, "B" work is well written, but may contain some grammatical errors and awkwardness.

C=Average and competent work which is well written and clear. "C" work is not substandard work, but may be lacking in originality and depth of analysis.

D=Substandard work which does not fully answer a given question or grapple with a topic on an appropriate level. “D” work is generally not well written and organized. Anyone receiving a “D” should make an appointment to meet with the instructor to discuss outside referrals to academic or writing tutors.

F=Work which fails to meet Gallatin standards in terms of content and or presentation. Any student receiving an “F” **must make an appointment with the instructor**. Failure to submit any written work will result in an automatic “F”.

“I” (Incomplete) are strenuously discouraged, but can be arranged should a personal or medical emergency arise. The appropriate forms must be obtained from the Assistant Dean’s office and signed by the instructor.

Theories of the Mind—Ancient to Postmodern

First Week

Jan. 20- Introduction to the course

Jan. 22- Oldest known Model of Mind

H “Mandukaya” *Upanishad*

H Kugler: “The Unconscious in Postmodern Depth Psychology” 307-317.

Second Week

Jan. 27 Freud and the Early Greek Soul

Freud: “Dissection of the Psychical Personality” in *New Introductory Lectures*, 57-80

H Bremmer: *Early Greek concept of the Soul*, 3-24, 53-63, 70-76

Jan. 29 Jung and Augustine

Augustine: *Confessions* Introduction and Book X 179-202.

H Stevens: “Metapsychology: Jung’s Model of the Psyche,” 27-53

Third Week Memory and the Unconscious

Feb. 3

H Aristotle: *De Memoria et Reminiscentia* and commentary

James Hillman: “Psychology’s Loss of “Memory” in *Myth of Analysis*, 169-190

Feb. 5 The Unconscious Speaks

H Michael Adams: “Imaginology” 1-11.

Hillman: “On Psychological Language” in *Myth of Analysis* 117-123, 148-154, 164-169

Fourth Week Language of the Unconscious

Feb. 10

Freud: “Formulations on Two Principles of Mental Functioning” in *Freud Reader*, 301-308.

SB Jung: “Two kinds of Thinking” from *Symbols of Transformation*, 7-33

Feb. 12 **GROUPS AND FIRST REFLECTION**

Theories of Disease and Healing-Ancient and Modern

Fifth Week

Feb. 17

SB Dodds: “The Blessings of Madness” in *The Greeks and the Irrational*, 64-82

Feb. 19

Ellenberger: “The Ancestry of Dynamic Psychotherapy, 3-48

Sixth Week

Feb. 24 Hysteria and Hypnosis

Ellenberger: Mesmer, 57-69; Spiritism, 83-85, Berheim and the Nancy School, 85-89; Charcot and the Salpetriere, 89-102, 111; Models of the Mind, 145-147; “Concepts of Psychogenesis and Illness, 148-150

Feb. 26 The Cultural Background-The Enlightenment, Romanticism and Philosophers of the Unconscious
Ellenberger: 193-210, 271-278, 278-284.

Seventh Week

March 3 Sexual Psychology and Pathology, the Study of Dreams, Exploration of the Unconscious
Ellenberger: 291-318

March 5 **GROUPS AND SECOND REFLECTION**

Freud, Jung and the Buddhist Unconscious

Eighth Week Freud

March 10

Film “Sigmund Freud Today” and **RESPONSE PAPER**

Gay: *The Freud Reader*, Introduction and “An Autobiographical Study” 3-41

March 12 Freud’s Unconscious The Early Model

Ellenberger: 480-500

Ninth Week SPRING BREAK March 17 and 19

Tenth Week

March 24 – Revision 1- The Meta-psychological Model

Ellenberger: 510-518

Gay: “The Unconscious” 572-584

March 26 Freud’s Unconscious

Revision 11- The Structural Model

Gay: “The Ego and the Id” ‘628-658.

Eleventh Week

March 31 Structural Model con't
Gay: "The Ego and the Id

April 2. Carl Jung

Jung: *Memories* 3-5, 146-199

Film and **RESPONSE PAPER**

Twelfth Week Jung's Unconscious

April 7 Notion of Psychological Reality, Burgholzi Period, Psychoanalytic Period, Intermediate Period
Ellenberger 687-703

April 9 Analytical Psychology

Jung: *Memories* 200-222

Ellenberger: 703-713

Thirteenth Week Jung' Unconscious

April 14

SB Jung: "The Concept of the collective Unconscious," CW 9.1 42-53

SB Jung: "Archetypes of the Collective Unconscious," CW 9.1 3-41

April 16 Jung's Unconscious

SB Jung: "The Relations Between Ego and Unconscious," CW 7. 127-138

SB Jung: "The Structure of the Psyche," CW 8 139-158

SB Jung: "On the Nature of the Psyche," CW 8 184-216

Fourteenth week The Buddhist Unconscious

April 21

SB William Waldron: "A Comparison of the Alaya-vij-na" with Freud and Jung's Theories of the Unconscious," 3-4

April 23

Waldron: continued

Fifteenth Week Emergence of the Unconscious

April 28 – **Presentation of the Projects**

April 30 – **Presentation of the Projects**