

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## The Psychology of Art and Culture



**PSY 280**  
**Spring 2017**  
**Monday, 8:30-11:15**

Lecturer: Dr. Joseph Dodds, PhD  
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Office hours: By appointment  
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<b>Semester Credits</b>	3	<b>Language of Instruction</b>	English
<b>ECTS</b>	6	<b>Level</b>	Intermediate
<b>Length</b>	3 weeks	<b>Pre-requisites</b>	None
<b>Contact hours</b>	42 hours	<b>Course type</b>	HSC, PS, JC Elective HUM Elective

### 1. Course Description

This course introduces several psychological approaches, including psychological, psychoanalytic, psychosocial, and neuroscientific, to the study of art, culture, and society. Areas of application include film, painting, literature, art therapy, psychohistory, consciousness, dreams, surrealism, gender, ecology, and economics. This course is a required course for a range of further psychological and psychoanalytic courses at AAU, including Psychoanalysis and Art, Psychoanalysis and Society, the Psychology of Environmental Crisis, and Screening Desire/Projecting Anxiety: The Psychoanalysis of Film. This course therefore serves as a foundation for and introduction to the key concepts, theories and approaches necessary for a deeper engagement in the psychoanalysis of culture, but also functions as a stand alone course for all those interested in art, culture, psychology or society to understand the basic tools, concepts and approaches in this area.

### 2. Student Learning Outcomes

Students must demonstrate:

- Students will demonstrate abilities to apply definitions and main concepts of different psychological theories to explain and interpret different aspects of art, society, and culture.
- Students will learn theoretically and experientially about the clinical practice of art

therapy.

- Students will provide evidence of their abilities to analyze, synthesize and evaluate the studied material through active participation in class.
- Students will be able to compare and contrast difference between the psychological theories, outline the limits and controversies individual theories imply when describing the same phenomena.
- Students will select 2 theories of choice and in presentation and paper demonstrate their in-depth familiarity with theories' conceptual frameworks, and ability to apply those in interpretation of an artistic, cultural, social phenomenon of choice.
- Will demonstrate and defend their individual critical evaluation and critically review other fellow students' positions.
- Students will show active pursuit of in-depth discussions in seminars, ability to lead a class debate on a topic of choice, and demonstrate attainment of interpretive psychoanalytic perspectives applicable to a wide range of topics in art, society, and culture.

### **3. Course Materials**

Course reader and materials available from the course website, [www.psychanalysis.cz](http://www.psychanalysis.cz)

### **4. Prerequisites:**

All students need to have taken 'Introduction to Psychology'.

### **5. Course Plan and Readings:**

#### **A. FOUNDATIONS**

**Class 1. Psychology of art and culture: What is art? What is culture? What is society? How can psychology help?**

Required readings: -Quinodoz's *Reading Freud* Chapters 1-3

**Class 2. Freud 1: basic principles – art, dreams, surrealism**

Required readings: -Freud: Creative Writers and Day Dreaming.

-Bruno Solarik: *The Walking Abyss: Perspectives on Contemporary Czech and Slovak Surrealism.* or Lenka Bydzovská: *Against the Current: The Story of the Surrealist Group of Czechoslovakia*

-Susan Budd: *The Shark Behind the Sofa: The Psychoanalytic Theory of Dreams*

**Class 3. Freud 2: basic principles – psychosexuality, psychological structure, and psychoanalytic aesthetics**

Required readings: -Harry Trossman – *Towards a Psychoanalytic Iconography*

-Susan Krauss Whitbourne: *The Essential Guide to Defense Mechanisms Can you you're your favorite form of self-deception?*

-Winter and Koger: *The Psychology of Environmental Problems: Ch 3. Psychoanalytic Psychology: Becoming Conscious of the Unconscious.*

**Class 4. Freud 3: basic principles – society, defence mechanisms and conflict**

Required readings: -Daniel Dennett: *My Brain Made Me Do It*

-Optional Reading from Ramachandran

#### **B. NEUROSCIENCE**

**Class 5. Test 1 (20%).**

**Neuroscience 1: Perception: illusions, gestalt, pathologies and art**

Required readings: - Mark Solms & Oliver. H. Turnbull: *What Is Neuropsychanalysis?*

Michael Irving: Art as Therapy: An Overview:

**Class 6. Neuroscience 2: Emotion, consciousness and self**

Required Readings:

- David Edwards: *Psychoanalysis, Art, Art Therapy*
- Christopher Heffner: Psychodynamic Assessment and Projective tests: (section 1-3)

**C. ART, ART THERAPY AND POLITICS**

**Class 7. Art therapy 1: Projective tests and basic principles**

Required readings: Danielle Knafo (1991) *Egon Schiele's Self-Portraits: A Psychoanalytic Study in the Creation of a Self*

- Hyland, Boduszek and Kielkiewicz (2012) A Psycho-Historical Analysis of Adolf Hitler: The Role of Personality, Psychopathology, and Development

**Class 8. Introduction to psychobiography and political profiling in art and politics – Egon Schiele and Adolf Hitler.**

Required reading: Victor Daniels (2011) The Analytical Psychology of Carl Gustav Jung  
-Ann Shearer: On the Making of Myths: Mythology in Training Ann Shearer

**Class 9. Jung: basic principles – art, society, culture**

Required reading: Jungian Art Therapy

- Jennifer Birch (2009) Using Drawings in Play Therapy: A Jungian Approach

**Class 10. Test 2 (20%).**

**Art therapy 2: Jung, active imagination, mandala**

Required reading: Glen Gabbard: *The Psychoanalyst at the Movies*

- Andrew Webber: *Cut and Laced – Traumatism and Fetishism in Luis Brunel's *Un Chien Andalou**

**D. CONTEMPORARY APPLICATIONS TO FILM, SOCIETY AND CULTURE**

**Class 11. Psychological film analysis: basic principles and applications**

Required reading: Reading Freud: Quinidoz: *Reading Freud: Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego. Civilization and Its Discontents*

- Wendy Hollway: *Psychoanalysis in Social Psychological Research*

**Class 12. Psychosocial approaches to contemporary society and culture 1. Final presentations 1**

Required reading: *What is a Scapegoat? A Psychoanalytic Perspective* Joseph Dodds,  
-Joseph Dodds: *Artificial Group Psychodynamics*

**Class 13. Psychosocial approaches to contemporary society and culture 2. Final presentations 2**

Required reading: Simon Clarke: *Culture and Identity*

- Joseph Dodds: *Affective Finance – Psychoanalysis and Economic Crisis*

**Class 14. Final presentations 3. Final art therapy and conclusion. Final paper due (30%).**

**Class 15. Test 3 (20%)**

**6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)**

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Student Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes
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Participation	90 hours	Up to 10% of their grade	Students are expected to join in and actively participate in class discussions and respond to other students presentations. This will include the overall participation as well as attendance. Students will make a presentation the class based on their project/final paper. Failure to participate in the key areas of the course will cost up to 10% to the final grade.	1, 2, 3
1 <sup>st</sup> Exam	15 hours	20.00%	The first exam will cover the first third of the course and include multiple choice, short answers and essays. On the essays students should show a high level of comprehension of the area involved and good analytical abilities. They are expected to show a good grasp of the theoretical issues and make a good case to support their argument.	1, 2, 3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Exam	15 hours	20.00%	The second exam will cover the second third of the course and include multiple choice, short answers and essays. On the essays students should show a high level of comprehension of the area involved and good analytical abilities. They are expected to show a good grasp of the theoretical issues and make a good case to support their argument.	1, 2, 3
Final Exam	15 hours	20.00%	The final exam will cover the final third of the course and include three essay questions. On the essays students should show a high level of comprehension of the area involved and good analytical abilities. They are expected to show a good grasp of the theoretical issues and make a good case to support their argument.	1, 2, 3

Final Paper	15 hours	30.00%	A final paper, approximately 7 pages (double-line spacing), is due on last class before the exam, on a topic the student's choice in relation to the course. It must incorporate at least two different psychological approaches and show good abilities of analysis, synthesis and application of theory to a relevant topic. It should be well researched and referenced and include a bibliography. The student is expected to take an independent position and be able to defend their point of view.	1, 2, 3
TOTAL	150 hours	100%		

## 7. Detailed description of course assignments and assessment breakdown

### Assignment 1: Readings, preparation for class, participation, and presentation

Assessed area	Percentage
Reading, analyzing and recording main ideas, problems and questions	10%
Posing relevant questions on readings in class	
Mindful presence and thoughtful involvement in class	

### Assignment 2: Exams

Assessed area	Percentage
The three exams will cover three sections of the course and include multiple choice, short answers and essays.	60% (20% per exam)
Show a high level of comprehension of the area involved and good analytical abilities.	
Demonstrate a good grasp of the theoretical issues	
Make a good case to support their argument.	

### Assignment 3: Final Paper

Assessed area	Percentage
Demonstrating knowledge of concepts and essential issues, in writing	30%
Providing relevant discussion and examples	
Writing well-documented and well-argued essays	
Incorporate at least two different psychological approaches	
Show good abilities of analysis, synthesis and application of theory to a relevant topic..	
Scholarly researched, referencing, and bibliography.	
Demonstrate ability to take an independent position and be able to defend their point of view	

## **8. General Requirements**

All coursework is governed by AAU's academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules available in the Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity.

### **Electronic Communication and Submission**

The university and instructors shall only use students' university email address for communication. It is strongly recommended that any email communication between students and instructors take place in NEO LMS. Each e-mail sent to an instructor that is about a new topic (meaning not a reply to an original email) shall have a new and clearly stated subject and the course code in the subject, for example: "COM101-1 Mid-term Exam. Question".

All electronic submissions are carried out through NEO LMS. No substantial pieces of writing (especially take home exams and essays) can be submitted outside of NEO LMS.

**Attendance is required. AAU recommends a minimal policy that students absent 35 % of the course be failed (or withdrawn from the course administratively if the absences were excused).**

### **Absence Excuse and Make-up Options**

Should the student be absent from a class for relevant reasons (illness, serious family matters), s/he needs to submit an Absence Excuse Form supplemented with documents proving the reasons for absence to the Assistant Dean. Should a student be absent during the add/drop period due to a change in registration this will be an excused absence if they submit an Absence Excuse Form along with the finalized add/drop form. The form and documents must be submitted within one week of absence. If possible inform the instructor about the absence in advance. Students whose absence has been excused by the Dean are entitled to make up exams they missed provided that the nature of the exam allows for a make-up. The students are responsible for contacting their instructor within one week from the date the absence was excused, and for making arrangements with the instructor about make-up options as necessary.

### **Unexcused Absences**

Students are allowed two unexcused absences. Absences above that may result in failure of the course.

**Late work: Deadlines are provided and late submissions are not accepted.**

### **Electronic devices**

Any electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops...) may be used only for class-related activities (taking notes, looking up related information...). Any other use will result in being marked absent and/or being expelled from the class. No electronic devices may be used during the exams.

**Eating is not allowed during classes.**

### **Cheating and disruptive behavior**

If a student engages in disruptive or other conduct unsuitable for a classroom environment of an institution of learning, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the room for the duration of the activity or for the day and shall report the behavior to the Dean. Students engaging in behavior which is suggestive of cheating (e.g. whispering or passing notes) will, at a minimum, be warned. In the case of continued misbehavior the student will be expelled from the exam and the exam will be marked as failed.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Tutoring Center**

Plagiarism is "the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work." (Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Random House, New York, 1993)

Turnitin's White Paper 'The Plagiarism Spectrum' (available at <http://go.turnitin.com/paper/plagiarism-spectrum>) identifies 10 types of plagiarism ordered from most to least severe:

1. CLONE: An act of submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own.
2. CTRL-C: A written piece that contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations
3. FIND-REPLACE: The act of changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source in a paper.
4. REMIX: An act of paraphrasing from other sources and making the content fit together seamlessly.
5. RECYCLE: The act of borrowing generously from one's own previous work without citation.
6. HYBRID: Combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages without citation in a single paper.
7. MASHUP represents a mix of copied material from several different sources without proper citation.
8. 404 ERROR: A written piece that includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate sources
9. AGGREGATOR includes proper citation, but the paper contains almost no original work.

10. RE-TWEET includes proper citation, but relies closely on the text's original wording and/or structure.

As the minimum policy the types of plagiarism from 1 through 8 results in the failing grade from the assignment and must be reported to the Dean. The Dean may initiate a disciplinary procedure pursuant to the Academic Codex. Allegations of bought papers and intentional or consistent plagiarism always entail disciplinary hearing and may result in expulsion from AAU.

If unsure about technical aspects of writing, students are encouraged to consult their papers with the tutors of the AAU Academic Tutoring Center. For more information and/or to book a tutor, please contact the ATC at:

<http://atc.simplybook.me/sheduler/manage/event/1/>.

Students with disabilities are asked to contact their instructor as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodation.

Letter Grade	Percentage*	Description
A	95 – 100	<b>Excellent performance.</b> The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A–	90 – 94	
B+	87 – 89	<b>Good performance.</b> The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83 – 86	
B–	80 – 82	
C+	77 – 79	<b>Fair performance.</b> The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C	73 – 76	
C–	70 – 72	
D+	65 – 69	<b>Poor.</b> The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student's work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
D	60 – 64	
F	0 – 59	<b>Fail.</b> The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

\* Decimals should be rounded to the nearest whole number.