

Professor Michael Levine  
Office Hrs: Mondays 1-3pm  
Office: AB4127  
Phone: 848-932-7781  
Email: mglevine@rutgers.edu

Spring 20, MTh3 11:30am-12:50pm  
Room #AB West Wing 4052  
German 01: 470:247  
Comparative Literature 01:195:247  
3 Credits

## Psy Fi: Literature and Psychoanalysis

### Course Description:

Origins and major concepts of psychoanalysis explored through a close analysis of Freud's writings with a particular focus on their literary dimension. The course seeks not simply to apply Freud to literature but also to see how psychoanalytic thinking itself might be enriched and expanded by our approaching it through works of visual art and literature. Thus, in addition to readings of Freud's case studies and writings on compulsion, superstition, religious ritual, and the unconscious, we will study a wide range of literary texts from German, French, Anglo-American and Latin American traditions. In English.

The course is organized with a view toward the conference "Denkzwang/Thinking Thinking" to be held April 3-4 at NYU Deutsches Haus to which students are invited and strongly urged to attend.



Permanent Core Curriculum requirements:

#### **AHo, AHp.**

- **AHo.** Examine critically philosophical and other theoretical issues concerning the nature of reality, human experience, knowledge, value, and/or cultural production.
- **AHp.** Analyze arts and/or literatures in themselves and in relation to specific histories, values, languages, cultures, and technologies.

### No Prerequisites

### Required Readings

All texts are available for purchase at the Barnes and Noble campus bookstore. Other readings can be downloaded from Sakai prior to class meetings. Downloaded texts should either be printed out (preferred option) or brought to class in a readily accessible and easy-to-highlight electronic form.

<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/f4ecc71c-de2f-4bbc-8bf8-58e16126d549/tool/2895e7d3-746e-4e54-9848-9710cb2eac15?panel=Main>

### Screening:

You (Netflix)

<https://www.netflix.com/watch/80212202?trackId=13752289&tctx=0%2C0%2Cb13e6f745eb07f43506015749fb39b1b06afde9d%3Aab24a47f5d935e0786ebcfb967072af836b233e4%2C%2C>

### Books to be Purchased:

Bernhard, *Walking* ISBN 978-0-226-31104-3 (also available on Sakai)

Poe, *The Tales of Edgar Allan Poe* ISBN 978-1686604515  
Nabokov, *Pale Fire* ISBN 978-0679723424 (also available on Sakai)  
Kafka, *Kafka's Selected Stories* ISBN 978-0393924794  
Perec, *A Void* ISBN 978-1-567922967  
Freud, *Three Case Histories* ISBN 978-0684829452  
Freud, *The Schreber Case* ISBN 978-0141183817 (also available on Sakai)  
Schreber, *Memoirs of My Nervous Illness* ISBN 9780940322202 (also available on Sakai)  
Borges, *Ficciones* ISBN 9780802130305 (also available on Sakai)  
Kepnes, *You* ISBN 9781476785592  
Sims, *Looker* ISBN 978-1501199110

### Activities and Grading:

- [1] Students are expected to keep up with reading assignments and to participate actively in class discussions.
- [2] 3 papers 6-pages in length. Suggested topics and prompts will be provided. Papers will be worth 30% each and 90% of final grade
- [3] One oral presentation: 10%

### Grade distribution

*A=90-100%; B+=85-89; B=80-84; C+=75-79; C=70-74; D=65-69; F=64 and below*

- The professor reserves the right to give impromptu quizzes during the semester.

### Department Policies

- Attendance

All students must attend regularly and arrive prepared; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Those who miss more than two class sessions without a compelling excuse should expect a one-step reduction in the course grade (i.e. an A becomes a B+, a B+ becomes a B). Three late arrivals count as one absence. Note: It is the responsibility of students who have been absent (for any reason) to find out what they have missed and obtain materials that may have been handed out.

- Disability Support Services

Students who may be requesting accommodations due to disabilities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with procedures and policies regarding disability support services at the following website: <http://disabilityservices.rutgers.edu/>. It is recommended that students seeking accommodations begin filing paperwork as soon as possible as the documentation review process may take up to 30 business days. Students are encouraged to speak with teachers about these issues at the beginning of the term. All such conversations will be kept strictly confidential.

- Academic Integrity

Violations of academic integrity are an extremely serious matter, and can lead to a student's failing the course and being referred to the University's Office of Student Conduct for disciplinary action. When referring to ideas other than your own, always acknowledge your sources clearly and completely, whether you are quoting or paraphrasing. Note also that use of online translation services is not permitted as a tool for generating work that you submit for course credit. Please see the University's policies on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>, and discuss with your instructor any questions you may have about this and related issues.

- Copyright

Note that unauthorized upload of materials created by the instructor and/or students for this course may violate the University Academic Integrity Policy and subject the student to disciplinary action.

- Turnitin plagiarism detection

In coordination with the Office of General Counsel, Rutgers Teaching and Learning with Technology advises instructors who use Turnitin for plagiarism detection to include the following statement in their course syllabus:

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com (directly or via learning management system, i.e. Sakai, Blackboard, Canvas, Moodle) for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Usage Policy posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Students who do not agree should contact the course instructor immediately.

- **Important Additional Information:**

Cell phones and all other technological devices (beepers, iPods, MP3players...) must be turned off during class. Failure to comply may result in dismissal from class and a drop in class participation grade.

**Office hours:** Students are strongly advised to consult with the professor about any problems that might arise regarding ideas for presentations, material to be covered in a paper, etc. Office hours are Mondays between 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. — or by appointment. Do not bottle up all questions for the session before a paper is due.

### Class Meetings

January

23 Th	Introduction
27 M	Poe, "The Tell-Tale Heart"
	Poe, "The Cask of Amontillado"
30 Th	Freud, "Obsessive Actions and Religious Practices" (Sakai)
February	
3M	Freud, <i>Notes upon a Case of Obsessional Neurosis</i> (The Ratman)
6 Th	Freud, <i>Notes upon a Case of Obsessional Neurosis</i> (The Ratman)
10 M	Schreber, <i>Memoirs of My Nervous Illness</i> ( <i>Denkwürdigkeiten eines Nervenkranken</i> ) (also available on Sakai) pp. 15-140
13 Th	Schreber, <i>Memoirs of My Nervous Illness</i> ( <i>Denkwürdigkeiten eines Nervenkranken</i> ) (also available on Sakai) pp. 141-262
17 M	Freud, <i>The Schreber Case</i> (also available on Sakai) Intro-Section I
20 Th	Freud, <i>The Schreber Case</i> (also available on Sakai) Section II-Postscript
	Bion, "A Theory of Thinking" (Sakai)
24 M	Bernhard, <i>Walking</i> (also available on Sakai) pp. 1-42 <b>FIRST PAPER DUE (6-7 pages)</b>
27 Th	Bernhard, <i>Walking</i> pp. 43-end
March	
2 M	Kafka, "The Burrow"
5 Th	Kafka, "The Burrow"
9 M	Perec, <i>A Void</i> pp. 1-77
	<b>Assignment DUE 3/12:</b> Write a one-paragraph summary of Kafka's "The Burrow" WITHOUT USING THE LETTER "E"
12 Th	Perec, <i>A Void</i> pp. 78-183
Spring Break	

- 23 M           Perec, *A Void* pp. 184-end
- 26 Th           Borges, "Funes, the Memorious" (also available on Sakai)  
**SECOND PAPER DUE (6-7 pages)**
- 30 M           Valery, *Idée Fixe* (Sakai) 1-39

April

- 2 Th           Valery, *Idée Fixe* (Sakai) 40-end
- 3 F/4 S        NYU-RUTGERS-PRINCETON-COLUMBIA U. CONFERENCE:  
*DENKZWANG / THINKING THINKING*
- 6 M           Nabokov, *Pale Fire* (also available on Sakai) pp. 13-69
- 9 Th           Nabokov, *Pale Fire* (also available on Sakai) pp. 73-147
- 13 M          Nabokov, *Pale Fire* (also available on Sakai) pp. 147-218
- 16 Th          Nabokov, *Pale Fire* (also available on Sakai) pp. 218-299
- 20 M          Kepnes; *You* pp. 1-105
- 23 Th          Kepnes; *You* pp. 106-210  
*You* Netflix Series  
<https://www.netflix.com/watch/80212202?trackId=13752289&tctx=0%2C0%2Cb13e6f745eb07f43506015749fb39b1b06afde9d%3Aab24a47f5d935e0786ebcfb967072af836b233e4%2C%2C>
- 27 M          Kepnes; *You* pp. 211-314  
*You* Netflix Series
- 30 Th          Kepnes; *You* pp. 315-422  
*You* Netflix Series  
**THIRD PAPER DUE (6-7 pages)**

Student-Wellness Services:

- Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS)

(848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/  
<http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/>

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students' efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners. Crisis Intervention : <http://health.rutgers.edu/medical-counseling-services/counseling/crisis-intervention/>

- Report a Concern: <http://health.rutgers.edu/do-something-to-help/>

- Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA)

(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / [www.vpva.rutgers.edu/](http://www.vpva.rutgers.edu/)

The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

- Disability Services

(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / <https://ods.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.