

PSYCHOANALYSIS AND CINEMA



ENGL 610 | W 5:00 - 7:45 PM | FALL 2022

In this graduate seminar, we will survey the field of psychoanalytic film theory, with a special emphasis on Sigmund Freud's dream analysis and Jacques Lacan's conception of the mirror-stage. Throughout the semester, we will explore variations on the foundational ideas of Freud and Lacan, looking specifically at how film scholars have incorporated them into theories of how we watch and enjoy movies. Each week, we will watch movies and analyze how they intersect with psychoanalytic concepts, such as desire, the gaze, fetishism, anxiety, drive, and fantasy, while also exploring how psychoanalysis relates to the critical theories of feminism, ideology, race, and neoliberalism. We will also discuss how the apparatus of filmmaking, both analog and digital, structures our cinematic enjoyment. Assignments will consist of weekly readings and screenings, presentations, responses papers, and a seminar paper.



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