From Schopenhauer to Freud (Via Nietzsche): Depth Psychology and Philosophy

Thursdays 4:15 - 6:15 PM

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In this class, we will explore the often-remarked on connections and resonances between the works of Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, and Freud—all of whom have been, at one point or the other, anointed founders of ‘depth psychology’ for their explorations of ‘the unconscious.’ We will read original works and selections from the philosophical and psychological literature that explores these connections.

Course requirements:

A weekly 500-word response to the assigned reading: email this response to the class mailing list by midnight of the day before the class meeting.

A 3000-word term paper on a topic of your choosing (but approved by me); due on the last day of class. (Incompletes are bad for your soul.)

No laptops or phones in class; bring printouts of the readings to class meetings.

Readings and class schedule:

January 31: Introduction: Precursors and Predecessors


February 7 & 14: Schopenhauer and the Unconscious


Schopenhauer on the Natural Unconscious: Species, Crowds, and Instincts.
http://www.bbk.ac.uk/deviance/unconscious1/TheNaturalUnconscious/Schopenhauer/index.htm

Dale Jacquette, ‘Schopenhauer on the Metaphysics of the Unconscious,’
http://www.philosophie.uzh.ch/phgz/Abstract_Jacquette.pdf

Christopher Janaway, ‘The real essence of human beings: Schopenhauer and the unconscious will,’ from Thinking The Unconscious.


**February 21 & 28: Nietzsche and the Unconscious**

Robert Morrison, from Nietzsche and Buddhism, Oxford University Press, New York, 1999 (Chapter 12, ‘Learning to See’).

M. Liebscher, ‘Friedrich Nietzsche’s perspectives on the unconscious.’ In Thinking the Unconscious.


**March 7 & 14: Freud and the Unconscious**


Günter Gödde, ‘Freud and Nineteenth-Century Philosophical Sources on the Unconscious,’ from Thinking the Unconscious.


**March 21: Schopenhauer and Nietzsche**

João Constâncio, ‘On Consciousness: Nietzsche’s Departure from Schopenhauer,’ Nietzsche-Studien, Volume 40, Issue 1, Pages 1–42,

**March 28 & April 4: Nietzsche and Freud**


April 11: Schopenhauer and Freud


Chapter 4 from The Fractured Self in Freud and German Philosophy

April 18: Nietzschean Depth Psychology


Paul Katsafanas, ‘Nietzsche’s Philosophical Psychology,’ from The Oxford Handbook on Nietzsche, Oxford University Press, 2016

Ken Gemes, ‘Freud and Nietzsche on Sublimation,’ Journal of Nietzsche Studies, No. 38 (Fall 2009), pp. 38-59

May 2 & 9: From Schopenhauer to Freud Via Nietzsche

