ATC 180: SEMINAR IN ART THEORY/PRACTICE
TU/TH 11:20-12:50 AM

PROFESSOR PETER FREUND
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TEL 1 510 325 3540 (mobile)

SPRING 2013
LOCATION: DIGITAL ARTS LAB (BC4)

OFFICE HOURS: TU 3:00-4:00,
WED 2:00-3:00,
OR BY ARRANGEMENT

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Advanced study in critical theory and its relation to art practice. Variable topics may include psychoanalysis, semiotics, post-structuralism, cultural studies, Frankfurt School, etc. This term’s focus will be psychoanalytic theory. Our main objective is twofold: (1) to derive theoretical constructs from close readings of seminal texts and (2) to exploit these constructs as a springboard for artistic production. Assignments will combine critical and creative components.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

• Identify and articulate salient critical-theoretical themes.
• Analyze art works within a broader context of critical-theoretical discourse.
• Formulate interpretive questions and lead a discussion of these questions based in the course readings.
• Extrapolate ideas from theory to art practice, either in the form of analytical writing or art production or both.
• Formulate in writing a critical-theoretical thesis and elaborate it through analytical supports in a full-length essay.
• Create a work of art inspired by critical-theoretical constructs.

CLASS PARTICIPATION
The class should be viewed as a conceptual workshop. There will always be something enigmatic in the readings that will allow for creative interpretation and analysis. You are invited to take advantage of this opening! We will try out different ways to read the texts (and images) in order to stimulate their creative potential. We will look for how the readings could inspire the production of art. This means you need to be actively involved in the discussion every day we meet. This involvement will of course vary, but your experience will likely improve, develop, and even excite when you contribute and when you encourage others to contribute by responding.

MATERIALS
The assigned course reading as well as links to images and film/video materials will be made available through Moodle/GaelLearn. I will not be distributing these in hard copy. Students are responsible for printing out the readings and bringing them to class for discussion each class. The SMC library has printers for your use. You will also be responsible for studying assigned images and films (posted on Moodle or announced).

ASSIGNMENTS

Readings: The texts we read are not easy but they do reward careful study. You are expected to read each text more than once in advance of class discussion and for each session prepare both questions for comprehension and for interpretive discussion.

Forums: As indicated on the schedule below, you need to submit interpretive questions and responses on the Moodle forums nearly on a weekly basis. When posting, provide some context for your questions in order to invite responses from your classmates. Each time "forums" is indicated on the schedule you need to submit two interpretive questions based on the readings and two responses to your peers.

Art exercises: During the semester, you will produce four art exercises that endeavor to embody and explore a concept from our reading. A prompt will be provided.
Midterm project: For the midterm project you will prepare for an individual conversation with me exploring a concept from class that interests you and that you have applied to creating art. A guideline will be provided in advance.

Final project: You may choose to do a major work of art with a concept statement or a kind of sketch or mock-up for a work of art with a major analytical essay.

Final exam: The exam will be an in-class writing.

* Students can expect an average of six (6) hours of homework outside of class per week. There will be opportunities for extra credit through consultation.

GRADERS
Final grades will be based on a point system (0-100) using the following criteria:

- **25 points** Final Project
- **20 points** Art exercises
- **15 points** Midterm
- **15 points** Moodle forums
- **15 points** In-class participation
- **10 points** Final Exam

Extra Credit (arranged in consultation with professor)

Grading Scale:
A+ 101 -110 points
A 91 -100 points
C 71 - 80 points
D 61 - 70 points
F 0 - 60 points

The following will result in a lower final grade:
- Arriving late to class more than three times during the semester.
- More than two unexcused absence.
- Obstructing the learning environment with distractions and other disruptive actions.
- Coming to class unprepared.

NOTIFICATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS, QUESTIONS
Announcements, assignments, and grades will be posted on Moodle. Check there whenever you’ve misplaced an assignment. I will be sending out emails to your SMC email account throughout the term. You are expected to check Moodle AND your SMC email account routinely.

If you have questions that cannot be answered during class time or if you cannot make my regular office hours, please email me and/or make an appointment to speak with me in conference. I am also giving you my personal telephone number, in the event of particularly urgent messages (use it within reason).

ACADEMIC HONOR CODE
Students are expected to abide by the Student Honor Code, found in the SMC Student Handbook and Student Code of Conduct. Saint Mary’s College expects every member of its community to abide by the Academic Honor Code. According to the Code, “Academic dishonesty is a serious violation of College policy because, among other things, it undermines the bonds of trust and honesty between members of the community.” Violations of the Code include but are not limited to acts of plagiarism. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook at http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/your-safety-resources/student-handbook [for traditional undergraduate students] or http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/graduate-professional/graduate-and-professional-student-handbook [for graduate and professional students].
SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
Services and reasonable accommodations are available to students with physical or mental impairments or conditions that qualify as a disability and which impede the equal opportunity to participate with other students at Saint Mary's College of California. Verification of a disability, its nature and the appropriateness of the requested accommodation in relation to the disability either through a personal physician, a licensed learning specialist, or a licensed and credentialed mental health professional must be submitted to Saint Mary's 504 Coordinator, located at Academic Advising and Achievement Services Office in De La Salle Hall.

FREE WRITING ADVISING AT CWAC:
THE CENTER FOR WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM
All students are invited to drop in or make appointments for one-on-one sessions with Writing Advisers. Students may request weekly or biweekly sessions with the same peer student Adviser. CWAC is in Dante 202 and is open 5-8 p.m. Sunday and 2-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The phone number is (925) 631-4684. The web site is http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/center-for-writing-across-the-curriculum.

Through collaborative engagement, Advisers guide their peers toward expressing ideas clearly and revising their own papers, always weighing audience and purpose. Writers should bring their assignments, texts, and notes. Writers visit CWAC to brainstorm ideas, revise drafts, or work on specific aspects of writing, such as grammar, citation, thesis development, organization, critical reading, or research methods. Writers may discuss any genre, including poetry, science lab reports, argument-driven research, or scholarship application letters. Writers of all disciplines and levels, undergraduate and graduate, are welcome.

SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NEEDED)

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<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>READING/FOCUS</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2/12-2/14</td>
<td>Introduction to course</td>
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<td>Rendez-vous Lacan</td>
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<td>Levine: WHY LACAN?</td>
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<td>Freud: Forgetting of Proper Names</td>
<td>Forums</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2/19-2/21</td>
<td>Freud: Psychopathology of Everyday Life</td>
<td>Forums</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>2/26-2/28</td>
<td>Freud: Interpretations of Dreams</td>
<td>Artwork 1</td>
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<td>Freud: Wit &amp; its Relations to the Unconscious</td>
<td>Forums</td>
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<td>3/12-3/14</td>
<td>Freud cont’d</td>
<td>Artwork 2</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>3/19-3/21</td>
<td>Midterm</td>
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<td>EASTER RECESS-NO CLASSES</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>4/2-4/4</td>
<td>Lacan: Mirror Stage</td>
<td>Forums</td>
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<td>4/9-4/11</td>
<td>Lacan: Gaze as Objet a</td>
<td>Forums</td>
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<td>4/16-4/18</td>
<td>Lacan: Transference</td>
<td>Artwork 3</td>
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<td>4/30-5/2</td>
<td>Lacan: Aphanisis</td>
<td>Final Proposal</td>
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<td>5/7-5/9</td>
<td>Zizek</td>
<td>Artwork 4</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>Final Projects</td>
<td>Project</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>5/21</td>
<td>FINAL 11:30-1:30</td>
<td>Exam</td>
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