

Religion and Psychoanalysis

RELSTUD 2300F

Wednesdays, 6:30-9:20 pm, Fall term, Huron

Instructor: Sharon Lindenburger

Brief Course Description

Prior to the development of psychoanalysis, in particular the influence of Sigmund Freud, religion was considered to be the main source of exploring the human self. Psychoanalysis appeared to emerge as a challenge to religion, even at times setting itself up as a rival to religious perspectives. The idea of the Unconscious mind (which has in recent times been confirmed by neuroscience) radically pointed to the parts of ourselves we are not aware of—for example, the power of projection and its effect on religious faith. Currently there is an increasing movement toward seeing religion and psychoanalysis as having a dynamic relationship with each other.

Through readings from significant people in the field, such as William James, Sigmund Freud, Erik Erikson, Melanie Klein, Ana-Maria Rizzuto, and others, this course will explore the intersect of psychoanalysis and religion, and will facilitate learning more about ourselves through the powerful lens provided by both perspectives.



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