



ENGLISH 399: INTRODUCTION TO JACQUES LACAN

Professor	David H. Wilson
Office	248 Dwyer
Phone	419.586.0317
Office Hours	MT 11-1 and by appointment
Email	david.wilson@wright.edu
Website	dharlanwilson.com
Pilot	pilot.wright.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This section of English 399 is an introduction to the psychoanalytic theories of Jacques Lacan. By way of key seminars, essays and criticism, Lacan will be studied for his post-Freudian ideas and reimaginings with an emphasis on the relationships between language and the unconsciousness, the distinctions between desire and need, and the vicissitudes of identity, subjectivity and selfhood. Particularly relevant will be how Lacan has been deployed in literary theory. Lacanian psychoanalysis is notoriously problematic and slippery—he essentially writes about the dynamics of language through, against and from within the apparatus of language—and students will engage with the material on levels ranging from mere comprehension to critical mining and practice.

TEXTS

Evans, Dylan. *An Introductory Dictionary of Lacanian Psychoanalysis*. New York: Routledge, 1996.

Lacan, Jacques. *Écrits: The First Complete Edition in English*. New York: Norton, 2007.

———. *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan: Freud's Papers on Technique (Book I)*. New York: Norton, 1991.

———. *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan: The Ethics of Psychoanalysis (Book VII)*. New York: Norton, 1992.

———. *The Seminar of Jacques Lacan: The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis (Book XI)*. New York: Norton, 1998.

Žižek, Slavoj. *The Art of the Ridiculous Sublime: On David Lynch's Lost Highway*. Seattle: U of Washington P, 2000.

COURSEWORK

The primary written work for the course will consist of a staged article-length essay on a topic to be determined in consultation with me. The staging of the essay will consist of the following: [1] a full abstract and bibliography including a formal title, [2] a conference paper version of the essay, and [3] a final, article-length version of the essay.

Grades will be principally based on the article-length version. Active participation is expected and therefore not graded, but I make note of students who contribute strongly to discussions, Q&A, etc. in evaluating an individual's overall quality of work.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism occurs when a writer: [1] copies verbatim from an author without quotation or attempts to disguise the act by selective omissions or alterations; [2] paraphrases from an author without naming the source in the text of the paper or providing a list of references at the end; [3] turns in a paper written by somebody else. As a point of academic integrity, you are required to submit original material of your own creation. Plagiarism is a serious offense. If established with sufficient evidence, it can result in failure of the course or dismissal from the university.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER (SSC)



The Student Success Center offers FREE services to help students meet their full potential. Students can find tutoring in any subject, study buddies, one-on-one technology workshops, feedback on writing assignments, and general academic skills coaching. Web: lake.wright.edu/ssc. Phone: **419.586.0333**. Location: **182 Andrews**.

OFFICE OF DISABILITIES SERVICES (ODS)

If a student has a disability that requires special accommodations, it is essential that he or she discuss it with the instructor and the Office of Disability Services before or during the first week of the semester. ODS will work with these students on an individual basis to determine what services, equipment and accommodations would be appropriate regarding their documented needs. Students who qualify for these types of service should initiate contact with the instructor and/or ODS as soon as possible to enable the university to meet their needs. Please call Deanna Springer at **419.586.0366** or email her at deanna.springer@wright.edu. For more information, visit the ODS in **182 Andrews**.

LIBRARY AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER (LTC)

The Library and Technology Center provides free access to scholarly resources in all formats. Students can also visit the LTC for assistance with creating or editing multimedia projects (i.e., PowerPoint, Voiceovers, Website development, etc.). Phone: **419.586.8400**. Location: **197A Andrews Hall**.

CLASS CALENDAR

There are five modules for the course. Below is a breakdown of reading assignments and film screenings.

- 1 *Seminar I: Freud's Papers on Technique*
Écrits, "The Mirror Stage"
- 2 *Seminar VII: The Ethics of Psychoanalysis*
Écrits, "Kant avec Sade"
- 3 *Seminar XI: The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*
Écrits, "The Position of the Unconscious"
- 4 FILM: *Zizek!*
Écrits, "The Freudian Thing" & "The Signification of the Phallus"
- 5 FILM: *Lost Highway*
The Art of the Ridiculous Sublime