

Introduction to Classical and Contemporary Psychoanalysis

Desislav Georgiev, PhD

Working language: English

The introductory course focuses both on *classical* as well as *contemporary psychoanalytical theories*. Beginning with an outline of Sigmund Freud's main ideas, which emerged primarily during the first few decades of the XX century, the course will then continue with an examination of some of the various developments of psychoanalytic thought, going all the way to the present. Special focus will be placed on *syncretic theories* and *interdisciplinary models*, which combine psychoanalysis with a number of other fields such as phenomenology, existential philosophy, psychiatry, sociology, and critical theory. Ongoing critical debates about fundamental issues such as the nature of mental illness, what is a symptom, medicalization, treatment and therapy, depression and melancholy will be examined from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Sociology of Anti-Gender Movements

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The course offers an outline and a critical look at the so-called *anti-gender movements*. During the last few decades, a number of mainly (but not exclusively) right-wing political mobilizations, have incorporated into their programs an elusive enemy – *gender ideology*. Blamed for the “destruction of traditional family values”, “the brainwashing of children”, all the way to being a “concerted effort to undo the very foundations of Western Civilization”, the fight against all things deemed to be “gender” has taken a variety of forms and left a number of noticeable effects on the contemporary world. The course offers both *theoretical* and *empirical* ways into the study and understanding of this complex issue.