Description:
Psychoanalysis represents a disparate paradigm with a theoretical and practical spectrum that has been applied to the analysis of various macro-level socio-cultural, political, aesthetic and epistemological processes and micro-level (non)normative, psychic and “perverse” developments in subject formation. This incredibly vast scholarly and clinical field has primarily been formulated around the case studies of Sigmund Freud and students of his work. While there has been a great deal of critical reflection on Freud’s patriarchal and Lacan’s subsequent phallogocentric positionalities and formulations, there has been comparatively little attention paid to how race functions in schemas of psychoanalytic subject formation.

This seminar explores the centrality of race to the formation of the discipline of psychoanalysis as well as the relevance of psychoanalysis to the study of race, gender and sexuality. We will engage with key texts by Freud, Lacan and Fanon and follow the development of their ideas in the works of 20th and 21st century scholars like Spillers, Marriott, Judy, Seshadri-Crooks, Eng and Mercer in order to examine and debate the use-value of psychoanalytic theories to the study of race. We will also explore the evolution of critiques of psychoanalysis over the course of quarter. We will end the quarter with readings that attempt to imagine an afterlife for psychoanalysis that goes beyond lack, trauma and death.

Recommended Books (E denotes e-book)
Badia Ahad Freud Upside down
Dina Al-Kassim On Pain of Speech ILL
Anne Cheng The Melancholy of Race E
G. Deleuze Anti-Oedipus
David Eng Racial Castration E
Eng, Kasanjian & Butler, Eds. Loss: the politics of Mourning E
Franz Fanon Black Skin White Masks
Peter Gay, Ed. The Freud Reader
Sander Gilman Freud, Race and Gender
Ranjana Khana Dark Continents E
Jacques Lacan Ecrits
David Marriott The Haunted Life
Kalpana Sheshadri-Crooks Desiring Whiteness
Mikko Tuhkanen The American Optic ILL
Antonio Viego Dead Subjects E
Attendance and Participation requirements:
This course requires active seminar participation. Therefore, no absences are allowed. Additionally, no late papers (including response papers) will be accepted. Response papers are due in seminar each Tuesday (not by email and not in my mailbox) and will not be accepted at any other time. This course will require close reading and textual analysis. While it is not a requirement, you are highly encouraged to form reading/writing groups outside of class in order to discuss competing interpretations and critiques of texts.

Response Papers:
Each student will produce one response paper (one single-spaced, twelve point font page) for each class meeting synthesizing the readings, bringing them into conversation with each other and/or with the student’s own work. Late response papers will not be accepted.

Presentations:
Each student is responsible for presenting and facilitating discussion during one class meeting. Presentations are first and foremost close-readings of the text. Presentations should facilitate discussion and offer interpretations of the text(s), preferably bringing ideas into conversation across class meetings. Students can incorporate texts, archives and practices (videos, images, music, sculpture, fashion, dance, etc.) into their presentations. Objects might reflect, complicate, interpret or interrogate the ideas raised in the reading ideally putting the object into conversation with the reading.

Papers:
Each student will produce one 12-16-page paper due on a date TBD. The syllabus is organized by themes rather than chronologically or by scholar. Pay attention to the major themes that predominate in scholarship on race and psychoanalysis. Focus your paper on one of these themes bringing the scholarship within that theme into conversation. Late papers will not be accepted.

Readings
Week 1 January 10
On Looking: The issue of looking has been taken up within psychoanalysis in analyses that vary from the white gaze as discussed by Fanon to the the imaginary and fantasy relations enacted within dreams, fantasy and visual culture (film, television, etc.).
• “Introduction” & “The Negro & Psychopathology” in Franz Fanon
  Black Skin, White Masks
• Anne Cheng The Melancholy of Race Ch. 1 & 4

Week 2 January 17
On Looking II
• “Introduction” from The American Optic
• Kalpana Sheshadri-Crooks “Introduction” in Desiring Whiteness
• Sigmund Freud “The Interpretation of Dreams,” “On Dreams” and “Screen Memories” from The Freud Reader, Gay Ed.
• Jacques Lacan “The Split Between the Eye and the Gaze” in Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis
• David Marriott “Forward” and “I’m Gonna Borrer Me a Kodak” in On Black Men

Week 3 January 24
Death I: The subject of death is a significant area in which questions of race have been raised, particularly regarding the correlation between the “pleasure principle” and the “death drive.”
  *In-class visit with Professor Kaplan
• S. Freud Beyond the Pleasure Principle (selections)
• Michelle Wallace The Search for the “Good Enough” Mammy in Multiculturalism: a Critical Reader

Week 4 January 31
Death II
• J. Lacan “Death, Desire and Freud’s Radical Turn”
• Achille Mbembe “Necropolitics”

Week 5 February 7,
Melancholia: a theme that has historically been taken up within feminist theory but that has gained great purchase in studies of race in the last twenty years.
• Freud “Mourning and Melancholia”
Week 6 February 24,
Colonialism I: What originally inspired Fanon to go into psychiatric practice and what continues to be the basis for critical race studies critiques of psychoanalysis and normative subject formation.
- Franz Fanon A Dying Colonialism or Wretched of the Earth (selections)
- Ranjana Khana “Introduction” in Dark Continents
- S. Freud Totem and Taboo
- Edward Said 'Freud and the non-European' in Freud and the non-European
- Alys Weinbaum Ch. 4 “Sexual Selection and the Birth of Psychoanalysis” from Wayward Reproductions

Week 7 February 21
Colonialism II
- Gilles Deleuze “Psycho-analysis and Familialism: The Holy Family” in Anti-Oedipus (other selections)
- Achille Mbembe “God’s Phallus” in On the Postcolony
- Christopher Lane “Savage Ecstasy: Colonialism and the Death Drive” in The Psychoanalysis of Race
- David Marriot “Preface” and “That Within” in Haunted Life

Week 8 February 28
Primal Scenes & Fetishism: Queer of color theory has identified the oedipal family as an important site of critique and elaboration upon non/normative racialized subject formation through the themes of fetishism & Freud’s classic notion of the “primal scene”.
- S. Freud “History of an Infantile Neurosis [The Wolfman]” in Freud Reader
- Ch. 3 “A Long Tirade for a Direct Interjection” in Dina Al-Kassim On Pain of Speech
- Luz Calvo “Racial Fantasies and the Primal Scene of Miscegenation”
- S. Freud “Fetishism”
- David Eng “Introduction” & “Primal Scenes” in Racial Castration

**Week 9 March 6**
The Oedipus Complex, Race, and Law (of the father): critical race theory scholars focusing on intersectionality and law have tended toward the deployment of psychoanalytic critiques of law and language through an engagement with oedipalization.
- Sora Han “Strict Scrutiny” in Beyond Biopolitics ed. by Clough & Willse
  *Skype meeting with Professor Han*
- S. Freud Three Essays (selections)
- Lacan “Essence of Tragedy” in Ethics of Psychoanalysis
- Drucilla Cornell “Sex Discrimination Law and Equivalent Rights” in Transformations
- G. Deleuze Pt. 2 in Anti-Oedipus (selections)
- Slavoj Žižek “Lack in the Other” in The Sublime Object of Ideology

**Week 10 March 13**
Beyond Symptom: is there potential for a critical subject formation that is not beholden to the structural limitations of psychoanalysis?
- Women and Performance Quarterly Volume 19, Issue 2, 2009 Special Issue: Between Psychoanalysis and Affect: a Public Feelings Project (selections)