

Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness Program

Nietzsche, Freud, Jung: An Archetypal Perspective

Instructor: Richard Tarnas

PARP 8901

3 Units

Fall 2008

Class meets on six days:
Friday and Sunday, Sept. 12 and 14
Friday and Sunday, Oct. 24 and 26
Friday and Sunday, Nov. 14 and 16

9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Namaste Hall

Description of Course Content:

This advanced seminar examines the personal and intellectual biographies of three seminal figures in the history of modern thought: Friedrich Nietzsche, Sigmund Freud, and Carl Gustav Jung. As a lineage of influence runs through these three individuals, each opening up new perspectives about the human condition and the human psyche that have in turn shaped the postmodern milieu, we will explore each of their lives both on their own terms and as participants in a larger collective journey of thought and soul. We will read one major biography for each individual, and one representative writing by each as well.

Familiarity with the basic principles of archetypal astrological analysis will be assumed. Prerequisite: Psyche and Cosmos I, or the equivalent. While familiarity with the work of Nietzsche, Freud, and Jung will of course be useful, careful study of the required readings will serve as an adequate foundation.

The course takes place on three Friday and Sunday full-day sessions (with Saturday free in each case), spread out across three successive months this fall.

The meetings in September are focused on Nietzsche, those in October are on Freud, and those in November are on Jung.

Richard Tarnas, Ph.D., is the founding director of the Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness program at CIIS. He is the author of *The Passion of the Western Mind*, a narrative history of the Western world view from the ancient Greek to the postmodern that is used as a text in many universities. His most recent book, *Cosmos and Psyche: Intimations of a New World View*, received the Book of the Year Prize from the Scientific and Medical Network in Great Britain.

Course Objectives

1. To explore the lives, works, and influence of three major figures in the formation of the contemporary mind, Nietzsche, Freud, and Jung.
2. To employ the principles of archetypal astrological analysis to more deeply understand the underlying character of each of these figures, the tendencies of their thinking, and the dynamic unfolding of their lives.
3. To draw upon and develop a transdisciplinary approach to philosophical and psychological understanding that illuminates not only the personal biographical but also the collective evolutionary drama in which these men were involved.

Required Reading

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, trans. R. J. Hollingdale (Penguin Classics)
R. J. Hollingdale, *Nietzsche: The Man and His Philosophy* (Cambridge Univ. Press paperback, rev. ed. 1999).
Sigmund Freud, *An Outline of Psychoanalysis* (Norton paperback)
Peter Gay, *Freud: A Life for Our Time* (Dent, 1988)
C. G. Jung and A. Jaffe, *Memories, Dreams, Reflections* (Vintage paperback)
Barbara Hannah, *Jung: His Life and Work* (Chiron edition, 1997)

Useful Background Reading

Stanislav Grof, *Psychology of the Future* (State Univ. of New York Press, 2000)
James Hillman, *Re-Visioning Psychology* (New York: Harper & Row, 1975)
Richard Tarnas, *Cosmos and Psyche* (New York: Viking, 2006; pb Plume, 2007)
Richard Tarnas, *The Passion of the Western Mind* (New York: Ballantine, 1991, 1993)

Any further writings by Nietzsche, Freud, or Jung

Grading Options: Student's choice

Assignment: A concise paper or other creative work exploring the life and thought of one or more of these three individuals, employing the principles of analysis exemplified in the course lectures and discussions. Due December 15.

Course Schedule: Topics and Reading Assignments

Weekend 1: Friedrich Nietzsche

Friday, September 12 and
Sunday, September 14

Read all of Nietzsche's *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* and Hollingdale's biography during the months before Friday's class:

Weekend 2: Sigmund Freud

Friday, October 24 and
Sunday, October 26

Read all of Freud's *Outline of Psychoanalysis* and Gay's biography during the month before Friday's class

Weekend 3: C. G. Jung

Friday, November 14 and
Sunday, November 16

Read all of Jung's *Memories, Dreams, Reflections* and Hannah's biography during the month before Friday's class