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Erich Fromm at the New School for Social Research in New York
Table of Seminars and Lectures 1941-1959
arranged according to the announcements by

Rainer Funk

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Winter 1941/42:

No. 117: Seminar on the Interpretation of Dreams

by Erich Fromm and Bernard S. Robbins

14 weeks, Thursday 8:20-10:00 p.m., beginning: October 2, 1941.

No. 118: Lectures on Society and Psychoanalysis

15 lectures, spring term 1942, beginning: February 3, 1942.

- I. Freud's Concept of Man and Society by *Erich Fromm* (February 3)
- II. Psychological, economic and idealistic interpretation of social change by *Erich Fromm* (February 10)
- III. Psychoanalytic Theory of Character by *Erich Fromm* (February 17)
- IV. Culture, Society and the Individual by *Ralph Linton*
- V. Status and Personality by *Ralph Linton*
- VI. The Political Personality, by *Harold D. Lasswell*
- VII. A Balance of Power Politics by *Harold D. Lasswell*
- VIII. Individual Character and Social Character by *Erich Fromm* (March 24)
- IX. The Problem of Irrationality in Social Behavior by *Erich Fromm* (March 31)
- X. Static and Dynamic Adaptations to Social Conditions by *Erich Fromm* (April 7)
- XI. The Role of Childhood in Forming the Social Character by *Margaret Mead*
- XII. The Application of Psychoanalytic Theory to the Study of Primitive Children by *Margaret Mead*
- XIII. Character Structure of Modern Man by *Erich Fromm* (April 28)



- XIV. Interrelation between Psychological, Economic and Political Factors by
Erich Fromm (May 5)
XV: Psychology of the Movies and Movie Makers by *Leo Rosten*

No. 84: Case Seminar on the Structure of Personality and Culture

by Erich Fromm, Karen Horney, Harold D. Lasswell and Harmon S. Ephron
15 weeks, spring term 1942: beginning February 5, 1942

Psychoanalytic case material is presented by analysts for discussion. The data are discussed with special reference to the interplay of culture and personality factors. The theoretical structure of psychoanalysis is then critically reconsidered in the light of these data.

Winter 1942/43:

Seminar on: Psychoanalysis of Ideals and Ideologies

10 weeks, Thursday 8:20-10:00 p.m., beginning: February 4, 1943.

The value of psychoanalysis is discussed in understanding moral, religious, political ideals and doctrines. Emphasis is placed on the question of whether recognition of the psychological and economic background of ideas leads to relativism or on the contrary to establishing their validity. The problem of the rational and irrational of value judgements is discussed. Ideals, ideologies and rationalizations. The traditional analysis of ideals in psychoanalysis and sociology. Psychoanalysis of love, justice, truth. Of Judeo-Christian religion; of fascist and democratic doctrines. Psychoanalysis and value judgements. The role of psychoanalysis in modern culture.

Winter 1943/44:

March 5, 1944, 8:30 p.m.: **25th Anniversary Event. A Meeting on Psychoanalysis.**

Participants: A.A. Brill, Karen Horney, Erich Fromm, Viola Bernard.

Four eminent authorities who have shared in the New School's pioneering work in this important field discuss current viewpoint on the origins of neurosis especially developments from Freud's theory. Reception afterward.

Winter 1944/45:

No. 136: **Toward Knowing Oneself and Others: The Contribution of Psychoanalysis**

12 weeks, beginning: February 8, 1945

This course is an introduction to psychoanalytic thinking, not to its technical aspects, but to those basic findings which contribute towards a better understanding of the problems with which the individual is confronted today. The course deals therefore with psychological fac-



tors in personal relationships especially those which are unconscious; and in social and political life especially propaganda, ideology and the relationship of social groups. It is further concerned with problems of ethics both with respect to the feeling of guilt and obligation with which people deal in a compulsive irrational fashion and with the genuine mode of problems of achieving rationally valid criteria for human conduct. Reference is made to the ethical system of Aristotle and Spinoza. Consideration is given to the problems of symbolic language is a mode of expression in dreams, literature, myths and in fairy tales.

Winter 1945/46:

No. 105: Emotional Forces in the Social Process

Thursday 8:20-10:00.

The function of drives is examined and the role of anxiety as constructive or disruptive forces in the social process. The fact is stressed that emotional strivings in the individual are moulded by society while they in turn influence the social process; specifically the course deals with the nature of this interaction; the character structure common to certain socio-economic and national groups, the function of the authority in the family and society, the psychology of propaganda and the role of ideology in the social process. For credit students and a limited number of others prepared to do the necessary reading alternate sessions beginning February 13, are prolonged to 11 p.m. for more detailed discussion of questions raised in class or reading.

Winter 1946/47:

No. 142: Toward Knowing Oneself and Others: The Contribution of Psychoanalysis

Thursday, 5:20-6:00 (special course) from March 6, on; beginning: February 27, 1947.

Winter 1947/48:

No. 184: Symbolism: Index to Psychic Phenomena - Myths, Dreams and Art

12 weeks, beginning February 12, 1948; special course by P. Mullahy, beginning May 6.

Winter 1948/49:

No. 194: Emotional Forces and the Social Process

Beginning: February 10, 1949

The function of emotions is examined as constructive or disruptive forces in the social process. The fact is stressed that emotional strivings in the individual are molded by society while they in turn influence the social process; specifically the course deals with the nature of this



interaction; the character structure common to certain socio-economic and national groups, the function of the authority in the family and society, the psychology of propaganda and the role of ideology in the social process. For credit students and a limited number of others prepared to do the necessary reading alternate sessions beginning February 13, are prolonged to 11 p.m. for more detailed discussion of questions raised in class or reading.

Winter 1949/50:

No. 272: Psychoanalysis and Religion

Beginning: February 6, 1950

The course deals with the relationship between psychoanalysis and religion. Various concepts of psychoanalysis and various concepts of religion and religious experience are discussed.

- I. Freud's and Jung's views on religion. Ethics vs. religious relativism
- II. Ethical and religious implications of psychoanalysis
- III. Are religious need inherent in man's nature?
- IV. Neurosis as private religion
- V. Psychology of various types of religious experience
- VI. The religious situation of modern man and the psychoanalytic contribution to its understanding.

Winter 1952/53:

No. 251: Mental Health in the Modern World

January 26, 28; February 2, 4.

Various concepts of mental health and illness of neuroses, psychosis and of adjustment. The state of mental health in contemporary Western society according to these criteria. Basic courses for the mental condition of our time. Various attempts at solution: religion, authoritarianism, socialism, humanism and mental hygiene especially from the standpoint of man's basic needs and of the social and cultural institutions which could properly satisfy them.

Winter 1953/54:

No. 503: Love and Hate

8 weeks, Tuesday 6:20-8:00 p.m.; January 5, 12, 19, 26; February 2, 9, 16, 23.

The misuse of a word - symbiotic attachment, domination, submission and convenience under the disguise of love. Love as union under the condition of mutual integrity. Patriarchal and matriarchal aspects of love. Motherly and erotic love. The ambiguous role of sexuality in expressing as well as avoiding love. Tenderness and greed. Self-love and selfishness. Love and marriage. Love and the marketing spirit of contemporary society. Love and hate: the two basic forces in man. Freud's theory of the death instinct. Destructiveness as outcome of un-lived life. Various expressions of destructiveness. Lust for power, for destruction; indifference. Love and hate in modern society.



Winter 1954/55:

No. 435: Religion and Religious Experience - Its Meaning for Modern Man.

Tuesday 6:20-8:00 p.m.

Jan. 4: Human nature and the need for a frame of orientation and devotion.

Jan. 11: The few fundamental questions which have occupied man's mind at all time and in all cultures.

Jan. 18, 25; February 8 : The various answers to these questions:

a) Native religions, their myths and rituals

b) Dawn of conscience and reason. In Egypt, China, India, Palestine, Greece.

Their religious manifestations

Febr. 15: Authoritarian vs. humanistic religions in Christianity, Judaism, the bible, Luther, Master Eckhart, Chassidism.

March 1: The official and the real role of religion today and the possibility of a humanistic religion.

March 8: What does it mean to be a religious person?

Winter 1955/56:

No. 375: What Is Emotional Maturity?

8 weeks; Tuesday 6:20-8:00 p.m.

Jan. 3: Current concepts of maturity

Jan. 10: Religious and philosophical concepts of maturity

Jan. 17: The concept of individual and social evolution

Jan. 24: The sense of grandiosity

Jan. 31: The development of humanity, objectivity and reason

Febr. 7: The development of freedom

Febr. 14: The concept of freedom and determinism in Spinoza, Freud and Marx

Febr. 21: The development of love

No. 330: The Old Testament: Its Meaning for Today

Tuesday 8:30-10:10 p.m.

These lectures deal with the Old Testament from the standpoint of the human problems confronting man today. The text is considered and interpreted in the light of humanistic psychoanalysis

Jan. 3: Types of religion: ritualism, orthodoxy, mysticism, law; the future of



religion

- Jan. 10: The concept of Man: Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses
Jan. 17 und 24: The concept of God. God - the creator; God - the absolute ruler;
God - bound to his principles. The unknown God
Jan. 31: How is human evolution possible. The role of love. The role of grace.
The role of the miracle.
Febr. 7: The rule of human behaviour. The ten commandments. The ethis of
the prophets.
Febr. 14 and 21: The aim of history. The concept of the Messiah.

Winter 1956/57:

No. 526: Origins and Future of Psychoanalysis

8 weeks

This course deals with the original ideas of Freud and how they were influenced both by the cultural climate and by his character structure- After an analysis of his personality and of the decisive emotional forces in him his mature discoveries are presented. It is shown at what particular point the development stopped and in what direction they need to be developed. The last part of the course deals with the future of psychoanalysis. The limitations and dangers inherent in psychoanalysis are discussed as well as the possibility of its productive continuation and the reactions of humanistic or existential psychoanalysis.

- April 9 and 16: Freud the man and his motivations
April 23 and May 14: Freud's great discoveries. Their background and their limitations. The philosophical background. The unconscious. Interpretation of dreams, Oedipus complex, Super-Ego, sexuality, characterology, death instinct and eros, free association.
May 21: Limitations and deterioration of psychoanalysis
May 28: The future of psychoanalysis

Winter 1957/58:

Announcement: **In honor of Martin Buber.** Hans Cohn, Morris Friedman and Erich Fromm will honor Martin Buber on his 80th birthday at a meeting in the Community Church (40 East 35 Street), April 30, 8:00 p.m. - Dr. Buber will speak.

Winter 1958/59:

No. 466: The Predicament of Modern Man

5 weeks, Tuesday 8:30-10:10 p.m.

- April 21: Split between affect and intellect. Alienation: anxiety and confor-



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- mity. The question which existence poses and various answers.
- April 28: Goethe's Faust. Man's answers to his existence. Becoming and creativity.
- May 5: Ibsen's Peer Gynt: Man in search for his identity and its loss.
- May 12: Marx's picture of Man as alienated and crippled. The liberation of the whole man.
- May 19: Freud's picture of man as ruled by his unconscious. Scientific vs. utopian morality.

R. Funk, January 6, 1991