



These notes represent a detailed interpretation of the professor's lecture. They are not a transcript of the lecture. TakeNote® is best used as a supplement to your own notes, not as a substitute.

Lecture Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2008

Announcements:

- Professor Segal's Office Hours: Tuesdays: 4:15-5:15pm (10-minute sign-up slots); 5:15-6:00pm (Walk-ins). Sign up for a slot on his office door (222 Uris Hall).

I. How Freud begins his lectures

- A. Psychotherapy is referred to as the "talking cure." It gets to the emotions connected with the physiological symptoms and is consistent with activity in orbitofrontal area. Psychotherapy has shown to relieve physical symptoms which were previously indescribable by medicine.
- B. Freud's Essential Resistances to psychoanalysis [refer to assigned reading in *Introductory Lectures to Psychoanalysis*]
  1. We are biased to value what we can see over what cannot be seen; that which is measured, observed, witnessed.
- C. We are biased against a focus on the psychological life. Psychiatry during Freud's time was restricted to observable phenomena
- D. **Remember:** Consciousness is only a fraction of mental life.

II. Sexual impulses broadly and narrowly defined

- A. Sexual impulses play an important role in nervous disorders. Also when sexual energy is channeled psychologically, it fuels creativity, achievement, and the development of culture.
- B. In response to Freud's declining reputation and efficacy in the field of Psychology, Professor Segal feels that Freud cannot fully explain all of mental functions but there are key insights that make him relevant and worth studying.
- C. Freud was a Darwinian. He believed in science and evolution.
  1. Babies inherently behave and respond to their caretakers with the goal of survival. Pain keeps them from repeating an experience; pleasure maintains repetition. (i.e. If babies weren't deriving extreme pleasure from nursing, they wouldn't be inclined to continue).
- D. Sex drive is not only about procreation, it is fundamentally about attachment. In order for survival of a species, there must be some sort of family or tribal unit. Thus, the erotic drive is not just about sexuality, but rather about affiliation. Pleasure is therefore a crucial aspect of human experience.
  1. For example, in popular culture, kissing is given a lot of hype such as waiting all season for two main characters of a television show to get together which is symbolized by the kiss. This is very compelling; Freud would argue it ties to pleasure of nursing. If we didn't kiss, we would miss out on intimacy.