

Transcription of Student Comments
(Fall 2016: Philosophy and Psychoanalysis [Graduate])

At LMU, in addition to the numerical summary, we are simply given scanned copies of the entire course survey (2 pages per person). To save you time combing through them, I provide here any and all comments from my M.A. course in Fall 2016, edited only for punctuation (along with minor context clarifications) and grouped according to theme.

What did you find most beneficial about the course?

*Excellent choice of course material; I enjoyed the connections to ancient thinkers as well as fictional stories used as experimental cases to apply Freudian concepts.

*I liked that Dr. Britt:

- had us reading more volume with more accessible works at the start, then less volume, more density at the end
- allowed us to interrupt his lectures to ask questions
- had us turn in a proposal and gave us some room to write according to our own interests
- tailored his lectures toward our fascinations

*The division of the class into a lecture and a discussion [roughly half and half each meeting] is far more fruitful than a pure lecture.

*Lectures: very effective at adding to the material as well as clarifying especially difficult points.

*A teacher with a sense of humor makes the class run smoothly.

*Very helpful handouts.

*This course gave me an in-depth knowledge about Freud's psychoanalytic theory.

What would have made this course more effective for you?

*More time to explore Freudian theory.

*Making the course lecture handouts a little more detailed.

*Outlines for the lectures would help me retain more information.

*The pre-written lecture style is great. It affords clarity. But I found myself getting behind while writing notes. Maybe you could try slowing your pace just a tad to allow us to write notes without falling behind.

*Perhaps lowering the reading requirements, maybe by dropping the non-Freud material. This is partly self-criticism, but many weeks I struggled and failed to finish the reading on time.

*Maybe relaxing [even more] the amount of reading towards the end of the course.

Assorted (appended to other questions; each entry is from a single student)

*After taking this course, I've become interested in psychoanalysis – for the long haul. Dr. Britt is very, very passionate about the material and taught it very effectively. Dr. Britt's lectures were extremely thoughtful, insightful, and well-organized – to the point that I wish I had thought to record them, so I could go back and better discern structure and find insights I missed.

*Meetings outside of class were always productive, helpful. Perhaps he was too accessible – he was always busy with other students! Dr. Britt's knowledge of Freud is intimidating, so it forces me to want to try hard. Freud is much more clear now, and I'm hoping I return to the material again. Lectures were ambitious, always full of information.

*I was challenged to engage with course material beyond the obvious interpretation or application. This course helped me think about further research. For instance, I believe it helped me shape my ideas about the psyche in terms of research questions I would like to consider later.