



# Unit IV

Psychoanalytic Criticism  
Feminism  
Queer Criticism  
Lesbian Gay Criticism

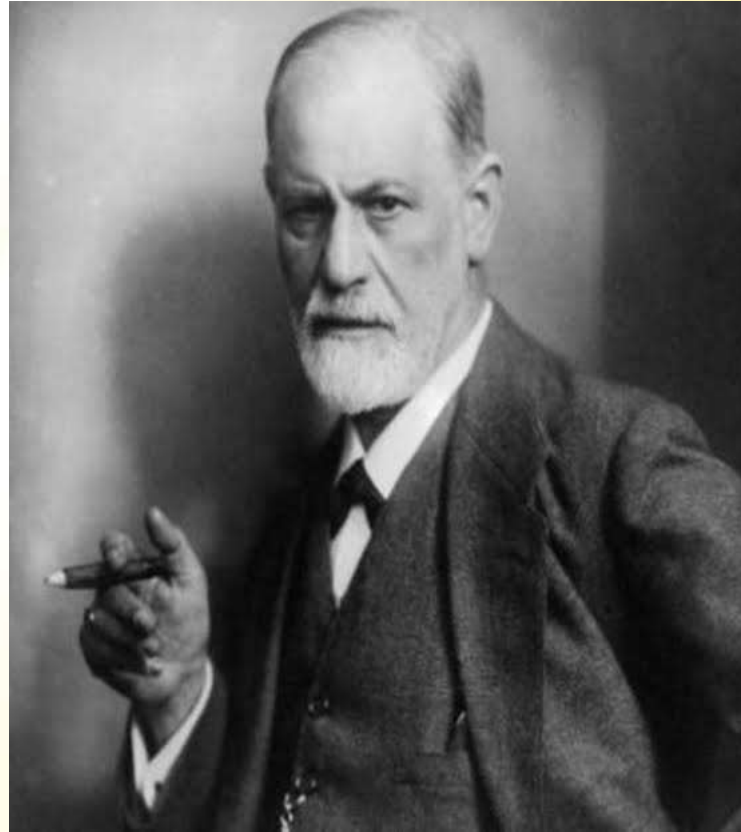


# Sigmund Freud

The study into the unconscious  
mind

# Sigmund Freud

**Sigmund Freud was an Austrian psychologist, he also worked as a medical researcher. He was an early user of cocaine and recommended its use as a cure for morphine addiction. He argued for the importance of the unconscious mind in understanding conscious thought and behaviour.**



# Dreams

- . Freud called dreams the “Royal road to the unconscious”, and his theories on dreams can be compared to Plato's theories, since they share practically the same view on the subject.
- Freud believed many people repress painful memories deep into their unconscious mind, and couldn't be accessed when conscious. Only your dreams could reveal hidden memories, or experiences which have been repressed.

# Freud's first 3 stages Of the unconscious

1. **The descriptive unconscious** which refers to all features of mental life which people are not aware of.
2. **The dynamic unconscious**, which is more specific, referring to the mental process and contents that are defensively removed from consciousness due to a conflicting attitudes.
3. **The system unconscious** (later changed), the idea that mental processes are repressed.

# ID, ECO and Super ECO

- **Id, ego and super-ego are the three parts of the psychic apparatus defined in Sigmund Freud's structural model of the psyche. According to this model of the psyche, the ID is the set of uncoordinated instinctual trends; the EGO is the organised, realistic part; and the SUPER-EGO plays the critical and moralising role**

# ID

- **The id is in charge of basic drives, the ID acts according to the pleasure principle It seeks to avoid pain (controls life and death instincts). It is also described as the “great reservoir of libido” 'It is the dark, inaccessible part of our personality, what little we know of it we have learned from our study of the dream-work and of the construction of neurotic symptoms, and most of that is of a negative character and can be described only as a contrast to the ego. We approach the id with analogies: we call it a chaos, a cauldron full of seething excitations... It is filled with energy reaching it from the instincts but it has no**

# EGO

- **EGO is a contrast to ID. The Ego acts according to the reality principle; it seeks to please the id's drive in realistic ways that will benefit in the long term rather than bringing grief. It's also the half way point between the ID and Super Ego. The Ego separates what's real and helps us organise our thoughts and make sense of them in the world around us. " It is said, however, that the ego seems to be more loyal to the id, preferring to gloss over the finer details of reality to minimize conflicts while pretending to have a regard for reality. But the super ego is constantly watching every**



# Super Ego

- **The super ego is essentially the authoritative figure in our mind. It determines what is right and wrong, and steps into place of parents, educators, teachers and people chosen to be ideal models. “ The Super-ego aims for perfection. It comprises that organised part of the personality structure, mainly but not entirely unconscious, that includes the individual's ego ideals, spiritual goals, and the psychic agency (commonly called &quot;conscience&quot;,) that criticises and prohibits his or her drives, fantasies,**

# Freudian Slip

- **A Freudian slip is a very common thing to do. For example. If you were talking to your partner, and accidentally say someone else's name, such as an Ex partner, in Freudian terms this could mean that you have unconscious, feelings, still remaining for your ex, or anyone else you say. It could also be because you feel misgivings with your current relationship.**

# The Difference

**1. The conscious mind** includes everything that we are aware of. This is the aspect of our mental processing that we can think and talk about rationally. A part of this includes our memory, which is not always part of consciousness but can be retrieved easily at any time and brought into our awareness. Freud called this as ordinary memory.

**2. The Unconscious mind** is a reservoir of feelings, thoughts, urges, and memories that outside of our conscious awareness. Most of the contents of the unconscious are unacceptable or unpleasant, such as feelings of pain, anxiety, or

- **Films which have Freudian references.**
- **Inception (2010) – Obviously, this film explores the concept of a dream having many layers, and gaining access to them. Freud also said that gaining access to a dream is a easy task. They go into the unconscious, and explore it.**
- **Surrealism: In surrealist films, Freud played a major role in the idea's behind the films. In movie's such as Eraser head and Un Chien Andalou , they focus on Freud's theories of exploring the**

# Scoptophilia - Definition

- **Scoptophilia – Freud's notion of “scaulust” meaning “pleasure in looking” - in sense of both seeing and being seen , as well as curiosity. Freud distinguished between two frequently encountered forms of this partial drive: One active, voyeurism , and the other passive, Exhibitionism , neither**

## • Jacques Lacan (1901-1981)

- Lacan's unconscious is organized not chaotic like the Freudian. He says it's structured as the structure of language and it can be systematically analyzed.
- Lacan's human psyche consists of three parts, or orders:
- **The Imaginary Order**
- From birth to 6 months
- The part of psyche that contains our wishes, fantasies and images.
- We are joyfully united as one with our mothers, receiving our food, our care, and all our comfort from her.
- It is a preverbal stage, we depend on images as a means of perceiving and interpreting the world. But our image of our self is flux as we don't know where another image starts and another one begins.
- Between age of 6-18<sup>th</sup> months we enter the mirror -stage. We realize ourselves as an independent beings who are separate from our mothers. As well as recognizing certain object as being separate in which Lacan calls the **Object Petit a**. these objects include eliminating bodily wastes, mother's voice and breasts, and our own speech sounds. Thus, when these objects and sounds are not present we yearn for them and later on they turn to be symbols of lack and this sense of lack continue to plague us for the rest of our life.

- While passing through the imaginary order one great feeling dominates us: the desire for our mother. But it's an illusion as we are separate entities.
- **The Symbolic Order**
- In imaginary the mother is dominates while here the father dominates.
- In this phase we learn language.
- we learn that our fathers represent the cultural norms and laws.
- For Lacan what sex biologically we are is determined, but our gender or sexuality is culturally created.
- Lacan and the Textual Analysis
- The kernel of his theory is lack and fragmentation. All of us have longings for love, for pysical pleasure, and for countless objects, but nothing can fulfill our desire of returning back to the imaginary order to be one with our mothers again. This fragmentation or divided self concerns Lacan when he examines a literary text. To him literary text hold the possibility of capturing our desires to return to the imaginary stage and to experience the same pure joy when we were once whole and united with our mothers.

- **The Real order**
- It consists of the physical world including the material universe and including everything in it.
- It symbolizes a whole person is not. Or in other words as Lacan says the world is full of object petit a. but all these objects represent the lack with in us as nothing in this physical universe can be part of ourselves. We can never experience or really know them except through language.

- **Assumptions**

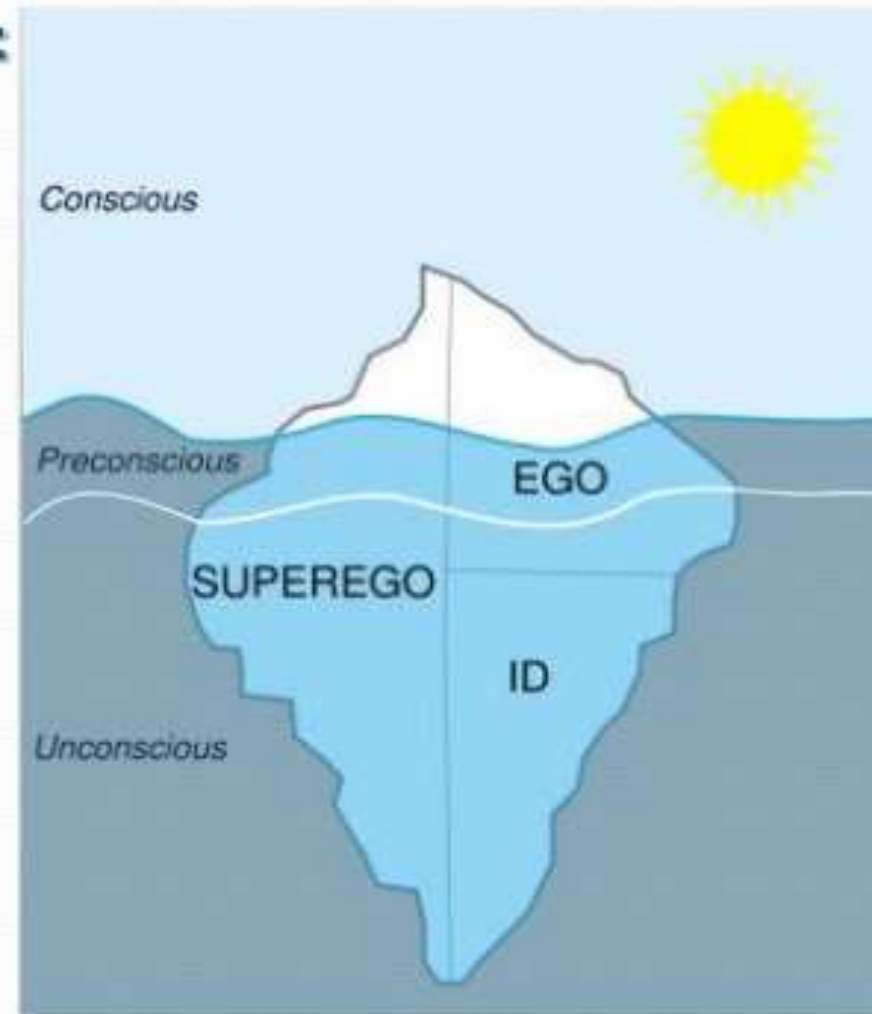
- Freud believes all artists, including authors are neurotic.
- Psychoanalytic critics believe by using the psychoanalytic techniques developed for dream therapy, we can unlock the hidden meanings contained within the story and housed in symbols. Only then we can arrive to the accurate interpretation of the text.



# ICE BERG MODEL

Psychoanalytic theory of the conscious and unconscious mind is often explained using an iceberg metaphor.

Conscious awareness is the tip of the iceberg, while the unconscious is represented by the ice hidden below the surface of the water.



# *THE CONSCIOUS MIND*

- It includes everything that we are aware of. This is the aspect of our mental processing that we can think and talk about rationally.
- Events & experiences that are easily remembered or retrieved are considered to be within one's conscious awareness. **Example-** Telephone numbers, birthday of self & dates of special holidays.



## ***THE PRECONSCIOUS MIND***

- It includes all memories that may have been forgotten or are not in present awareness but with attention can be readily recalled into consciousness.

**Example-** telephone numbers, addresses once known but little used.

- It is thought to be partially under the control of the super-ego, which helps to suppress unacceptable thoughts and behaviors.



## ***THE UNCONSCIOUS MIND***

- It includes all memories that one is unable to bring to conscious awareness. It is the largest of the three topographical levels.
- It consists of unpleasant & non essential memories that have been repressed & can be retrieved through therapy, hypnosis & with other substances that alter awareness.
- According to Freud, the unconscious continues to influence our behavior and experience, even though we are unaware of these underlying influences.

# Carl Jung's Analytic Theory

- **Collective unconscious-** all human beings share certain unconscious ideas because we are all human and were created from similar evolutionary circumstances and common ancestors.
- **The collective unconscious is the storehouse of hidden memory traces that were inherited from our ancestral past. It is our minds' residue of human evolutionary development He emphasize on the study of different cultures.**
- **He believed that the similarities between cultures were an indication of what it means to be human: that is, by looking at how we are all**

- **The elements of the collective unconscious are known as archetypes. Patterns in the people and events around us which are mostly symbols of common human social realities such as heroes, maidens, and babies. Projection-making factors in the brain. To project is to see something in the outside world when its actual source is inside you Represents a common and significant feature of ancient**

# ATTITUDES: TWO TYPES OF PERSONALITIES

## Extraverts

The extraversion attitude orients a person toward the external world outward turning of "goal-directed energy Extraverted people channel their life energy into activities and social involvement

## Introverts

The introversion attitude drives a person toward the inner, subjective world. Introverts, by contrast, are turned inward, more interested in the life of the mind than

- **RATIONAL OR JUDGING TYPE** Some people seem to use their minds all the time, making conscious value judgments about which way to direct themselves.
- **The feeling type - makes decisions according to emotional evaluations** **The thinking type.** The thinking type makes decisions based on conscious calculations (for example, marrying somebody who will someday be rich).
- **IRRATIONAL TYPE** One who relies on perception or intuition to guide decision-making. They tend to be rooted in the present, and they are more likely to make snap decisions or do impulsive things. Some irrational types emphasize sensation. They respond to external stimuli and





# Feminist Criticism

# Feminist Criticism

- **Feminist criticism is the literary and critical theory that explores the bias in favor of the male gender in literature, and which reexamines all literature from a feminist point of view.**
- **Feminist Criticism has two basic premises:**
- **1. Women presented in literature by male writers from male point of view.**
- **2. Women presented in writing of female writers from female point of view.**
- **Feminist Criticism aims to understand the nature of inequality and focus on analyzing gender equality and the promotion of women's right.**
- **In broad definition: Feminism is women's movement in 1960sto struggle for the equality of rights as social class.**
- **In literature: feminism is related to the ways in understanding literary works, in both production and**

# History of Feminism:

## First Wave Feminism

- Historical Content : Women widely are considered to be:
- Intellectually inferior
- Physically weak
- Emotional, intuitive, irrational
- Suited to the role of wive and mother
- Women could not vote
- They were not educated at school/universities and could only work in manual jobs.
- A married women's property and salary were owned by her husband.
- Rape and physical abuse are legal within marriage.
- Divorce available to men but far more difficult to women.Women
- had no right to their children if they left a marriage.
- Abortion was illegal.

- **First-wave feminism refers to a period of feminist activity during the 19th and early twentieth century in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States.**
- **The key concerns of First Wave Feminists were education, employment, the marriage laws, and the plight of intelligent middle-class single women.**
- **Over all goal: to improve the legal position for women in particular to gain women the vote.**
- **Basic assumption: Men and women have separate, biologically determined roles and duties in society. Women work in the private sphere (the home), men in the public sphere.**
- **Active until the First World War I.**

# Second Wave Feminism

- Historical Background: Women could attend school and university
- Women did not receive equal pay for the same work.
- It was easier to gain a divorce but socially frowned upon.
- Rape and physical abuse within marriage were illegal but husbands were rarely convicted.
- Abortion was still illegal.
- Women's bodies were objectified in advertising.
- Basic assumptions: Society is patriarchal.
- Women may have legal rights but they are still treated as inferior.
- Women should be equal to men in all respects.
- The second wave of feminism which occurred in 1960-1980, came as a response to the experiences of women after World War II.
- It dealt with inequality of laws and pioneered by Betty Friedan.

# Third Wave Feminism

- Historical Content: Women seem to be more equal to men
- Women are no longer obligated to marry or have children, and marriage is more equal.
- The legal system is better at protecting women's right.
- Third-wave feminism seeks to challenge or avoid what it seems the second wave's "essentialist" definitions of femininity, which often assumed a universal female identity and over-emphasized the experiences of upper-middle-class white women.
- Third-wave feminists such as Elle Green often focus on "micro-politics", and challenge the second wave's paradigm as to what is, or is not, good for women.
- Third wave feminism was a continuation and response to the perceived failures of the second wave.
- The movement that called as young feminist emphasizing collective action to effect changes and embrace the diversity represented by various feminisms.
- They focused on a multicultural emphasis and strived to address problems stemming from sexism, racism, social class inequality and homophobia

# Types of Feminism:

## • **Radical Feminism**

- Radical Feminism arose within the second wave in the 1960s.
- Radical Feminism focused on the theory of patriarchy as a system of power.
- Radical Feminism paid particular attention to oppression based on sex and female bodily disadvantage.

## • **Liberal Feminism**

- Liberal feminism aims to achieve equal, legal, political, and social rights for women.
- It wishes to bring women equality into all public institutions and to extend the creation of

## • **Socialist Feminism**

- A central concern of socialist feminism therefore has been to determine the ways in which the institution of the family and women's domestic labour are structured by, and reproduce the sexual division of labour

## • **Feminist criticism and language**

- Feminists argue that women have to create their own language since the existed language in literature is dominated by 'male language'.

## • **Feminist criticism and psychoanalysis**

- In Freud's point of view, the feminine is not something simply 'given and natural'.



# Mary Wollstonecraft

- 1759-1797
- Grew up in poverty but still got an education
  - \*Worked as lady's companion & governess
  - \*Started a girls' school
- Mother of Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley
  - \*Author of Frankenstein
- One of the first major feminists
  - \*Attacked restrictions on women's freedom and education in her writing.



## Wollstonecraft's Writing:

- 1787 ---- Thoughts on the Education of Daughters
  - \*Criticizing poor education for women
- 1790 ---- A Vindication of the Rights of Man
  - \*Defending the French Revolution
- 1792 ---- A Vindication of the Rights of

# A Vindication of the Rights of Women

- Educational opportunities for women.
  - \* Much fewer & worse than for men.
  - \* Focused on learning “ladylike” skills.
    - Sewing, playing piano, being a good wife.
- Societal expectations for women.
  - \* Ideas of feminine beauty.
  - \* Stay at home to run household.
- ...All of this has made women silly and vain

# Virginia Woolf - "A Room of One's Own"

**A Room of One's Own is considered the first major work in feminist criticism. It is an essay based upon two papers read at Newnham and Girton. (women's colleges at Cambridge).**

**Virginia Woolf didn't think much of her essays, maybe because they were commissioned. Some of them, nevertheless, such as A Room of One's Own and Three Guineas are truly modernist in style.**

**She argued that the aim of an essay was to give pleasure and not trying to inform or persuade the reader.**

**A Room of One's Own is an exploration of the material and psychological conditions and historical constraints encountered by women writers.**

**Virginia Woolf tries to explain the reasons why there had been so few women writers up to then. According to her views, women lacked her own space , (a room of their own),**



# Simone de Beauvoir - "The Second Sex"

**The Second Sex, published in French in 1949 and translated into English in 1953, set out to establish a feminist existentialism that called for a moral revolution.**

**As an existentialist, Beauvoir believed that existence precedes essence; in other words, one is not born a woman, but becomes one.**

**Her analysis focuses on the social construction of Woman as the quintessential fundamental to the oppression and stratification of women.**

**Further, she asserts that women are in great part to blame for this oppression, as they are just as capable as men of making choices that could elevate their status, but at that point in time had chosen no to.**

**The Second Sex was regarded more as an affront to sexual decency than a political**



# Josephine Donovan

- **The concept of authenticity.**
- **The concept of aesthetic.**
- **Female stereotypes symbolize either the spiritual or the material, good or evil.**
- **Under the category of the good-woman stereotypes: those who serve the interests of the hero.**
- **In the bad evil category are deviants or reject serve man or his interest.**

# Elaine Showalter

- Feminist criticism divided into two distinct varieties:
- “feminist critique,” which focuses on “woman as reader – with woman as the consumer of a male-produced literature,” and
- “gynocritics,” which “is concerned with woman as writer – with woman as the producer of textual meaning.”
- She provides an exemplary feminist critique of Thomas Hardy’s *The Mayor of Casterbridge* to demonstrate that “one of the problems of the feminist critique is that is male-oriented.
- Showalter presents gynocritics as a way “to construct a female framework for the analysis of women’s

- **Luce Irigaray**

- Irigaray focuses on language role, women's language.
- Woman should not talk "like" a woman, but "as" a woman.
- The word 'like' means the writer fully understand and put herself into the the frame of writing.

- **Hélène Cixous**

- Language and the resistance of phallogentrism are the area of concern.
- Helene Cixous posits the existence of an écriture féminine.
- Écriture féminine is the result of the domination of male-centered language.

A watercolor illustration of a plant branch with several large, overlapping leaves. The leaves are rendered in shades of blue, teal, and light green, with some areas showing a gradient. A single leaf at the bottom is a mix of purple and pink. The branch is dark brown and curves from the top left towards the bottom center. The background is plain white.

# Queer Theory



# Queer theory

- **Feminism was the contrast between sex and gender – Queer theory offers the view that all identities are social constructions.**
- **The ideas of male and female are just as much the product of representations as masculinity and femininity.**
- **Queer theory does not concern itself exclusively with homosexuality – it is about all forms of identity.**

# Judith Butler - 'Gender Trouble'

- Judith focuses on the need to break the line between the categories of sex and gender so that all forms of sexual identity can be accepted and celebrated.
- Queer theory attacks the binary oppositions which underline traditional ideas about sexuality e.g. man/woman, active/passive, gay/straight.
- Butler says that no one has an innate sexual identity –repeated representations of heterosexuality will create the illusion that it is normal and right.
- Representations of alternatives such as drag queens, butch lesbians, camp and macho gays have the capacity to subvert and denaturalise dominant heterosexual ideology.
- Becoming more frequent in mainstream media – gay and lesbian characters appear in fictional TV without self evident tokenism.
- Examples: Drag, camp comedy are all commonplace on early evening TV – Alan Carr



# Lesbian and Gay Criticism

# Lesbian Criticism

- **Lesbian criticism is concerned with issues of personal identity and politics analogous to those analyzed by feminists. However, while feminism addresses issues related to sexism and the difficulties involved in carving out a space for personal identity and political action beyond the influence of sexist ideologies, lesbian critics address issues related to both sexism and heterosexism. In other words, lesbian critics must deal with the psychological, social, economic, and political oppression fostered not only by patriarchal male privilege, but by heterosexual privilege as**

# Gay Criticism

- **The kinds of analyses that tend to engage the attention of gay critics often fall under the heading of gay sensibility. How does being gay influence the way one sees the world, sees oneself and others, creates and responds to art and music, creates and interprets literature, or experiences and expresses emotion? In a heterosexist culture such as the one we inhabit at the turn of the twenty-first century in America, gay sensibility includes an awareness of being different, at least in certain ways, from the members of the mainstream, dominant culture, and the complex feelings that result from an implicit, ongoing social oppression. In other words, part of seeing the world as a gay man includes the ways in**