

**FTS 123: Francois Truffaut and Psychoanalysis**  
**Spring 2011, Monday and Wednesday 4:05-5:20 (Lafayette 107)**  
**Screening: Wednesday 5:30-8:00 (Lafayette 300)**

**Instructor: Todd McGowan**  
**Office: 431 Old Mill**  
**Home Phone: 864-9534**  
**Office Hours: W 9:30-12:30; and by appt.**

**Course Description and Objective:** This course is an introduction to the works of François Truffaut through understanding the psychoanalytic foundations of his cinematic work. The reading and theorizing in the course will focus on psychoanalysis, while our subject matter will be exclusively Truffaut's films. The course will balance theorizing and filmic analysis and will try to have recourse to psychoanalytic theory in order to better understand Truffaut's cinematic project.

**Required Texts:**

*Totem and Taboo* – Sigmund Freud (Norton)  
*Ego and the Id* – Sigmund Freud (Norton)  
*Against Adaptation* – Philippe Van Haute (Other Press)  
*Sublime Object of Ideology* – Slavoj Žižek (Verso)

**Grade breakdown:**

Quizzes 25%  
Midterm Exam 25%  
Final Exam 25%  
Paper 25%

**Course Work:**

Quizzes will cover both readings and films, and they will occur at random throughout the semester. The exams will include both short answer and essay questions. The paper should attempt a psychoanalytic interpretation of a Truffaut film or of Truffaut qua filmmaker.

**Class Schedule (Readings are due on the day they are listed):**

**Week One:**

Jan 19 Introduction to course  
Screening: *Les 400 Coups (The 400 Blows)* (1959, 99 min)

**Week Two:**

Jan 24 Read: *Totem and Taboo* 1-23  
Jan 26 Read: *Totem and Taboo* 24-93  
Screening: *Tirez sur le pianiste (Shoot the Piano Player)* (1960, 80 min)

**Week Three:**

Jan 31 Read: *Totem and Taboo* 94-124  
Feb 2 Read: *Totem and Taboo* 125-200  
Screening: *Jules et Jim* (1962, 105 min)

**Week Four:**

Feb 7 Read: *Ego and the Id* 1-36  
Feb 9 Read: *Ego and the Id* 37-62  
Screening: *La Peau Douce (Soft Skin)* (1964, 113 min)

**Week Five:**

Feb 14 Read: "The Subversion of the Subject"  
Feb 16 Read: "The Subversion of the Subject"  
Screening: *Fahrenheit 451* (1966, 112 min)

**Week Six:**

Feb 21 President's Day – No Class  
Feb 23 "The Subversion of the Subject"  
Screening: *La mariée était en noir (The Bride Wore Black)* (1968, 107 min)

**Week Seven:**

Feb 28 Midterm Exam  
March 2 Read: *Against Adaptation* "Introduction," 1-33  
Screening : *Baisés volés (Stolen Kisses)* (1968, 90 min)

**Week Eight:**

March 14 Read: *Against Adaptation* 34-57  
March 16 Read: *Against Adaptation* 58-78  
Screening: *La sirène du Mississippi (Mississippi Mermaid)* (1969, 123 min)

**Week Nine:**

March 21 Read: *Against Adaptation* 79-100  
March 23 Read: *Against Adaptation* 101-125  
Screening: *L'enfant sauvage (The Wild Child)* (1970, 83 min)

**Week Ten:**

March 28 Read: *Against Adaptation* 126-162  
March 30 Read: *Against Adaptation* 163-216  
Screening: *Domicile conjugale (Bed and Board)* (1970 100 min)

**Week Eleven:**

April 4 Read: *Against Adaptation* 217-281  
Screen in class: *L'homme qui aimait les femmes (The Man Who Loved Women)* (1977, 119 min)  
April 6 Read: *Against Adaptation* 282-296; *Sublime Object* "Preface" and "Introduction"  
Screening: *La nuit américaine (Day for Night)* (1973, 115 min)

**Week Twelve:**

April 11 Read: *Sublime Object* "Chapter 1" (3-55)  
April 13 Read: *Sublime Object* "Chapter 2" (56-92)  
Screening: *L'argent de poche (Small Change)* (1976, 104 min)

**Week Thirteen:**

April 18 Read: *Sublime Object* "Chapter 3" (93-144)  
April 20 Read: *Sublime Object* "Chapter 4" (145-167)  
Screening: *L'amour en fuite (Love on the Run)* (1979, 94 min)

**Week Fourteen:**

April 25 Read: *Sublime Object* "Chapter 5" (168-226)  
April 27 Read: *Sublime Object* "Chapter 6" (227-263)  
Screening: *Le Dernier Métro (The Last Metro)* (1980, 130 min)

**Week Fifteen:**

May 2 Read: *Sublime Object*  
May 4 Course Review; Final Paper due  
Screening: *Vivement Dimanche! (Confidentially Yours)* (1983, 110 min)

**Final Exam:** Monday, May 9: 4:30-6:00