

Freud Writing Questions
Honor 2103, Spring 2009
Civilization and Its Discontents

Freud 3: Tuesday

1. Chapter 1: Describe Freud's exposition of ego development, briefly.
2. Chapter 2: What is the "pleasure principle" and in what ways is it frustrated?
3. Chapter 3: What is the paradox of civilization? In what way is the development of civilization analogous to the development of the individual psyche?
4. Chapter 4: What are the two origins of civilization? Briefly explain how each leads to the formation of social communities (civilization).

Freud 4: Thursday

1. Chapter 5: What role does the aggressive impulse in humans play in the development of civilization? In what way is "man a wolf to man"?
2. Chapter 6: Describe the tension between eros and the death impulse (aggressive instinct) and why it is essential to the evolution of civilization.
3. Chapter 7: Describe the formation of the super-ego and its parallel in the formation of civilization.
4. Chapter 8: What is Freud's ultimate picture of the development of civilization? Is it ultimately a good thing for humans or is it destructive of human psychological health? What role does guilt play?

Additionally:

I suggest writing down any questions you may have regarding your readings; we can discuss them in class, since I don't plan a formal lecture, but more of a discussion about the main topics of the chapters.