For Sigmund Freud, perversion denoted a quantitative degree of sexual deviance from the heterosexual and genital social norm. For Jacques Lacan, perversion meant a particular structure of desire, regardless of social norm. For Michel Foucault, perversion was an effect of modern sexuality. This course will explore these three contrasting notions of perversion, alongside some queer and/or feminist critiques of the psychoanalytic models, in relation to a selection of (mostly) Japanese fiction and film depicting a variety of perversions. Readings will include: Freud, “Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality (1905),” Deleuze, “Masochism: Coldness and Cruelty,” Foucault, History of Sexuality Vol. I, selections from Lacan, Tanizaki, Naomi, Kono, “Toddler Hunting,” Mishima, Confessions of a Mask. Films will include “Patriotism” and “Happiness.”

**Course requirements:**
Attendance, Participation, 10%
Papers 50%
response writings/ “homework” 25%
presentations 15%
Papers: 2 of 3 papers, details to be handed out.

Response papers: Semi-formal short papers of 2-3 pages, typed, double spaced, size 12 font, topics as announced in class.

Unexcused absences will negatively impact your grade. Late papers will be accepted, but progressively penalized for tardiness.

**Course Objectives:** A clear understanding of how Freud, Deleuze, Foucault and Lacan each described and analyzed the notion of “perversion.” An ability to articulate an intellectual dialogue between fiction, film and theory.
Statement on Plagiarism
Plagiarism means: presenting as your own someone else’s words, ideas, opinions, and/or argument. You must be sure to cite your sources, include a bibliography, and use quotation marks when you incorporate another person’s words or language verbatim. This includes buying a paper! Cases of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the Dean for disciplinary action(s).

Students are required to bring a copy of the assigned readings to class.

**** On Japanese names: Japanese names are in the opposite order of American ones, so the FAMILY NAME (our last name) comes first, and the GIVEN NAME is second. (Like in a bibliographic list, but without a comma: i.e. Cornyetz Nina).

Required Books:

For sale at Shakespeare and Company, 716 Broadway. Also on reserve at Bobst Library.


Articles, Chapters, on NYU Classes:

Schedule
Part One: Freud

1. September 3, Tuesday: Introduction
   In class film: Huston on Freud.

2. September 10: Perversion and Infantile Sexuality
   Assignment: 2-3 page response paper

3. September 17, Drive and its Objects
   Assignment: 2-3 page response paper
   Student Presentation 1

4. September 24, Masochism - Another Language?
   Assignment: 2-3 page response paper
   Student Presentation 2

5. October 1, Pain and Pleasure
   Readings: Finish Deleuze, *Masochism*; selections, de Sade (NYU Classes); Tanizaki, *Naomi*.
   Assignment: 2-3 page response paper
   Student Presentation 3

6. October 8, In Class Film, *Happiness*
   No new Readings.
   First Paper Due

   No Class October 15 – Fall Break

Part Two: Foucault

7. October 22, Power, Knowledge, Discourse
   Readings: Foucault, *History of Sexuality* part one.

9. Nov. 5, Confession and Perversion – in class lecture, Mishima Readings: Mishima, Confessions of a Mask Student Presentation 5

10. Nov. 12, In Class Film: Summer Vacation 1999 (90 minutes); Readings: The Heart of Thomas, excerpts; Berger, “What Do Women Want?” (NYU Classes) Second Paper Due

Part Three: Introducing Lacan


12. November 26, Tuesday: In Class Film: Patriotism (56 minutes) Readings: Mishima, Patriotism; Swales, Perversion, Perverse Relation to the Other, 88-121 Student Presentation 6
