I. Freud’s Concept of the Self

A. Theory of Personality

“Personality is a product of somatic and unconscious impulses, conscious thought and calculation, and the introjected demands of culture and society.

1. Id

a. inner subjective psychic reality\*

i. source of energy for personality system

ii. matrix of differentiation

c. home: instincts

i. propelling factors in personality \*

ii. Eros: erotic (libidinal) and life preserving

iii. Thanatos: death instinct (wish) “Beyond the Pleasure Principle”

iv. aggressive instinct (BPP, Civilization and Its Discontents”) self-destruction turned outward towards substitute objects

d. characteristics

i. internal

ii. irrational

iii. amoral

iv. no sense of external reality

c. functions on “pleasure principle”

i. excitation: from internal needs

ii. needs release of tension

iii. forms image of object

iv. seeks maximal pleasure

v. restoration of equilibrium

2. ego

a. source: id

b. origin and function: need for appropriate transaction with objective world in order to fulfill need

c. governed by “reality principle”

i. rational: cognitive and intellectual functions

ii. reality testing (realistic thinking)

iii. identifies object in real world that will satisfy need

c. other functions:

i. defensive

ii. executive function: integrates personality systems

3. superego

a. internal psychological representative of society values, norms

i. process: introjection

ii. parental control transformed into self-control

b. two subsystems

i. conscience: guilt

ii. ego ideal: idealized behavior

c. function

i. inhibit sexual and aggressive impulses of id

ii. substitute moralistic goals

4. personalities

a. dominant id: impulsive, childlike (not freedom)

b. dominant superego: highly repressed authoritarian personality

c. strong ego: mature personality but

5. stages of development\*

C. Freud as a Social Theorist: Civilization and Its Discontents

1. society (civilization)

a. origin: work and love (sex) and fear of aggressive instinct

b. function: protection from nature and adjust mutual relations

i. science and technology

ii. culture, morals, ideals

iii. sexual and family relationships

iv. legal, political and economic relationships

2. power of the community over individual

a. drives all aim-inhibited by society

i. sublimated

ii. repressed

iii. left over tension

b. society and illusions: return to childlike state

i. fascism

ii. religion

iii. primitive: totally unrepressed