

CSTC Course Proposal

An Anatomy of Compulsive Leucocholy: Late Lacan, Love, Bondage, and the Other

Professor Allan Pero
(Fall 2026)

This course will explore three of Lacan's late seminars in depth and breadth: *From an Other to the other* (XVI), *The Other Side of Psychoanalysis* (XVII), and *Encore* (XX). We will consider Lacan's theorization of logic and the split in the Real in relation to three other important, imbricated dimensions of his late thought: difference, revolution, social bonds, and love.

We live in an age in which we regularly witness a pathologization of the other. But what exactly is the other? What is the difference between another person and what Lacan calls "the big Other"? A close reading of three of Lacan's late seminars reveal that he was describing, if not anticipating, the current problematics informing how we struggle to imagine social bonds and an emancipatory politics. If, as Žižek has long argued, enjoyment is a "political factor," then a critical engagement with Lacan's theory of enjoyment is in order. Enjoyment or *jouissance* is fraught with paradox, disavowal, and injunction. As we know, Lacan came to name a surplus *jouissance*—that is, a *jouissance* we can marshal to substitute for the lost object or other—as *objet petit a*. In turn, the material effects of surplus *jouissance* inform how Lacan articulates social bonds—namely, his four discourses, those of the Master, the Hysteric, the University, and the Analyst. As the course proceeds, we will turn finally to how our relation to an other and to *jouissance* shape the concept of love, or "giving what we do not have to someone who does not want it."

Course Texts:

Lacan, Jacques. *Seminar XVI: From an Other to the other* (Polity)

Lacan, Jacques. *Seminar XVII: The Other Side of Psychoanalysis* (Norton)

Lacan, Jacques. *Seminar XX: Encore* (Norton)

Course Assignments:

Response Paper (10%)

Seminar: (35%)

1 Respondent to the Seminar (15%)

Final Essay (40%)

