

From Cuckoo's Nest to Black Swan: Normality and Madness in the Films

Mr. Kim Yuval, M.A.

Course Number: 702.2705

Class Time: TBA

Class Location: TBA

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Course Description:

A vast amount of recent psychological research is focused on the deviant and the abnormal mental life. However, understanding the gist of normality has received much less attention and thought. What does it mean to be normal? And where should we draw the line between normality and abnormality? In this class we will try to address these questions by using the medium of film. Throughout the semester we will analyze a series of films and cinematic representations to examine the boundaries of normality from the perspective of psychopathology. By discussing various aspects of psychopathology—psychotic, neurotic and personality disorders, perversions and more—we will portray the complex and unstable relationships between psychopathology and its supposedly complementary notion: the normal. Cinematic representations of sanity, madness and psychopathological conditions will be examined within contemporary psychological frameworks, as well as in relation to social issues, such as stigma, power relations, gender and discrimination.

Course Requirements:

Attendance, preparation and classroom participation (15%)

Students are expected to actively participate in all classes. It is important to complete the reading (and watching) assignments prior to the weekly sessions. A list of readings can be found in the syllabus.

Students may not miss more than three meetings in order to receive a grade for the course irrespective of the reasons for the absence.

Class dyad presentation (25%)

Starting from week 6, in groups of two, students will prepare a 15-minute presentation of one of the readings and films from the syllabus (or beyond syllabus, in coordination with the lecturer). The presentation will include a brief overview of the main arguments made in the text as well as a critical review, in which the students are expected to connect the text to concepts and ideas discussed in the course. The film will be used to demonstrate the different arguments. Each student has the responsibility to email the lecturer the specific topic she or he wants to present until the 4th session of the course November 9th.

Response papers (20%)

Students are responsible for writing 6 response papers during the semester. Each response papers should be between 250 to 400 words. Response papers should reflect the students' opinions, thoughts, feelings and experiences related to the weekly reading. The response papers should not give a summary of the readings, but rather use the readings to explore and reflect on interesting ideas or debates related to the topic. The deadline for handing the papers (via the moodle system) is midnight before class.

Take Home Exam: (40%)

Will be available on the Moodle starting January 5th, 8:00 am. The deadline for handing is January 8th, 12:00 pm. Papers should be submitted electronically in the Moodle system and also sent to the International School (uhisfinalpapers@gmail.com).

Disability Accommodations

Students requiring special assistance due to a disability are asked to contact the instructor on the first day of class, so that accommodation for the disability can be determined and arranged.

Meeting 1	<p>Introduction(s): abnormal behavior in historical context and assessment issues; madness and normality in the cinema.</p> <p>Wedding, D., Boyd, M. A., & Niemiec, R. M. (2014). Movies and mental illness. Hogrefe, (pp. 1 – 15).</p> <p>Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2009). Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH1,3)</p> <p>Film: TBA</p>
Meeting 2	<p>Schizophrenia spectrum (Perception) and the problem with stigma</p> <p>Wahl, O. F. (1997). Media madness: Public images of mental illness. Rutgers University Press. (CH1)</p> <p>Wedding, D., Boyd, M. A., & Niemiec, R. M. (2014). Movies and mental illness. Hogrefe, (Appendices D&E).</p> <p>Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2009). Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH13)</p> <p>Film: A beautiful mind (2001);</p>
Meeting 3	<p>Schizophrenia spectrum (judgment, cognition)</p> <p>Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2009). Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH13)</p> <p>Picchioni, M.M. & Murray, R.M. (2007). Schizophrenia. British Medical Journal, 335,91-95.</p> <p>Film: Black Swan (2010), Take shelter (2011)</p>
Meeting 4	<p>Bipolar and depressive disorders (I)</p> <p>Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2009). Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative</p>

	<p>Approach (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH7)</p> <p>Styron, W. C. (2010). Darkness visible: A memoir of madness. Open Road Media.</p> <p>Film: Melancholia (2011)</p>
Meeting 5	<p>Bipolar and depressive disorders (II) – Gender and suicidality</p> <p>Solomon, A. (2014). The noonday demon: An atlas of depression. Simon and Schuster.</p> <p>Plath, S. (2015). The bell jar. New Canadian Library.</p> <p>Nolen-Hoeksema, S., Larson, J., & Grayson, C. (1999). Explaining the gender difference in depressive symptoms. <i>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</i>, 77, 1061-1072.</p> <p>Film: The Hours (2002); Ordinary people (1980)</p>
Meeting 6	<p>Anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders</p> <p>Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2009). <i>Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach</i> (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH5)</p> <p>Film: As good as it gets (1997)</p>
Meeting 7	<p>Trauma and stress related disorders</p> <p>Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2009). <i>Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach</i> (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (pp 155- 163)</p> <p>Herman, J. L. (1997). Trauma and recovery (Vol. 551). Basic books.</p> <p>Film: Waltz with Bashir (2008)</p>
Meeting 8	<p>Cultural issues in psychopathology</p> <p>Kienzler, H. (2008). Debating war-trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in an interdisciplinary arena. <i>Social Science & Medicine</i>, 67(2), 218-227.</p> <p>Bracken, P (1998). Hidden agendas: Deconstructing Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. In <i>Rethinking the Trauma of War</i>. Bracken, P. & Petty, C.(Eds.), 37 –</p>

	<p>59.</p> <p>Summerfield, D. (1999). A critique of seven assumptions behind psychological trauma programmes in war-affected areas. <i>Social Science & Medicine</i>, 48, 1449–1462</p> <p>Film: TBA</p>
Meeting 9	<p>Personality disorders (I)</p> <p>Barlow, D. H., & Durand, V. M. (2009). <i>Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach</i> (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH12)</p> <p>Films: Blue Jasmin (2013), Girl Interrupted (1999), Rachel getting married (2008)</p>
Meeting 10	<p>Personality disorders (II)</p> <p>Ryder, A. G., Dere, J., Sun, J., & Chentsova-Dutton, Y. E. (2014). The cultural shaping of personality disorder.</p> <p>Film: The royal Tenenbaums (2001)</p>
Meeting 11	<p>Creativity, Genius, Treatment & Psychotherapy</p> <p>Salinger, J.D. (1953). A perfect day for bananafish. In <i>Nine Stories</i>, (pp. 3-19). New York: Little, Brown.</p> <p>Andreasen, N.C. (1987). Creativity and mental illness: Prevalence rates in writers and their first degree relatives. <i>American Journal of Psychiatry</i>, 144, 1288-1292.</p> <p>Waddell, C. (1998). Creativity and mental illness: Is there a link? <i>Canadian Journal of Psychiatry</i>, 43, 166-172.</p> <p>Films: Good will hunting (1997); I Never Promised You a Rose Garden (1977), Ordinary people (1980)</p>
Meeting 12	<p>Criticism: anti – psychiatry and more</p> <p>Rosenhan D. L. (1973) “On being sane in insane places.” <i>Science</i>, 179, 250-258</p>

Sedgwick P. (1985) "Anti-Psychiatry, Illness and the Mentally Ill." In his Psychopolitics. Pluto Press.

Laing R.D (1959) The Divided Self. London: Tavistock.

Film: One flew over the cuckoo's Nest (1975)