

**Psychopathology, Prejudice and Conflict in Film:  
From *Cuckoo's Nest* to *Apocalypse Now***

**Dr. Kim Yuval**

**Course Number:** 702.2311

**Class Time:** Monday, 12:15-14:45

**Class Location:**

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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? Where should we draw the line between normality and abnormality? And how does the concept of psychological abnormality interact with the way we perceive prejudice and conflict?

In this class we will address these questions through 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, personality disorders, and trauma—we will unpack the complex and unstable relationships between psychopathology and its supposedly complementary notion: the normal. Cinematic representations of sanity, madness and different kinds of conditions of conflict will be examined within contemporary psychological frameworks, as well as in relation to social and political issues, such as prejudice, power relations, and gender.

**Course Requirements:**

**Attendance, preparation and classroom participation (20%)**

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 group presentation (30%)

students will prepare a 15-20 minute presentation of one of the films from the syllabus (or beyond syllabus, in coordination with the lecturer). The presentation will include a brief overview of the main themes of the movie, and will focus on the psychopathology it presents using the text for the same week. The students are expected to connect the text to concepts and ideas discussed in the course, using the film 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.

#### Response papers (20%)

Students are responsible for writing 5 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: (30%)

Will be available on the Moodle on the 12/1, 18:00. Should be submitted until 26/1, 12:00.

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.

<p>Meeting 1 19/10</p>	<p><b>Introduction(s): abnormal behavior in historical context and assessment issues; madness and normality in the cinema.</b></p> <p>Wedding, D., Boyd, M. A., &amp; Niemiec, R. M. (2014). Movies and mental illness. Hogrefe, (pp. 1 – 15).</p> <p>Barlow, D. H., &amp; Durand, V. M. (2009). Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH1,3)</p>
<p>Meeting 2 26/10</p>	<p><b>Schizophrenia spectrum I (Perception) and the problem with stigma</b></p> <p>Wahl, O. F. (1997). Media madness: Public images of mental illness. Rutgers University Press. (CH1)</p> <p>Corrigan, P. W., Roe, D., &amp; Tsang, H. W. (2011). Challenging the stigma of mental illness: Lessons for therapists and advocates. John Wiley &amp; Sons. (CH1)</p> <p>Byrne, Peter. "Stigma of mental illness and ways of diminishing it." Advances in Psychiatric treatment 6.1 (2000): 65-72</p> <p>Wedding, D., Boyd, M. A., &amp; Niemiec, R. M. (2014). Movies and mental illness. Hogrefe, (Appendices D&amp;E).</p> <p>Film: One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975)</p>
<p>Meeting 3 2/11</p>	<p><b>Schizophrenia spectrum (judgment) and the problem with stigma II</b></p> <p>Barlow, D. H., &amp; Durand, V. M. (2009). Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH 13)</p> <p>Picchioni, M.M. &amp; Murray, R.M. (2007). Schizophrenia. British Medical Journal, 335,91-95.</p> <p>Film: <i>Take Shelter</i> (2011)</p>
<p>Meeting 4 9/11</p>	<p><b>Schizophrenia spectrum III (cognition)</b></p> <p>Barlow, D. H., &amp; Durand, V. M. (2009). Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH 13)</p> <p>Film: <i>A Beautiful Mind</i> (2001), <i>Black Swan</i> (2010)</p>
<p>Meeting 5 16/11</p>	<p><b>Bipolar and depressive disorders (I) &amp; Anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders</b></p>

	<p>Barlow, D. H., &amp; Durand, V. M. (2009). <i>Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach</i> (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH7)</p> <p>Styron, W. C. (2010). <i>Darkness visible: A memoir of madness</i>. Open Road Media.</p> <p>Solomon, A. (2014). <i>The noonday demon: An atlas of depression</i>. Simon and Schuster.</p> <p><i>Film: Melancholia</i> (2011)</p>
Meeting 6 23/11	<p><b>Bipolar and depressive disorders (II) – Gender and suicidality</b></p> <p>Plath, S. (2015). <i>The Bell Jar</i>. New Canadian Library.</p> <p>Nolen-Hoeksema, S. (2001). Gender differences in depression. <i>Current directions in psychological science</i>, 10(5), 173-176.</p> <p>Nolen-Hoeksema, S., Larson, J., &amp; Grayson, C. (1999). Explaining the gender difference in depressive symptoms. <i>Journal of Personality and Social Psychology</i>, 77, 1061-1072.</p> <p>Cannon, B. J. (2008). Motivations for suicide in the movies: External and internal forces. <i>Psinema</i>, 5, <a href="http://www.psinema.org/dergi5/dergi.htm">http://www.psinema.org/dergi5/dergi.htm</a>.</p>
Meeting 7 30/11	<p><b>Bipolar and depressive disorders (III) &amp; Anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders</b></p> <p>Barlow, D. H., &amp; Durand, V. M. (2009). <i>Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach</i> (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH5)</p> <p>Film: <i>the Hours</i> (2002)</p>
Meeting 8 7/12	<p><b>Trauma, stress &amp; conflict (I)</b></p> <p>Barlow, D. H., &amp; Durand, V. M. (2009). <i>Abnormal Psychology: An Integrative Approach</i> (7th Edition). Wadsworth Press: Belmont, CA. (CH5)</p> <p>Herman, J. L. (1997). <i>Trauma and recovery</i> (Vol. 551). Basic books.</p> <p>Young, A. (1997). <i>The harmony of illusions: Inventing post-traumatic stress disorder</i> (Vol. 11). Princeton University Press.</p> <p>Morag, R. (2006). Defeated masculinity: post-traumatic cinema in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. <i>The Communication Review</i>, 9(3), 189-219.</p>

	Film: Apocalypse Now (1979), Forrest Gump (1992), Born On The Fourth of July (1989).
Meeting 9 14/12	<p><b>Trauma, stress and conflict (II)</b></p> <p>Raya Morag (2012). Perpetrator Trauma and Current Israeli Documentary Cinema, Camera Obscura 80 27( 2), pp. 93-133</p> <p>Arav, D., &amp; Gurevitz, D. (2014). Trauma, guilt, forgiveness: The victimizer as witness in the cinematic and televisual representations of conflict in Israel. Media, War &amp; Conflict, 7(1), 104-120</p> <p>Chaitin, J., &amp; Steinberg, S. (2014). “I can almost remember it now”: Between personal and collective memories of massive social trauma. Journal of Adult Development, 21(1), 30-42.</p> <p>Film: Waltz with Bashir (2008), Avanti Popolo (1986), Z32 (2008), To see if I’m smiling (2007)</p>
Meeting 10 21/12	<p><b>Trauma, stress and conflict (III)</b></p> <p>Bar-Tal, D. (2007). Living with the conflict: Socio-psychological analysis of the Israeli-Jewish society. Jerusalem: Carmel.</p> <p>Felman, S., &amp; Laub, D. (1992). Testimony: Crises of witnessing in literature, psychoanalysis, and history. Taylor &amp; Francis.</p> <p>Bar-Tal, D. (2011). Intergroup conflicts and their resolution: A social psychological perspective. Psychology Press.</p>
Meeting 11 28/12	<p><b>Reparation: Psychotherapy &amp; Trauma Stewardship</b></p> <p>Lipsky, L. V. D. (2010). Trauma stewardship: An everyday guide to caring for self while caring for others.</p> <p>Ogden, T.H. (1989) The Primitive Edge of Experience. Jason Aronson. Chapter 7: The initial analytic meeting, pp 169-194</p> <p>TV series: <i>In Treatment</i> (2008)</p> <p>Films: <i>Good Will Hunting</i> (1997); <i>I Never Promised You a Rose Garden</i> (1977), <i>Ordinary People</i> (1980), <i>Hiroshima mon amour</i> (1959)</p>

<p>Meeting 12 4/1</p>	<p><b>Criticism: anti – psychiatry and more (I)</b></p> <p>Rosenhan, D. L. (1973). On being sane in insane places. <i>Science</i>, 179(4070), 250-258.</p> <p>Sedgwick P. (1985) “Anti-Psychiatry, Illness and the Mentally Ill.” In his <i>Psychopolitics</i>. Pluto Press.</p> <p>Laing R.D (1959) <i>The Divided Self</i>. London: Tavistock.</p> <p>Film: <i>Mad To Be normal</i> (2017)</p>
<p>Meeting 13 11/1</p>	<p><b>Criticism: anti – psychiatry and more (II)</b></p> <p>Foucault, M. (2003). <i>Madness and civilization</i>. Routledge.</p> <p>Watters, E. (2010). <i>Crazy like us: The globalization of the American psyche</i>. Simon and Schuster.</p> <p>Film: <i>One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest</i> (1975)</p>