



Basic Science and Humanities Selectives

Selectives Type: [Medical Humanities](#)

Selective Title
[Psychiatry and the Cinema: How the movies have both illuminated and distorted our images of psychiatric patients and the profession of psychiatry.](#)

Course Number
[PSYU 4048](#)

Prerequisites: [Successful completion of Year 3; Interview and signature of the responsible faculty](#)

Responsible Faculty Director:	Contact Information	Periods Offered	Maximum Enrollment
Ruth E. Levine MD	Tracie Waggoner X79675,	3,4,6,7,8,9,11	8
Other Faculty:	Rebecca Sealy		
Dwight Wolf MD,	Room 6.220		
Chris Thomas MD			
Mike Stone MD,			

Learning Objectives

Goal: This selective will enable students to gain a better appreciation for how Hollywood movies create cultural stereotypes, romanticize boundary violations, and perpetuate misinformation about the profession of psychiatry and psychiatrists.

Objectives: By the end of the selective, students will:

1. Name the common misconceptions about psychiatry and psychiatric illness perpetuated by the media.
2. Recognize the high prevalence of boundary violations sympathetically portrayed in Hollywood portrayals of psychiatrists and psychiatric patients
3. Appreciate the potential damage to patients and providers when misinformation about psychiatry and behavioral science is perpetuated through Hollywood film.

Written product: Students will read selections from the book "Psychiatry and the Cinema" (Gabbard, et al., University of Chicago Press, 1999) and the book "Media Madness: Public Images of Mental Illness" (Otto Wohl, Rutgers Univ. Press, 1997). and will be directed to watch a selection of Hollywood films chosen by course faculty. Then each student will be required to find at least one film that illustrates examples of a character with emotional or behavioral problems. The student will write and present a critique of that film discussing his/her perception of the psychopathology of the character and how the filmmaker illustrates it--whether it is in a sympathetic and balanced way or one that is in a biased and distorted fashion. Papers will be expected to be between 1800-3000 words in length.

Describe the qualifications background and career goals or interests of students who would benefit from the course:

This course would be of interest to any student who is interested in the Humanities, whether they will be specializing in Psychiatry, primary care, and any other medical specialty.

Description of course activities

Students will spend time reading, watching films, and meeting with course faculty to discuss impressions. They will be expected to take notes on the material they read and the film and to discuss the dynamics of the characters in the films.

Proposed time requirement (%) for the student activities per 40-hour week:

Activity	Percent of Activity
Faculty contact time	10%
Self-directed study	20%
Data collection/analysis	
Other Watching films	70%

Method of student evaluation

Check all that apply - complete appropriate section(s) only:

1. Grading

A. Please specify your grading criteria for outstanding performance:

Students must attend all films and small group seminars. They must turn in their final written assignment no later than the Tuesday of the last week of the rotation.

2. Written Assignment (Homework, projects, notes, papers, abstracts, etc.)

A. Frequency of written assignment(s)

There will be one written assignment as mentioned above.

B. Type and format of written assignment

Each student will be required to find at least one film that illustrates examples of a character with emotional or behavioral problems. The student will write and present a critique of that film discussing his/her perception of the psychopathology of the character and how the filmmaker illustrates it--whether it is in a sympathetic and balanced way or one that is in a biased and distorted fashion. Students should be prepared to discuss the film with his/her peers the last week of the selective. This paper will be a scholarly critique that will explore relevant scientific, psychiatric, social, cultural, and/or familial issues that can be elucidated from the film. The paper should be at least 1800 words in length and should include at least 5 references.

- C. Method of content selection (student-selected, assigned, relate to cases, etc.)
Students will select the film but it must be approved by faculty.

3. Oral Presentation

A. Frequency / duration of presentation(s)?

While there will be no "formal" presentations, students will be expected to discuss all reading materials and films at each meeting with faculty. Meeting with faculty will take place after each film, approximately 3-4 times weekly.

B. Type and format of presentation

Students should be prepared to present in an informal fashion their written critique of the film they choose at the end of the rotation.

D. Assessment - Who assesses the student's presentation performance?

Self-assessment Peer assessment Faculty assessment

There will be assessment of the paper, and also a multiple choice quiz at the end of the selective to insure that the required reading was conducted.

E. Method of content selection

Student-selected topic Assigned topic

4. Professionalism

What expectations do you have for the student to demonstrate participation in the elective (e.g. small group activities, seminars, thoughtful questions, providing resources, journal club, resident lecture attendance)?

The instructor will discuss principles of appropriate attribution and the referencing of literature with the student. The student is expected to understand and to adhere to the principle that all presented work must be solely the student's own.

I expect students to attend all activities, including films and seminars. All students should come prepared with notes for seminars. They should discuss delicate issues such as boundary violation in a professional fashion. The students are expected to understand and adhere to the principle that all presented work must be solely the student's own.

5. Other Modes of Evaluation

Please explain below.

There will be assessment of the paper, and also a multiple choice quiz at the end of the selective to insure that the required reading was conducted