

Psychology in Cinema - Course Syllabus

Course Overview

This course explores the intersection of psychology and cinema, analyzing how psychological theories and disorders are represented in films. Through critical discussions and film screenings, students will deepen their understanding of human behavior, mental health, and narrative expression in visual media.

Professor Information

Professor: Dr. Laura Mendes

Email: laura.mendes@university.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 14:00 - 16:00, Room 204, Psychology Department

Course Materials

- Required Textbook: "Movies and the Mind: Theories of Psychology in Film" by Alan Thomas
- Weekly film screenings (titles will be announced one week in advance)
- Academic articles (available on the course website)

Semester Schedule

Week 1 (August 25, 2025): Introduction to Psychology and Film Theory

Week 2 (September 01, 2025): Freudian Theory and 'Black Swan'

Week 3 (September 08, 2025): Jungian Archetypes in 'The Lion King'

Week 4 (September 15, 2025): Personality Disorders in 'Joker'

Week 5 (September 22, 2025): Midterm Activity - Group Presentation Preparation

Week 6 (September 29, 2025): PTSD and Trauma in 'American Sniper'

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Week 7 (October 06, 2025): Schizophrenia in 'A Beautiful Mind'

Week 8 (October 13, 2025): Anxiety and OCD in 'As Good As It Gets'

Week 9 (October 20, 2025): Mood Disorders in 'Silver Linings Playbook'

Week 10 (October 27, 2025): Group Presentations

Week 11 (November 03, 2025): Social Psychology in 'The Wave'

Week 12 (November 10, 2025): Final Exam Review

Week 13 (November 17, 2025): Final Exam

Exams and Activities

- Midterm Activity: Group Presentation on October 27, 2025
- Final Exam: Comprehensive written test on November 17, 2025
- Weekly Discussion Posts (on course website)
- Participation in film screenings and class discussions