

Learning psychiatry through film

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Course Zoom link:

Fourth year medical students with an interest in a career in psychiatry will use this elective to learn about major categories of mental illness-- their differential diagnosis, DSM criteria, and clinical presentations-- through film. Additionally, themes depicted in movies often shape society's views of mental illness and psychiatry as a profession. These issues will be reviewed as well.

Participants will be expected to watch four films per week and to complete written homework assignments. The class will meet virtually twice per week to discuss the films and the student's impressions as well as get an overview of the categories of mental illness

Goals/Objectives

By the end of this course, the student will be able to

1. Use modern cultural works to further their understanding of psychiatry and the human condition.
2. Critically assess media portrayals of mental illness and treatment providers
3. Recognize diagnostic criteria for common psychiatric diagnoses
4. Appreciate the potential damage to patients and providers when misinformation about psychiatry and behavioral health is perpetuated through Hollywood film.

Expectations

All students are expected to

1. Watch the assigned films and complete written assignments related to them before class
2. Read the corresponding DSM chapter for the topic of the session
3. Attend two zoom sessions per week
4. Attend to class while in zoom sessions and participate!
5. Choose a film for the final presentation that depicts a mental illness not discussed in previous presentations.

Syllabus

Week #	Topics for discussion	Course objectives that will be met	Assigned film	Assignments (due before the start of each class)
Week 1a	Films, Psychiatry and Psychopathology	1,2	WATCH TWO OF THE FOLLOWING "Good Will Hunting" (1997) "Silver Linings Playbook", (2012) "Take Shelter" (2012) "The Beaver" (2011) "Ordinary People" (1980)	Complete provided prompt questions
Week 1b	Misconceptions about mental illness and mental health professionals perpetrated by movies	4	"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", 1975 "The Prince of Tides" (1991)	Complete provided prompt questions
Week 2a	Mood disorders	1,3	"House of Sand and Fog", (2003) OR "The Hours" (2002)	Complete "Patient evaluation template"
			"Blue Sky", (1994) OR "Mr. Jones (1993)	Complete prompt questions
Week 2b	Psychotic disorders	1,3	"The Soloist", (2009) OR "A Beautiful Mind", (2001)	Complete "Patient evaluation template"
			"Lars and the Real Girl" (2007) OR "The Caine Mutiny" (1954)	Complete prompt questions on the film
Week 3a	Substance use Disorders	1,3	"When a Man Loves a Woman", (1994) OR "Flight", (2012)	Complete "Patient evaluation
			Requiem for a dream (2000) OR Ray (2004)	Complete prompt questions on the film

Week 3b	Personality Disorders	1,3	"Wall Street", (1987) OR "No Country for Old Men" (2013)	Complete "Patient evaluation template"
			"A Streetcar named Desire", (1952) OR "Blue Jasmine", (2013)	Complete prompt questions on the film
Week 4a	Anxiety Disorders	1,3	"The Aviator", 2004 or "as Good as it Gets" (1997) or Matchstick Men (2003)	Complete "Patient evaluation template"
			"Brothers" (2009) or "The Hurt Locker", (2008)	Complete prompt questions on the film
Week 4b	Final assignment*	1,3	Film of your choice	Prepared final presentation

* For the final individual write-ups/presentations, each student may choose any film, with approval from course director that illustrates a mental illness not previously discussed. Films must be chosen and approved by the beginning of the third week of the rotation. Students will prepare a 10 minute presentation with video clips where appropriate.

Required readings from DSM 5—available in print or at online at LSUHSC library.

Week 1a: NA

Week 1b: NA

Week 2a: Bipolar and related Disorders, Depressive disorders.

Week 2b: Schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders

Week 3a: Substance related and addictive disorders

Week 3b: Personality Disorders

Week 4a: Anxiety Disorders, Obsessive-compulsive and related disorders, Trauma and stressor-related disorders

Week 4b: DSM chapter corresponding to the presentation the student chooses.
Session outlines

Streaming Services for various films

	Hulu	Netflix	Amazon Prime	YouTube	Roku	HBO	Redbox	Vudu	Google Play	Apple TV
Good Will Hunting	X		\$3.99					\$3.99	\$3.99	
Silver Linings Playbook	X		X	X	X		\$3.99	\$3.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
Take Shelter	x		\$2.99	\$3.99				\$2.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
The Beaver			X	\$3.99	X				\$3.99	\$3.99
Ordinary People			X	\$2.99	X		\$2.99	\$3.99	\$2.99	\$3.99
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest			\$3.99					\$3.99	\$3.99	
The Prince of Tides			\$2.99	\$3.99			\$3.99	\$2.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
House of Sand and Fog			\$2.99				\$2.99	\$3.99	\$2.99	\$3.99
The Hours			\$2.99	\$2.99				\$3.99	\$2.99	\$3.99
Blue Sky					X		\$3.99	\$3.99		
Mr. Jones	X		X	\$3.99			\$4.99		\$3.99	\$3.99
The Soloist			X	\$2.99	X			\$3.99	\$2.99	\$3.99
A Beautiful Mind			\$3.99	\$3.99			\$3.99	\$3.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
Lars and the Real Girl			X		X		X	\$3.99		

	Hulu	Netflix	Amazon Prime	YouTube	Roku	HBO	Redbox	Vudu	Google Play	Apple TV
The Caine Mutiny			\$2.99	\$3.99				\$2.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
When a man loves a woman			\$3.99	\$3.99			\$3.99	\$3.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
Flight			\$3.99						\$2.99	
Requiem for a dream			X	X (with subscription)			X	\$3.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
Ray	x			\$3.99						
Wall Street										
No Country for Old Men	x		x	\$2.99	x			\$3.99	\$2.99	\$3.99
A streetcar named Desire			\$2.99	\$2.99			\$2.99	\$3.99	\$2.99	\$2.99
Blue Jasmine			\$2.99	\$3.99			\$3.99	\$2.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
The Aviator		x	\$4.99	\$12.99					\$12.99	\$4.99
As Good as it Gets			\$2.99	\$3.99			\$3.99	\$2.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
Matchstick Men			\$2.99	\$2.99			\$2.99	\$2.99	\$2.99	\$2.99
Brothers	X		x	\$3.99			\$3.99	\$3.99	\$3.99	\$3.99
The Hurt Locker			x		x		\$3.99	\$3.99	\$3.99	\$3.99

**Students should check their local libraries which will also have access to films to stream.