

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course name	Mental Disorders in Feature Films
Course number	327
Course coordinator	Language and Electives Centre
Type of course	Compulsory elective subject of a general academic nature (AWP)
Degree programme	all
Course Level	undergraduate
Prerequisites	none
Semester hours per week (SWS)	2
ECTS	2
Type of examination	Written assignment
Language of instruction	English
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Agnes Nocon
Course objectives	<p>Knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic knowledge of mental disorders • Familiarity with selected disorders, such as schizophrenia, depression, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, substance use disorders • Knowledge of effective treatments <p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of mental health symptoms • Basic skills for communication with affected individuals <p>Competences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the own attitude towards mental disorders • Improved competences in dealing with affected individuals • Awareness for the recognition of clinically relevant difficulties
Content	<p>This course aims to teach the basic features of psychiatric and mental disorders using popular movies, and to present treatment options. It will address affective disorders, schizophrenia, personality disorders, anxiety and substance use disorders, traumatic stress disorders and eating disorders.</p> <p>The seminar comprises a short introduction to films followed by a feature film or documentary, a discussion about the film followed by a short interactive lecture in which the following contents are explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • symptoms of the disorder • disease classification (according to ICD 11 International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems) • aetiology (cause of the illness) • treatment options

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prognosis and course of illness • impact on the personal lives of people with mental disorders • perception and stigmatisation of the illness in society • consistencies of particular design features of the film with reality.
Teaching methods	Seminar-based lessons, feature films, discussions
Textbook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wedding, D. and Niemiec, R.M. (2014). Movies and Mental Illness: Using Films to Understand Psychopathology. Hogrefe, Boston. • Comer, R. J. and Comer, J. S. (2021). Abnormal Psychology. Worth Publishers, New York. • Nolen-Hoksema, S. (2022). Abnormal Psychology. McGraw Hill.
Recommended reading	
Remarks	<p>Summer semester, Wednesday afternoons, every 2 weeks</p> <p>Content Note: Please note that in order to illustrate the underlying concepts of some mental disorders, the films include potentially distressing content: Scenes of substance abuse, suicide, serious illness, physical or sexual violence. However, as all the films have been very carefully selected, there are no depictions that go beyond the usual content found in conventional blockbusters.</p>
Course is part of the additional certificate ...	Not relevant.