

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

<b>Course name</b>	<b>Mental Disorders in Feature Films</b>
<b>Course number</b>	327
<b>Course coordinator</b>	Language and Electives Centre
<b>Type of course</b>	Compulsory elective subject of a general academic nature (AWP)
<b>Degree programme</b>	all
<b>Course Level</b>	undergraduate
<b>Prerequisites</b>	none
<b>Semester hours per week (SWS)</b>	2
<b>ECTS</b>	2
<b>Type of examination</b>	Written assignment
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English
<b>Lecturer</b>	Prof. Dr. Agnes Nocon
<b>Course objectives</b>	<p><b>Knowledge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic knowledge of mental disorders</li> <li>• Familiarity with selected disorders, such as schizophrenia, depression, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, substance use disorders</li> <li>• Knowledge of effective treatments</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of mental health symptoms</li> <li>• Basic skills for communication with affected individuals</li> </ul> <p><b>Competences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of the own attitude towards mental disorders</li> <li>• Improved competences in dealing with affected individuals</li> <li>• Awareness for the recognition of clinically relevant difficulties</li> </ul>
<b>Content</b>	<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"> <li>• symptoms of the disorder</li> <li>• disease classification (according to ICD 11 International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems)</li> <li>• aetiology (cause of the illness)</li> <li>• treatment options</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prognosis and course of illness</li> <li>• impact on the personal lives of people with mental disorders</li> <li>• perception and stigmatisation of the illness in society</li> <li>• consistencies of particular design features of the film with reality.</li> </ul>
<b>Teaching methods</b>	Seminar-based lessons, feature films, discussions
<b>Textbook</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wedding, D. and Niemiec, R.M. (2014). Movies and Mental Illness: Using Films to Understand Psychopathology. Hogrefe, Boston.</li> <li>• Comer, R. J. and Comer, J. S. (2021). Abnormal Psychology. Worth Publishers, New York.</li> <li>• Nolen-Hoksema, S. (2022). Abnormal Psychology. McGraw Hill.</li> </ul>
<b>Recommended reading</b>	
<b>Remarks</b>	<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>
<b>Course is part of the additional certificate ...</b>	Not relevant.