



## PSY 1234

**Division:** Social and Behavioral Science

**Department:** Social Sciences

**Course:** PSY 1234

**Title:** Psychology in Popular Media

**Catalog Description:**

This course is designed to demonstrate the prevalence of psychology concepts in our lives. These concepts will be studied through and demonstrated via popular media outlets. Students will view various TV programs, movies, and comic strips which illustrate psychological principles. After such, students will evaluate how and which principles are being displayed. This is a general interest and cross disciplinary course.

**General Education Requirements:** N/A

**Semesters Offered:** TBA

**Credit/Time Requirement:** Credit: 2; Lecture: 2; Lab: 0

**Clock/Hour Requirements:** 0

**Offered for Non-Credit:** No

**Prerequisites:** N/A

**Corequisites:** N/A

**Justification:**

This course is designed to be a general interest course. One of its main purposes will be to draw students to Snow College via courses that are entertaining, educational, and can foster interest in specific areas of study. The course will be marketed to the Snow student population, local high schools students, and local community members as an enjoyable and informative course option.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- demonstrate the prevalence of psychological concepts in popular media outlets
- be able to describe common psychology principles
- identify these common principles at work in their own lives
- demonstrate a more advanced understanding of psychology
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- be able to critically analyze psychological components utilized in film, TV, and various print media
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recognize the effect that media has on personal & social behavior

- appreciate the psychology of humor in media
- appreciate the psychology in media persuasion techniques.

### **Content:**

Through lecture, class discussion, and media demonstrations, students will:

- read psychological literature relevant to understanding the concepts portrayed in the studied media outlets
- view films or segments which focus on psychology topics then discuss and evaluate
- write essays, take quizzes, and make presentations designed to foster individual and group understanding of psychological constructs
- participate in class and group discussions about various concepts demonstrated through media
- Gain a better understanding of broad psychological fields & concepts such as:
  - ethical treatment of disordered individuals
  - social psychological persuasion techniques used to influence people
  - developmental psychology
  - media portrayals of psychological disorders as compared to reality

### **General Education Outcomes:**

4) Retrieve, evaluate, interpret, and deliver information through a variety of traditional and electronic media.

Students will be required not only to view and evaluate media, but to access and present media demonstrating course related concepts. Students will evaluate film, TV, and print media outlets through papers, quizzes, and media presentations, and feedback will be given.

5) Apply a cultural and historical awareness to a variety of phenomena.

Students will begin to recognize media representation of and influence on culture through recent history. They will also recognize media influence on their perceptions and behaviors. This understanding will be demonstrated in class discussions and papers.

8) Apply ethical reasoning to a variety of contexts.

As students view the media representations for the various psychology concepts, they will evaluate which concepts are being demonstrated as well as if psychology or mental illnesses are being portrayed accurately.

and general psychology constructs. Group discussion will be the means of demonstrating reasoning skills.

**Key Performance Indicators:**

- quizzes based on media content: 30%
- personal media contribution: 35%
- concept application and research papers: 35%.

Percentages are approximate.

**Representative Text and/or Supplies:**

- Wedding, D., Boyd, M., and Niemiec, R., *Movies and Mental Illness: Using Films to Understand Psychopathology*, current edition, Hogrete and Huber Publishing.
- Any collection of *Calvin & Hobbes* - syndicated comic strip.

**Optimum Class Size:** 40

**Maximum Class Size:** 40

**Signatures:**

I hereby submit this course syllabus:

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Nick Marsing, 2 MS, Assistant Professor

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Social Sciences Department:

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Kerry Hansen, D.A., Professor, Chair

I hereby find this course consistent with the goals and resources of the Social and Behavioral Science Division:

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Sue Dalley, M.S., Associate Professor, Dean

I have discussed the need for library resources related to this class with the person submitting the syllabus:

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Lynn Anderson, MLIS, Technical Services Librarian (Main Campus)

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Michelle Olsen, MLS, Campus Librarian (Richfield Campus)